



# REWILD CSULB

## BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS



Cited Sources

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### THE REWILD YOUR CAMPUS MISSION

Rewild CSULB is part of the broader *Rewild Your Campus* coalition, a movement dedicated to transforming traditional landscapes into easily manageable, natural spaces. This initiative encourages the use of native plants, sustainable conservation practices, and eco-friendly landscaping to foster healthier, more resilient, and environmentally conscious campuses.

### PILOT PROJECT

The Rewild CSULB Club partnered with SustainU to demonstrate how replacing invasive plant species with a native, organically managed garden could enhance the campus's sustainability efforts. The Rewild team, along with other student volunteers, dedicated five weeks to creating a 1,000 sq/ft native garden on campus, marking the first step of transitioning toward the university's mission of "modeling sustainable operations while educating and empowering students."

**Before**



The site was covered in native English Ivy, which required heavy watering and provided little support for pollinators and local wildlife.

**After**



The pilot project included 40 native plants from 14 species, along with an educational poster to promote native gardening benefits.

### PILOT PROJECT ANALYSIS REPORT

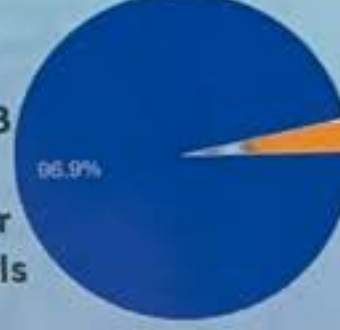
The pilot project was completed in November 2024, and since then, the Rewild team has worked to address campus administrators' concerns about reducing pesticide use and incorporating native plants, focusing on factors such as cost, aesthetics, and the ability to thrive without synthetic inputs. Throughout the project, maintenance was limited to weeding once a month. Despite initial skepticism, the plants thrived with minimal care.

Pie Charts: Over 80 Student Survey Results



97.7%

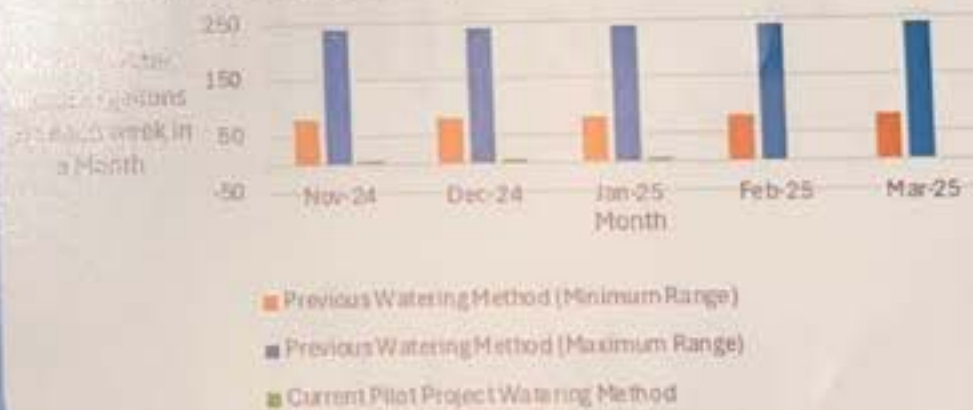
prefer that CSULB use organic management over synthetic chemicals



96.9%

prefer native plants over the traditional campus landscaping

Water usage at Pilot project before versus after native garden implementation (potential previous method range is compared to actual current usage)



95%

reduction in water usage

Bar graph models the reduction in water usage measured through weekly hand-watering with a standard 2-gallon watering can. 6 gallons were used to water the native plants each week. Irrigation ceased after February due to sufficient rainfall. Results demonstrated the potential to reduce the campus' annual consumption of over 200 million gallons.

## CLIMATE ACTION & ADAPTATION PLAN

Rewild Your Campus has developed effective strategies to improve campus sustainability nationwide through organic land management and the reintroduction of native plants. Rewild CSULB has applied these practices at the campus, aligning with the broader movement to restore ecosystems while educating students.

CSULB's Rewild pilot project showed that sustainability can be significantly enhanced by incorporating native plants. While the CSULB Climate Action and Adaptation Plan provides valuable strategies for reducing carbon emissions and water use, it also presents opportunities for improvement by addressing pesticide use and prioritizing native species.

As noted in the Landscape Master Plan, CSULB's extensive softscape and high irrigation demands are costly and unsustainable. Transitioning to native landscaping and eco-friendly maintenance practices would help the campus become more resilient and self-sustaining.

Using native plants instead of non-native drought-tolerant species can improve habitat quality for local wildlife and pollinators, while significantly conserving water. Reducing synthetic chemicals like pesticides and fertilizers minimizes environmental harm and supports healthier ecosystems.

