Pollinator Gardens: Combating Habitat Fragmentation in Urban Spaces

By Matthew Wahba

Introduction

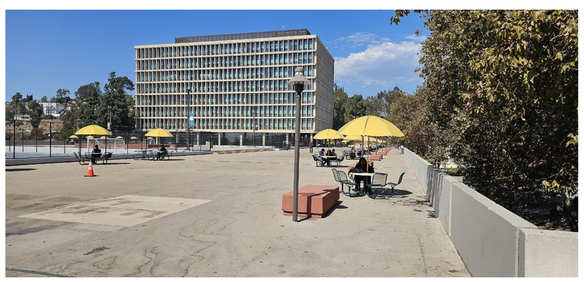
Inspired by UC Riverside Botanical Garden. This proposal aims to improve CSULA's sustainability and biodiversity of the local ecosystem by introducing native pollinator plants to attract local pollinators to the area, promote native plant growth in the area, and limit habitat fragmentation's impact on the local ecosystem.



Credit : UC Riverside Botanic Gardens Dome Structure

Location

One of the more under-utilized areas of the campus and the area that would benefit the most of this proposal is the open space near the Student Services building and Salazar Hall. The space provides ample space for planting on raised garden beds on the outskirts and extra seating in the area with the possible inclusion of more efficient shading in the form of pergolas. This would provide students with a nature-oriented location that can be efficiently utilized for studying or other campus-related activities due to its proximity to multiple major buildings.



Ecological Significance

The highly urbanized and fragmented habitats of LA County pose challenges for pollinator populations. While gardens can provide essential resources, they must be strategically designed to connect with other Green spaces facilitate movement and foraging among pollinators (Nabors et al.). This can be achieved through the utilization of open spaces such as the area being proposed here.

Combined with CSULA's optimal location between major parks in the area, such as Ascot Hills and other smaller parks, a pollinator garden on campus would facilitate pollinator resource gathering in these various habitats

Pollinator gardens can also help improve pollination rates for both ornamental and native plants on campus, a pollination garden would enhance ecosystem services that are vital for plant reproduction. Increased pollination can lead to better seed set and fruit production, which benefits both the campus landscape and any associated agricultural projects (Silva et al.).

Significance to Campus

A pollinator garden can also serve as an educational resource, demonstrating its importance in sustaining the local ecosystem for students and the community (Clarke). Implementing informational placards about what the pollinator plants do and their significance to the campus habitats and the surrounding area can foster more awareness of our local ecosystem.
It can also beautify the campus environment, making it more inviting for students, faculty, and visitors. This aesthetic improvement can enhance overall campus life and promote mental well-being among the university community(Clarke).

Pollinator Plants

The most important thing to consider is the type of pollinator plants to use. The ideal plants to use for campus sustainability are native Los Angeles plants. These include Wildflowers such as:

California Buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum)

Sticky Monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus)

As well as shrubs and perennials like:

California Lilac (Ceanothus spp.)

Showy Penstemon (Penstemon spectabilis)

This collection of native plants attracts various pollinators, from bees to butterflies and some hummingbirds.

Working alongside local plant nurseries can provide an invaluable resource for other optimal plants for this project.



Pc: gardinia.net



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Conclusion

CSULA is in a very strategic location that can make the most of the implementation of a pollinator garden to mitigate the impact of habitat fragmentation on the local ecosystem through sustainability and promoting biodiversity. Its proximity to multiple parks as well as its potential to bring more awareness to the topic of our local habitat makes it an ideal implementation to our campus for the school body as well as the native ecosystem as a whole.