Study Session

SS

Milwaukie City Council

CITY OF MILWAUKIE

COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

City Hall Community Room, 10501 SE Main Street
& Zoom Video Conference (www.milwaukieoregon.gov)

AGENDA

FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Council will hold this meeting in-person and by video conference. The public may come to City Hall or join the Zoom webinar. This meeting will not be aired live, it will be recorded and broadcast later.

For Zoom login visit https://www.milwaukieoregon.gov/citycouncil/city-council-study-session-0.

Written comments may be delivered to City Hall or emailed to ocr@milwaukieoregon.gov.

Note: agenda item times are estimates and are subject to change. **Page #**

1. **Events Review and Update – Discussion** (5:15 p.m.) **1**
   Staff: Dan Harris, Events and Emergency Management Coordinator
2. **Houseless Services Update – Report** (5:45 p.m.) **4**
   Staff: Emma Sagor, City Manager
3. **Council Reports** (6:15 p.m.) **8**
4. **Adjourn** (8:00 p.m.)

Meeting Accessibility Services and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Notice
The city is committed to providing equal access to public meetings. To request listening and mobility assistance services contact the Office of the City Recorder at least 48 hours before the meeting by email at ocr@milwaukieoregon.gov or phone at 503-786-7502. To request Spanish language translation services email espanol@milwaukieoregon.gov at least 48 hours before the meeting. Staff will do their best to respond in a timely manner and to accommodate requests. Most Council meetings are broadcast live on the city's YouTube channel and Comcast Channel 30 in city limits.

Servicios de Accesibilidad para Reuniones y Aviso de la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA)
La ciudad se compromete a proporcionar igualdad de acceso para reuniones públicas. Para solicitar servicios de asistencia auditiva y de movilidad, favor de comunicarse a la Oficina del Registro de la Ciudad con un mínimo de 48 horas antes de la reunión por correo electrónico a ocr@milwaukieoregon.gov o llame al 503-786-7502. Para solicitar servicios de traducción al español, envíe un correo electrónico a espanol@milwaukieoregon.gov al menos 48 horas antes de la reunión. El personal hará todo lo posible para responder de manera oportuna y atender las solicitudes. La mayoría de las reuniones del Consejo de la Ciudad se transmiten en vivo en el canal de YouTube de la ciudad y el Canal 30 de Comcast dentro de los límites de la ciudad.

Executive Sessions
The City Council may meet in executive session pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 192.660(2); all discussions are confidential; news media representatives may attend but may not disclose any information discussed. Final decisions and actions may not be taken in executive sessions.

CITY OF MILWAUKIE

SS 1. 2/11/25

OCR USE ONLY

COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Mayor and City Council
Emma Sagor, City Manager

Date Written: Jan. 29, 2025

Reviewed: Jordan Imlah (as to form), Strategic Engagement Team Supervisor, and Gabriela Santoyo Gutierrez, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, and Katie Gavares, Climate and Natural Resources Manager

From: Dan Harris, Events & Emergency Management Coordinator

Subject: **Events Program Update**

ACTION REQUESTED

Council is asked to receive a briefing on the recently concluded winter events season and the progress on Milwaukie Fest planning.

HISTORY OF PRIOR ACTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

February 6, 2024: Council received an annual events forecast, including summer events.

November 5, 2024: Council received an update on the progress of winter events planning and an outline of Milwaukie Fest.

ANALYSIS

The city produces a lively calendar of annual events including summer and winter celebrations. The city also coordinates with community groups to support events taking place in Milwaukie.

Winter Events

The annual Umbrella Parade and Tree Lighting was held on Dec. 7, 2024. In spite of then-current forecasts of an atmospheric river on the day of the event, the weather was rather mild for the season overall, with cloud-cover parting for a beautiful sunset just before the parade began.

The event carried on successfully with the invaluable traffic control assistance of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Milwaukie Police Department (MPD). Performers arrived when they were scheduled, the tree lit on time, and, but for the public address system short-circuiting due to water damage, it was a flawless evening. Spoke & Word Books operated a free warming center at their storefront to help shelter attendees from the winter chill.

The Winter Solstice celebration was held on Dec. 21, 2024. Although faster-than-expected currents brought the Christmas Ships back from Lake Oswego early, they circled for longer than usual to allow event attendees the opportunity to see them. Milwaukie's own SaunaGlo sponsored the addition of wood-fired saunas to the event, a change from prior years.

Thousands of pedestrians moving across McLoughlin Boulevard has long been a problem for this event. Past attempts at reconfiguring the timing of traffic signals, closing certain crosswalks to better direct traffic, and providing crossing aides to minimize conflicts between pedestrians and drivers were unsuccessful. This year, the city hired a shuttle with the help of the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) to help bring people with mobility impairments to Milwaukie Bay Park. The MPD also stationed officers in marked vehicles on McLoughlin near

the event. Officers stopped more than a dozen drivers for various unsafe maneuvers in and around pedestrian crossings. Their visible presence and active enforcement seem to have curtailed poor driver behavior that has previously threatened the safety of participants.

