Announcer ([00:03](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/gFvyJMWhvNAU6K9f9oy8iVT-AqKMOi9lMRgpsMBtJdRbeOOQLbPaJkR6bOfkjzLsK2RlHv21pocqQkKJad4w4TjbCqw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.

Emily Yeap ([00:10](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/gFvyJMWhvNAU6K9f9oy8iVT-AqKMOi9lMRgpsMBtJdRbeOOQLbPaJkR6bOfkjzLsK2RlHv21pocqQkKJad4w4TjbCqw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Recently, Missouri State University became an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program by meeting the standards for certification. This program helps to marshal the strengths of educational campuses for the benefit of pollinators.

Missouri State joins many other cities and campuses across the country united in improving their landscapes for pollinators.

Thinking globally and acting locally, Bee Campus USA provides a framework for communities to work together to conserve native pollinators. Efforts focus on increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites and reducing the use of pesticides.

Bee Campus USA and Bee City USA are initiatives of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. I’m Emily Yeap.

Missouri State horticulturalist and groundskeeper Misty Webster is with me today to talk about what this designation means and the university’s efforts in sustaining pollinators.

Misty Webster ([01:12](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/gFvyJMWhvNAU6K9f9oy8iVT-AqKMOi9lMRgpsMBtJdRbeOOQLbPaJkR6bOfkjzLsK2RlHv21pocqQkKJad4w4TjbCqw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Well, we've heard on the radio, TV, social media everywhere, basically that pollinators are struggling throughout the world. Beneficial insects like bees, especially are responsible for flower pollination and later that leads to fruiting and crop production. While the main focus is on food production, pollination is also necessary for the continuation of flowers, trees and all of the other plants. And those things will provide oxygen and beautify our world.

The Xerces Society is a nonprofit group and they promote invertebrate conservation and they're especially championing for the conservation and preservation of pollinators. Bee Campus USA is something that they started. It's an initiative developed by them, the Xerces Society, and they allow colleges and universities to help them with conservation efforts. So schools that are members of Bee Campus USA like us, MSU now are guided by Xerces and they help the faculty, staff, and students make their campus a better environment for bees and pollinators.

Emily Yeap ([02:09](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/gFvyJMWhvNAU6K9f9oy8iVT-AqKMOi9lMRgpsMBtJdRbeOOQLbPaJkR6bOfkjzLsK2RlHv21pocqQkKJad4w4TjbCqw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Webster shares why such a designation matters for the university.

Misty Webster ([02:14](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/gFvyJMWhvNAU6K9f9oy8iVT-AqKMOi9lMRgpsMBtJdRbeOOQLbPaJkR6bOfkjzLsK2RlHv21pocqQkKJad4w4TjbCqw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

For MSU, being a member of Bee Campus USA is an important designation because there are only two other schools in the state of Missouri that hold it. It also aligns with the university's goals for being community oriented and environmentally conscious, and it gives us a chance to come together and work as a team so we can be committed to conservation of pollinators. We want our campus to look beautiful and inviting to everybody, and most especially our pollinator friends.

Emily Yeap ([02:39](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/gFvyJMWhvNAU6K9f9oy8iVT-AqKMOi9lMRgpsMBtJdRbeOOQLbPaJkR6bOfkjzLsK2RlHv21pocqQkKJad4w4TjbCqw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

What did MSU have to do to be part of the Bee Campus USA program?

Misty Webster ([02:44](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/gFvyJMWhvNAU6K9f9oy8iVT-AqKMOi9lMRgpsMBtJdRbeOOQLbPaJkR6bOfkjzLsK2RlHv21pocqQkKJad4w4TjbCqw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Well, it starts out with an application that we fill out and basically give them all of the information about campus and then we have to submit some of our plans and goals.

So some of the projects we're doing right now include adding new beds to campus and we're putting pollinator friendly plants in those. And we're redesigning some of the old tired and outdated beds that we have with more pollinator friendly plants. We've been reducing the amount of pesticides that we use on campus and as often as possible, we try to use more organic pollinator safe alternatives like vinegar, for example, that we use for weed control and we time our sprays where we can avoid peak times where pollinators are busy and most active. And then in the wintertime, we leave some plants and debris longer for cover crops for them to hibernate.

It's an annual designation, so we have to resubmit our application every year, and so they check up on us to make sure that we're fulfilling our commitments.

Emily Yeap ([03:36](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/gFvyJMWhvNAU6K9f9oy8iVT-AqKMOi9lMRgpsMBtJdRbeOOQLbPaJkR6bOfkjzLsK2RlHv21pocqQkKJad4w4TjbCqw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Webster highlights a few future plans to attract more pollinators.

Misty Webster ([03:41](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/gFvyJMWhvNAU6K9f9oy8iVT-AqKMOi9lMRgpsMBtJdRbeOOQLbPaJkR6bOfkjzLsK2RlHv21pocqQkKJad4w4TjbCqw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

This is just our first year in Bee Campus USA, so we have a lot more work to do. We're gonna continue to revisit those older existing beds and refresh them and update them, and maybe even add some more beds onto campus.

We're also working on creating some opportunities for educational outreach, and we're promoting Bee Campus here on campus hoping that we can grow more committee members. So if anyone is ever interested in joining Bee Campus USA and that includes students, faculty and staff members, just contact us at GroundsServices@MissouriState.edu.

Emily Yeap ([04:13](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/gFvyJMWhvNAU6K9f9oy8iVT-AqKMOi9lMRgpsMBtJdRbeOOQLbPaJkR6bOfkjzLsK2RlHv21pocqQkKJad4w4TjbCqw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

That was Misty Webster, horticulturalist and groundskeeper at MSU. I'm Emily Yeap for the Missouri State Journal.

Announcer ([04:21](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/gFvyJMWhvNAU6K9f9oy8iVT-AqKMOi9lMRgpsMBtJdRbeOOQLbPaJkR6bOfkjzLsK2RlHv21pocqQkKJad4w4TjbCqw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Communication at 417-836-6397. The Missouri State Journal is available online at KSMU.org.