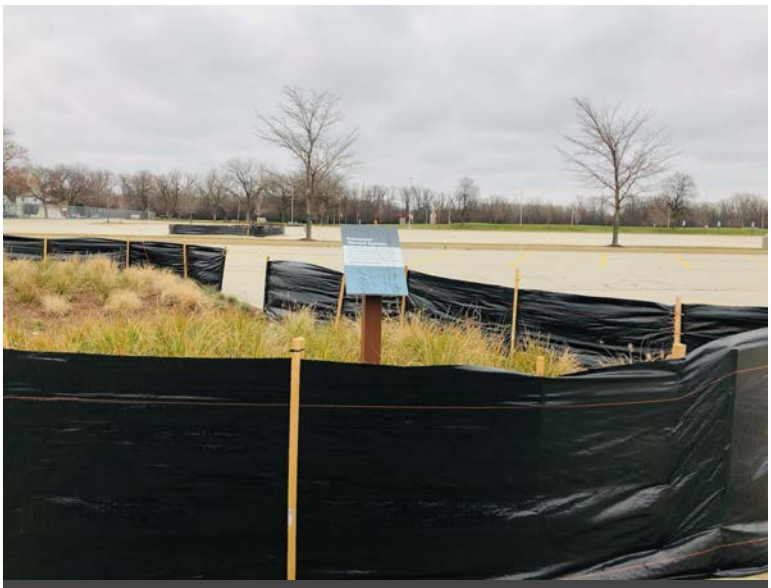
Bee Campus USA - Triton College

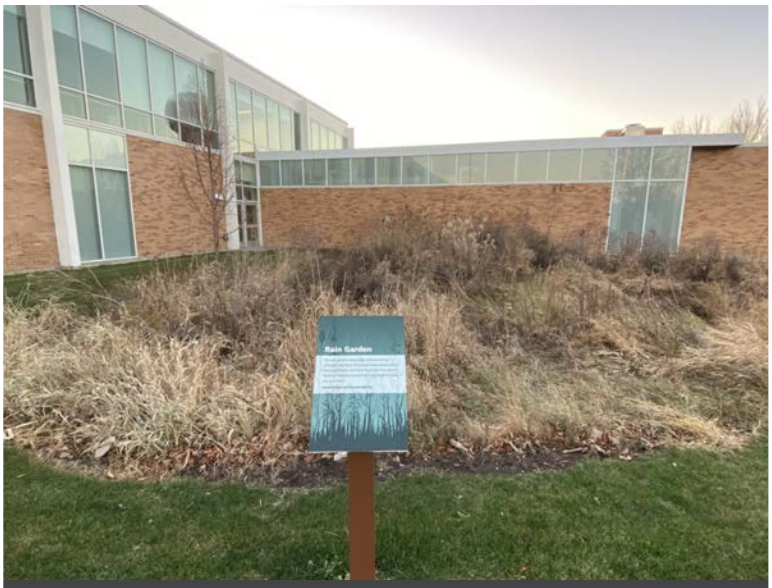
Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The committee continues to remove weeds in the rain garden areas. Tree of Heaven in the prairie area as well as seed heads from hemlock and teasel are removed, in order to allow the native plants to continue to grow. The rain gardens are designed to collect and treat rainwater that flows off the roof. Deep-rooted native pants slow down and filter runoff and help prevent flooding. They also provide food and habitat for birds and pollinators. Additionally, the greenhouse and adjoining the botanical garden will combine to produce vegetables and herbs that will be used by students in our Hospitality Industry Administration Program. Students also help clean the rain gardens and Adena Woods, the Cook County Forest Preserve area adopted by the Triton College Sustainability Center. In addition, much debris is removed from the small creek that runs through the wooded area. While they worked, students learned about local history, geography, and native plants. They also learned to identify poison ivy! All agreed that the hands-on field experience was a positive addition to their regular class work.



Rain gardens in the H-Building parking lot were equipped for the winter.

