

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

FM WEEKLY
COMMUNICATION

June
21, 2021

Issue 124

Good morning FM Team,

Pollinator Week is June 21-27. Today is a good time to reflect on the pollinator-supported activities that FM has undertaken on behalf of CSU. You may recall that FM facilitates a [Pollinator Friendly Campus Committee](#) (PFCC), a subcommittee of the President's Sustainability Commission. This group brings together experts from across the university and city, connecting endeavors that improve pollinator wellbeing and awareness at CSU—such as designing and planting pollinator habitats; swarm response and integrated pest management; and education and community outreach.

As part of this commitment, in fall 2017, the FM Horticulture Crew began planting with intent to attract pollinators at a few targeted spaces on main campus. Since then, they successfully expanded this initiative and now have roughly 30 pollinator beds on main campus, south campus, foothills campus, and other locations like the Housing Services Center on Plum St. In the past year, they have focused on purposely installing pollinator gardens that are a combination of both perennials and annuals, which offers pollinators more to forage on. These pollinator hot spots are designed to support pollinators by providing consistent food sources and safe habitat for nesting. If you would like to visit any of them, many are currently in bloom! Their locations were recently added to the [CSU interactive map](#) under the guidance of Izzy ter Kuile from the FM Horticulture Crew. Look for the “Pollinators” category under Sustainability.



Bee on flower at Student Rec Center Pollinator Garden

Center & Lake Pollinator Bed



Due to FM's efforts growing pollinator habitat and deliberately fostering a campus that values pollinators, CSU was recognized for the last four years by the Xerces Society with [Bee Campus USA](#) status. The Bee Campus USA affiliation earns CSU STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) credits in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The STARS system is a transparent, self-reporting framework for universities to measure their sustainability performance.

This spring, FM and Environmental Health Services completed an [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) Manual](#) as part of these Bee Campus USA requirements, and are currently working on an

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extended version with the Dept. of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management. This will get updated on FM's [IPM webpage](#) later this summer, expanding the document from 20 pages to approximately 70 pages.

This spring and summer FM collaborated on a project that designed and installed permanent interpretive signage, funded by ASCSU, to promote basic awareness of pollinator habitat. The signs describe the pollination process, what the wooden “bee hotel” structures are (found in some CSU gardens); and provide a fact about pollinators’ impact in our ecosystem. Three of the four signs have a changeable base allowing the signage to be moved around to various CSU pollinator gardens. They are located at Natural Resources, Clark A, the Rec Center, and Weed Research.

Another successful partnership occurred between FM and the CSU Student Apiculture Club. Recent graduate Freddie Haberecht—former FM student employee and president of the Apiculture Club—reported that one of five bee hives made it through the winter. That hive was “split” in May and, once more, there are five active hives thriving at the CSU Horticulture Center. This month, one of the hives will be moved to the Durrell Center where it will spend the summer and early fall.



Pollinator Interpretive Signage at Student Rec Center Pollinator Garden

As an exemplary Bee Campus USA institution, it is important for us to measure the results of our actions. This year will be the second summer that the Clark A Pollinator Garden will be monitored for bee diversity and abundance through CSU Extension's [Native Bee Watch](#) program. Last year, volunteers noted the types of bees and plants visited. For instance, one PFCC member observed lots of hairy belly bees visiting hyssop, echinacea, and penstemon. The volunteers also noted environmental factors such as time of visit, approximate temperature and weather, and if the bees competed with other pollinators for food. As FM engages with the Native Bee Watch program, we'll be able to gather helpful data about the effectiveness of our pollinator habitat, including what plants are preferred by which pollinators. To learn about citizen involvement through Native Bee Watch, visit: <https://arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu/nbw/>. There is an upcoming webinar about Colorado pollinators this Friday, June 25, at noon ([registration](#) required), offered by PFCC member Lisa Mason. You can find more webinars, presentations, news, and resources on FM's pollinator webpage: <https://www.fm.colostate.edu/pollinators>.

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