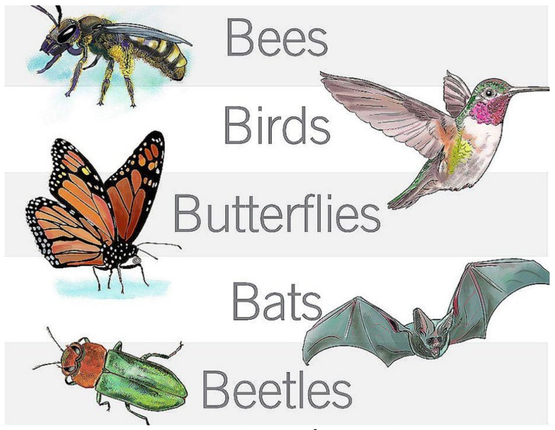
Ring Gardening: Creating A Habitat Haven for Pollinators with Native Perennials (California Primrose and Sonoma Coastal Poppy)

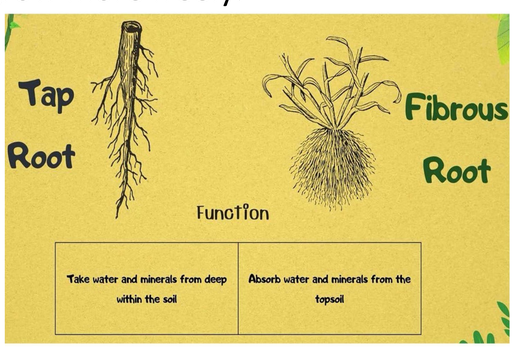
Created by: Helen Perez and Cristian Turcios

Introduction

Creating ring gardens around the CSULA campus will support the declining native pollinator populations. Not only will it be an efficient use of space, but these ring gardens will also provide protection for existing trees around their roots.



Incorporating native plants in landscaping creates a path to sustainable landscaping practices while benefiting native pollinators. The establishment of native plants can reverse damage created by invasive species by outcompeting them once they are well established. The deep root systems native plants have mechanisms to prevent erosion. This will prevent soil compaction and allow the trees roots to grow more freely.



Method

- Single out which trees on campus can cohabitate with suggested perennials, avoiding trees with pining leaves
- Suggested plants can be purchased from Artemisia Nursery (6 minutes away from campus)
- Create hands on learning opportunities by incorporating ring gardens into classes (biology, environmental science) and workshops (bouquet making, seed packets)
- Create a detailed schematic of ring gardens for campus grounds workers to implement

Ring Garden Benefits

- Maximizing garden space, ideal for minimal change
- efficient watering and enhances soil nutrients
- companion planting where plants can have a symbiotic relationship e.g. different blooming times
- the design can be customized based on trees needs and landscaping parameters
- Planting low maintenance plants are ideal for ring gardens since once established they can flourish with minimal input

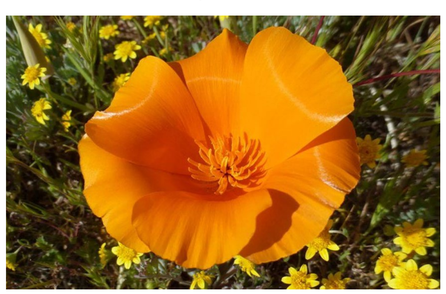
California Primrose

The California Primrose is a practical choice for the ring gardens. These flowers which aid in nutrient cycling to enhance soil health. Furthermore it can provide a valuable source of nectar for bumblebees, an endangered specie native to California. The seasonal blooms will enhance the campus space visually between spring and summer.



Sonoma Coastal Poppy

The Sonoma coastal poppy is ideal for the gardens at csula because they can grow in various types of soil and grow in clumps which would help avoid it growing to spaced out and only reaches up too two inches at most in height. They would also have no issues adapting to local conditions because of their advantage of being within the region and benefiting local wildlife and insects and enhancing the environment on campus.



Expected Results

- Provide shelter to the tree's roots from repeated foot traffic, which results in compacted soil
- Enhance the space visually while raising awareness on the importance of supporting local ecosystems
- Foster community on campus by utilizing the flowers for bouquets and remaining flowers for seed packets
- Support local businesses and contribute to local economic growth

Conclusion

- Provides adaptability to the space provided by being able to thrive within the existing ecosystem on campus and as well act as a resource to local wildlife and insects with pollination and providing nectar to bees and hummingbirds
- It also provides a more modern and sustainable look to csula campus by adding diverse vegetation to campus with being cost effective to maintain them and provide a more welcoming and colorful atmosphere for students and faculty members on campus

Before After