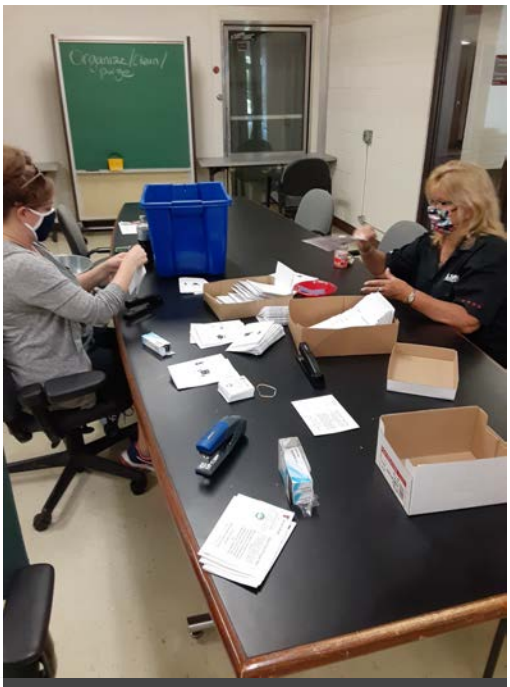


Committee and students arranged to clean the rain gardens.

Education & Outreach

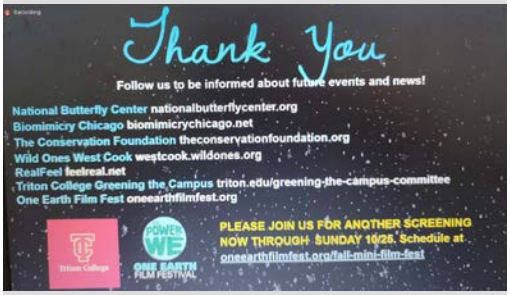
The Fall Festival was held on September 26th, 2020 and due to Covid it was a drive-through event. In this event, the Bee

Campus Committee (along with the Greening the Campus Committee and the Horticulture Club) distributed 270 packages of 0.1 oz of seed with planting instructions. Along with the seeds, a flyer which explained the importance of pollinators and Bee Campus was included. Another event held virtually this year in conjunction with One Earth Film Fest was the screening of the film "Ay Mariposa". Film subject Marianna Treviño Wright, Director of the National Butterfly Center, held a discussion after the film for a live Q&A. The film "tells a story of three characters in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas whose lives are upended by plans to build a US-Mexico border wall. Meanwhile the butterfly, la mariposa, fights its own daily battle for survival in a landscape where more than 95 percent of its habitat is long gone and much of what remains lies directly in the path of the wall." (One Earth Film Fest).



Packaging seeds for the Fall Festival.

Tree Campus USA planting a swamp white oak.