Milwaukie Fest

Milwaukie Fest is the city's newest annual celebration, now scheduled for the second weekend in July. The festival is intended to highlight the many things that make The Dogwood City of the West such a wonderful place to live.

Friday, July 11 will feature a park celebration on the east side of town. This evening will be largely programmed by NCPRD and will include a movie in the park. The city is in talks with the Milwaukie Arts Committee to help co-promote the event with Porchfest, which also begins on July 11.

Saturday, July 12 brings a summer fair to Main Street. Activities, entertainment and fun for people of all ages will fill three blocks and the South Downtown Plaza from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Highlights, so far, include bubble artists, a giant dance class and the return of semi-professional wrestling to Milwaukie. This day is also expected to include the Milwaukie Mile, live music continuing at several businesses into the evening, and possibly the return of the always-popular Milwaukie Parks Foundation Duck Race.

The event concludes Sunday with a super-sized farmers market produced by Celebrate Milwaukie, Inc. This market will feature children's activities, extra live entertainment, a cherry pie baking contest, and special offerings from the vendors.

The city is currently seeking vendors, entertainers and sponsors for the event. More information is available at milwaukieoregon.gov/events/milwaukie-fest.

BUDGET IMPACT

The events program is funded in the existing biennial budget. While members of city staff will continue to seek out sponsorships for events, no supplemental event budget requests are anticipated for this biennium.

CLIMATE IMPACT

City events use recyclable and biodegradable food containers wherever possible. This includes encouraging vendors to avoid non-biodegradable packaging. The city's partnership with Bike Milwaukie, a local cycling interest group, provision of additional bicycle parking, and positioning of the Saturday and Sunday Milwaukie Fest events near the Jackson St. bus mall all help to discourage the use of private motor vehicles to attend the event. Although sincere efforts are made to minimize the climate impact of city events, these large-scale events require significant energy for entertainment, lighting, food preparation, and operational needs.

EQUITY IMPACT

Milwaukie Fest will include amenities to encourage participation from people of all ability levels, including shaded resting areas to prevent heat-related illnesses, and wide, unobstructed pathways to facilitate the use of mobility assistance devices. The city is actively seeking vendors, performers, and tabling groups to present the diverse story of our community to festival attendees.

WORKLOAD IMPACT

Milwaukie Fest is not expected to generate any additional workload for city staff not already accounted for in existing work plans.

COORDINATION, CONCURRENCE, OR DISSENT

The climate and natural resources, library and water teams are already planning to participate actively at Milwaukie Fest. The event's traffic control plan has been reviewed and approved by Engineering and MPD.

Events Update

Dan Harris (they/them)

Events & Emergency Management Coordinator

events@milwaukieoregon.gov

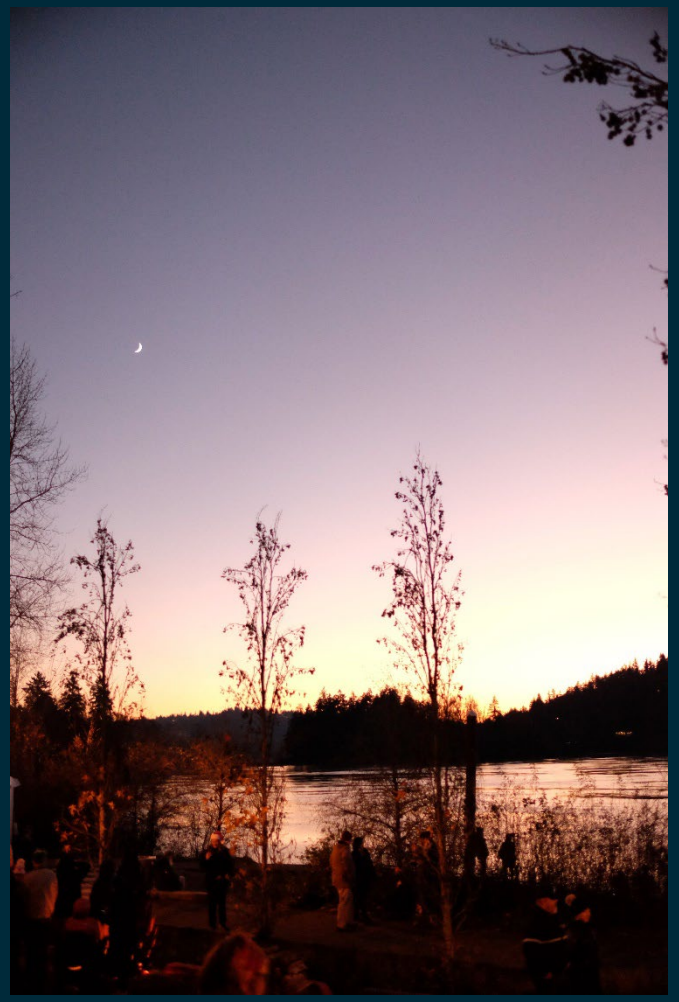
Umbrella Parade

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024

Key Takeaways:

- Bike enthusiasm continues to be a challenge
- Need better waterproofing for cables
- New power supply for tree worked well
- Pfriem interested in partnering for next year!

