

Minnesota Cities Supporting Bees

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City Efforts

- Community Apiaries
- Pollinator Resolutions
- Beekeeping Ordinances

Saint Paul Apiary Project



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Community Apiary Considerations

- Community apiary site setup and maintenance
- Community apiary leadership and management
- Local governments
- Public reactions
- Participating beekeepers
- Beekeeping management

Benefits of a Community Apiary

- Land accessibility
- Share information, equipment, resources
- Help each other lift hive bodies or see eggs
- Avoid making first-timer mistakes
- Bee-sitting when out of town
- Sense of camaraderie
- Possibly increase genetic diversity of honey bees in the area
- Pollination services

Challenges of a Community Apiary

- Different management styles and opinions
- Spread of pesticides and pathogens
- Some enjoy beekeeping as a solitary, spiritual, rural experience
- Possible competition for floral resources
- Swarming
- Logistics

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- Based on focus groups and experience, 2016 priorities:
 - Use public land for community organizations to keep bees
 - Education for local youth, beekeepers
 - Keep healthy bees
 - Visibility, public outreach
 - Share recommendations
 - Blaine, Minnesota
 - Evanston (near Chicago, Illinois)
 - Hudson gardens (near Littleton, Colorado)

Pollinator Resolutions

1. Recognize importance of pollinators
2. Recognize city efforts
3. Reduce systemic insecticides on public land
4. Increase plantings for bees
5. Educate public
6. Not an ordinance
7. Thanks to advocacy organizations

Pollinator Resolutions

- MN Cities:
 - Andover
 - Lake Elmo
 - Minneapolis
 - Saint Louis Park
 - Shorewood
 - Stillwater
 - South Saint Paul
 - Saint Paul
 - and more!

Beekeeping Ordinances

- Ordinances
 - Honey bees considered “farm animals,” “undomesticated animals,” “urban farm animals,” “non-household pets”
 - Zoning requirements
 - Setbacks
 - Flyaway barriers
 - Permit fees
 - Classes
 - Robbing prevention

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Beekeeping Ordinances

- No ordinance
 - Beekeeping is permitted or prohibited
 - Interpretation of rules can be confusing and inconsistent

Project Partners:



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