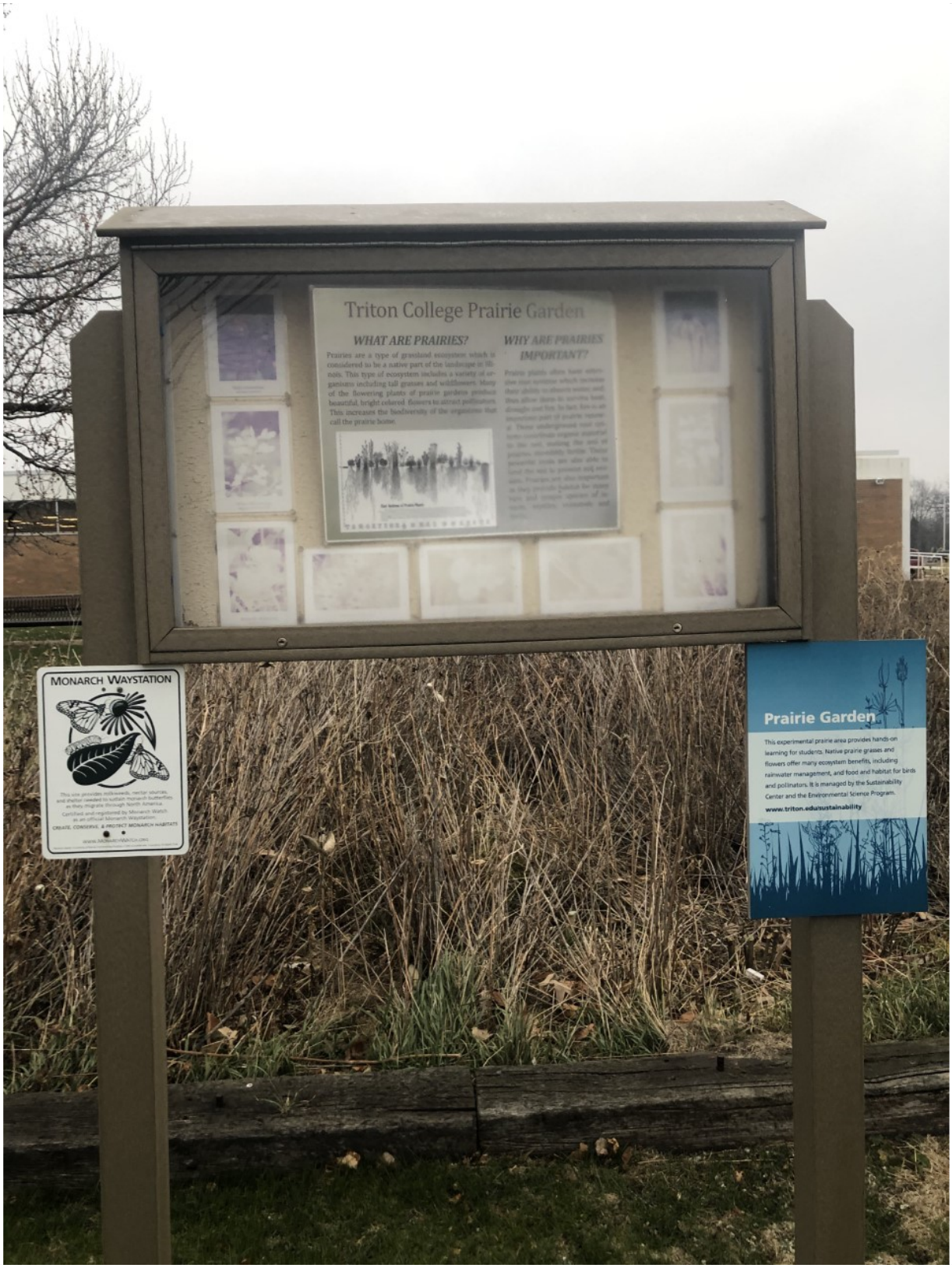


Virtual screening of "Ay Mariposa" in conjunction with One Earth Film Festival.

Courses & Continuing Education

The Horticulture program is designed to provide students with the necessary skills to acquire entry-level positions in all fields of Horticulture and related industries, as well as skills for advancement in their career field, self-employment and transfer into a four-year curriculum. Industry fields include landscape design, landscape and grounds maintenance, greenhouse and garden center management and sustainable horticulture. Students also will develop skills for lifelong learning. Program includes an AAS degree in Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture Technology and a certificate program in Grounds Maintenance. Some of the courses that provide pollinator-related information are included in the AAS degree in Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture Technology Program; including HRT 100, HRT 125, and HRT 127. An

Associate in Applied Science Degree in Sustainable Agriculture Technology program also provides for credit courses that incorporate pollinator-related information. Sustainable Agriculture Technology curriculum is designed to provide students the skills necessary to manage an environmentally sound and sustainable urban food production system. Graduates are qualified for numerous positions associated with sustainable agriculture including horticulture, nursery operations, agricultural education and managing food production. SAT 130 and SAT 140 are for credit courses that are included in the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Sustainable Agriculture Technology program.



