

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: Lehigh Carbon Community College,
www.LCCC.edu

Pollinator Garden Expansion

SUMMARY

Students saw the potential for Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) to be an ecological leader by transforming its landscape using sustainable principles. The College community wanted to adopt practices that promote pollinators and protect species by implementing wildflower gardens. One area is across from the LCCC library, the second area is near Rte. 309 consisting of invasive bushes and plants that needed removal, and a third area in the student parking lot has appropriate pollinator species, planted in 2017, but needed to be maintained with additional plantings, as well as the installation of picnic tables and a water feature.



CHALLENGE

Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) has a vision of a campus that hums with the sound of honey bees and pleases the eye with vistas of wildflowers--a place that is ecologically responsible and sustainable--one that teaches students, faculty, staff, and visitors about the importance of native plant landscaping. With a pollinator garden project initiated by students in the Student STEM (Scionco Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Society, this vision is becoming reality. Enhancement of the original garden and the establishment of two additional pollinator themed stormwater Bioswales have raised awareness and volunteer opportunities to scores of students, staff and visitors.

Removal of invasive species and replacement with native pollinator plants was accomplished. Approximately 4,000 ft² of invasive hops were removed and currently the emerging seed bank from the hops is being removed from around the planted natives. Over 800 native plants, plugs as well as seeds were planted including PA endangered *M. grandiflora*.

FUNDING

Grant Award:
\$5,000.00

Match:
\$18,050.53

Total Project Cost:
\$23,050.53

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

North Whitehall Township

Lehigh County Conservation
District

LCCC STEM Club

LCCC NSF-STEM Scholars



SOLUTION

Within the scope of this project, invasive hops were removed in the Rt. 309 location and replaced with native plants, plugs, and seeds. Students maintained the gardens as they became established. Biology classes used the experience as part of their lab activities this spring and during the summer. Other classes will have the opportunity to benefit from the pollinator garden. Project leaders have promoted awareness of sustainable landscape practices both on and off campus, sharing these ideas with other local colleges and school districts. From an ecological standpoint, we hope that the garden will have a positive effect on the migration and populations of monarch butterflies, as well as similar effects on other pollinators.

RESULTS

In the course of the Pollinator Expansion Project over 800 plants, plugs, as well as seeds were installed in 3 locations on the LCCC main campus. A solar fountain was installed to draw not only nature, but with the addition of two picnic tables community members to the pollinator garden site.

The importance of stormwater management practices, as well as support of native pollinator plants and pollinator species were topics discussed during the hours of work. Volunteers also came away with an appreciation of how uncontrolled invasive species can decimate a native landscape. Future student projects will involve creating a field guide to the plantings and a record of the biodiversity and ecology of the campus landscape.

These are a few of the many comments made by project participants.

"This a demonstration of what a field biologist actual does, it's great! "

"I never realized the effort required to maintain a garden. This is a lot of work."

"That plant is beautiful; I never saw one of those before!"

Contact



www.LVgreenways.org

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