Making the World Safer for Pollinators
Bee Campus USA™
One Campus at a time
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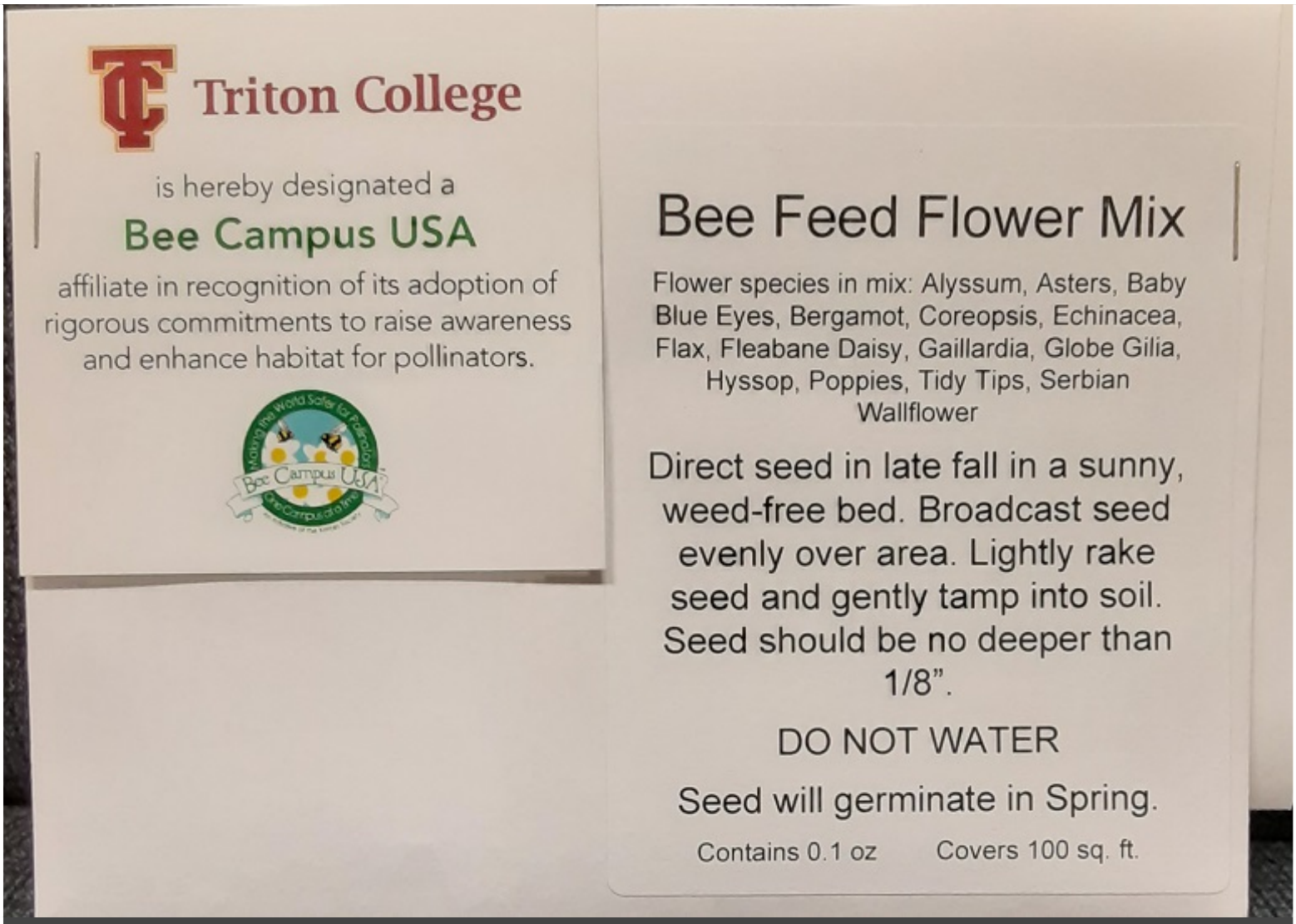
The Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture Technology students help maintain the Prairie Gardens.

Service-Learning

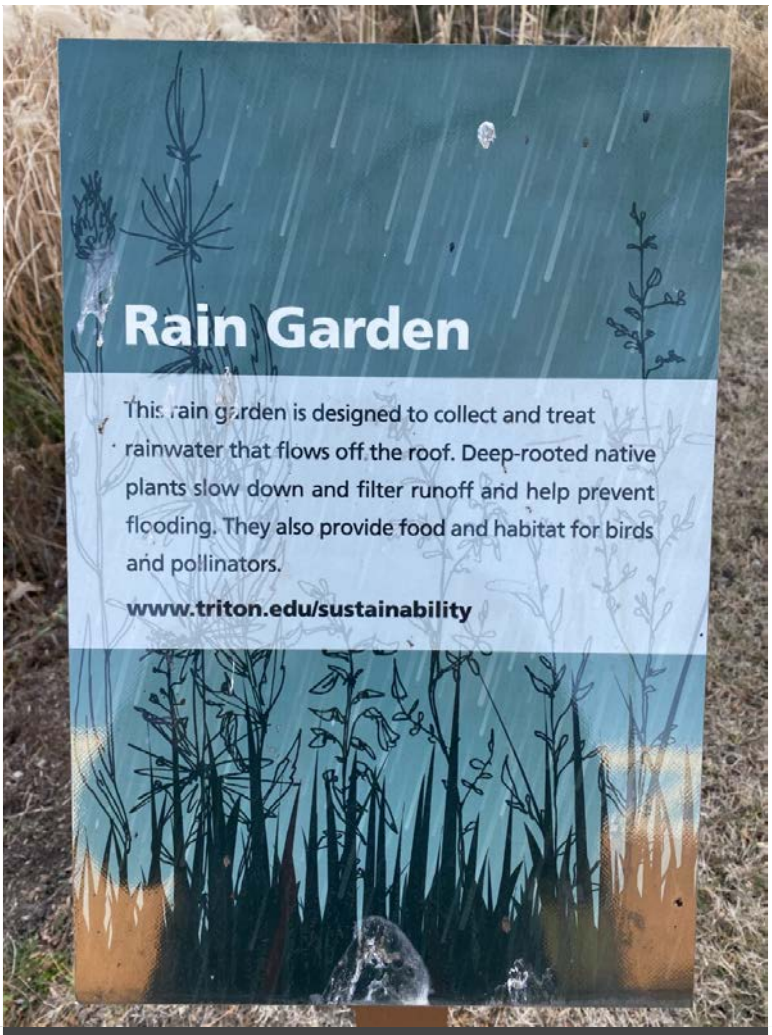
Some of the Horticulture students packaged seeds and created educational material to attach to the seed packets to distribute during the Fall Festival. Due to COVID we had restrictions on the amount of students that were able to help distribute and participate in this drive-through event. Triton students and the surrounding community were invited to attend this drive-through event which distributed Bee Feed Flower Mix and a pumpkin.



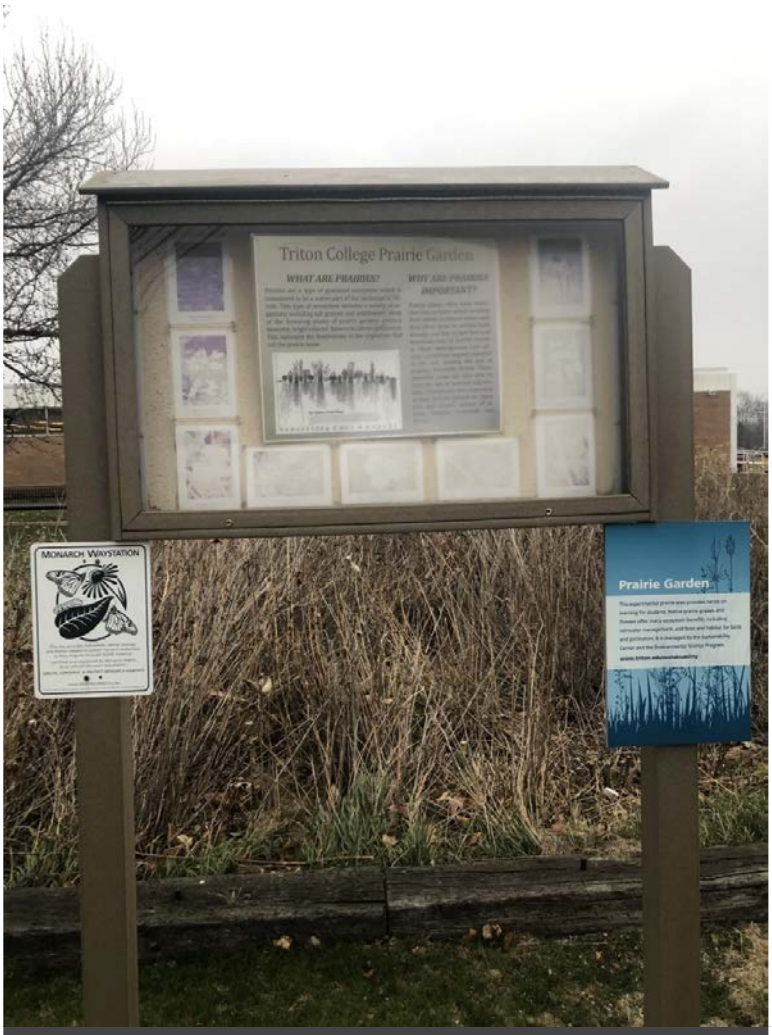
Bee feed distributed during Fall Festival 2020.

Educational Signage

The permanent signs located throughout the campus have been installed for several years.



The Rain Garden signs located throughout the Triton Campus explains that the Rain Gardens provide food and habitat for birds and pollinators.



The Prairie Garden sign explains that the gardens provide food and habitat for birds and pollinators.

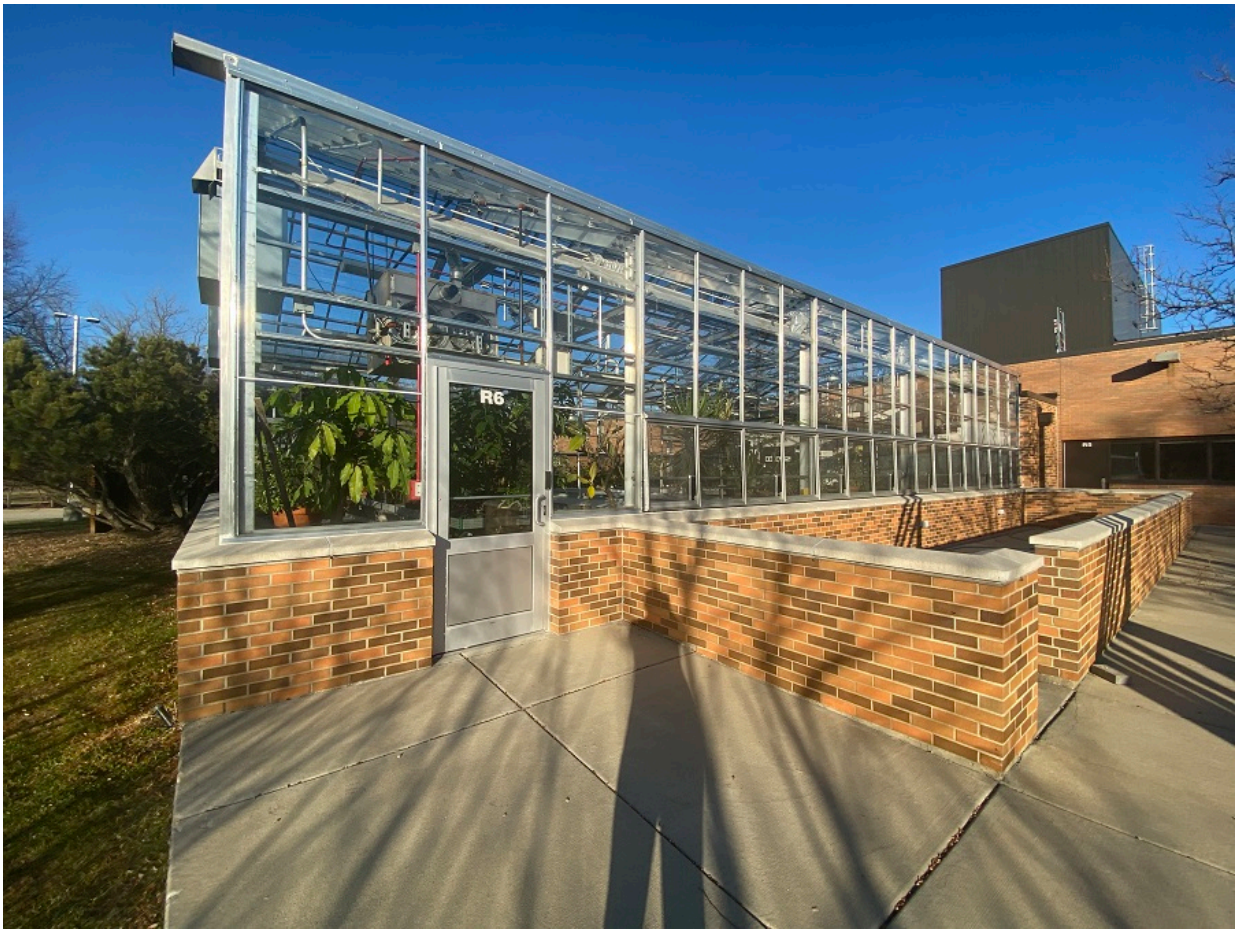
Policies & Practices

The Bee Campus along with the Horticulture Club and the Sustainability Department work with the Associate Vice President of Facilities in order to ensure that we use pollinator-friendly practices. For most of our areas, like the rain gardens, we do not use pesticides. In other areas where needed, for example near our greenhouse surrounding areas, the used of organic pesticides are used. Weeds are pulled manually with the help of the Sustainability Coordinator and

Greening the Campus Committee; workdays to help clean the rain gardens are arranged to include students.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: Anderson Pest Control 1.1 IPM Program.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List: Native Plants at Triton College.pdf
https://www.triton.edu/greening-the-campus-committee/
Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: PM20.pdf
https://www.triton.edu/greening-the-campus-committee/



The Triton Greenhouse uses pollinator-friendly practices for its upkeep.

Learn More

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