Solstice Event



Date: Saturday, December 21, 2024

Key Takeaways:

- Bike enthusiasm continues to be a challenge
- Saunas were hit-or-miss
  - (We still love SaunaGlo!)
- Three E's

Milwaukie Community Events Fund

What: $8,000 annual awards fund

When: ~~January 31~~ and July 31

Why: Support and celebrate the diversity of Milwaukie

Web: milwaukieoregon.gov/events/mcef

Vida33
Modern Latin Bistro

SPOKE & WORD
BOOKS

Milwaukie Fest

July 11
Movie in the Park & Live Music (first night of Porch Fest)

July 12
Main St. Festival

July 13
Enhanced Farmers Market

Milwaukie Fest

Ongoing Efforts:

- Monthly meetings with planning committees
- Finalizing logistics
- Beginning Public Awareness Campaign
- Recruiting performers and other entertainment for July 12
- Recruiting Sponsors

Website:
milwaukieoregon.gov/events/milwaukie-fest

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

PRESENTING SPONSOR **$5,000**

- Exclusive "Presented By" name in the event title
- Exclusive sponsor within the industry type
- Logo on all promotional advertising and collateral
- Logo on volunteer t-shirts
- Logo on all event signage
- Premier activity area location for maximum visibility
- Organization name and logo featured in all collateral materials
- Organizational banners displayed onsite throughout event
- Newsletter article features
- Features in social media marketing

MAJOR SPONSORS **$2,000-4,500**

- Logo on all promotional advertising and collateral
- Logo on volunteer t-shirts
- Logo on extensive on-route signage
- Premier activity area locations for maximum visibility
- Newsletter article features
- Features in social media marketing
- No category exclusivity

SUPPORTING SPONSORS **$500-1,500**

- Listing (no logo) in all promotional advertising and collateral
- Listing (no logo) on volunteer t-shirts
- 10 ft. x 10 ft. space at an activity area
- Mentions in social media marketing
- No category exclusivity

For more information, please visit **www.milwaukieoregon.gov,** or contact Events Coordinator Dan Harris at events@milwaukieoregon.gov or 503-786-7519.

Events Update

Dan Harris (they/them)

Events & Emergency Management Coordinator

events@milwaukieoregon.gov

CITY OF MILWAUKIE

SS 2. 2/11/25

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COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Mayor and City Council

Date Written: Feb. 4, 2025

Reviewed: Dan Harris, Events and Emergency Management Coordinator,
Jason Wachs, Community Engagement Coordinator,
Glen Suchanek, Behavioral Health Specialist,
Ryan Burdick, Chief of Police,
Brent Husher, Library Director, and
Kelly Lamm, Library Manager

From: Emma Sagor, City Manager

Subject: **Houseless Services Update**

ACTION REQUESTED

Council is asked to receive an update on various city activities related to supporting houseless community members.

HISTORY OF PRIOR ACTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

January 16, 2024: Council received an update on the initial proposal for supportive housing funds.

February 6, 2024: Council received an update on houseless support services, including five projects submitted by the city to the via Clackamas County's Notice of Funding Opportunity for City-led Homelessness Initiatives.

April 2024: The city was informed that three of the proposals it submitted for the Notice of Funding Opportunity were supported.

July 16, 2024: Council received an update on houseless services at the city.

ANALYSIS

The city has for several years provided support to houseless community members via the public safety department, particularly our behavioral health specialist (who joined the city in 2022), and the Ledding Library. With the increasing rates of homelessness in our community and the broader region, as well as grant funding opportunities created by the passage of Metro's Supportive Housing Services (SHS) tax, the city has been able to increase the services it either directly provides or engages in as a local partner to support houseless and housing insecure Milwaukians.

In late 2023, Clackamas County city managers were notified that the county would make SHS funds and state houseless funds provided to Oregon counties available for qualifying city-prioritized projects. The city submitted five fundings requests, and the Clackamas Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the following:

- $30,000 annually for three years for the Ledding Library Cooling Center.
- $450,000 annually for a two-year pilot rental assistance program operated by the Clackamas Service Center.

In late June 2024, the city submitted an additional request on behalf of St. John's Episcopal Church of Milwaukie, LoveOne, and the Father's Heart to establish a warming center at the church. The BCC approved this request on December 16, 2024.

The rest of this staff report provides updates on bodies of work related to these funding streams and other ways the city supports our houseless neighbors.

Ledding Library Extended Hours Cooling Center

A cooling center is a place where members of the Milwaukie community can come to get some relief from the heat. The Milwaukie Ledding Library has operated as a de facto cooling center during operating hours for several years. Beginning in summer 2024, the city has expanded the hours that the cooling center is open until 10:00 p.m. during times of especially high heat risk, as determined by the National Weather Service (NWS). During these extended hours, staff from across city departments will provide cool water, snacks, and space to anyone who wants it and can share the space safely and respectfully with their neighbors. Library services are not offered during the extended cooling center hours but remain available during normal business hours.

In summer 2024, the extended hours cooling center was activated for a total of 8 nights and served an average of 9 community members a night (72 total people through the doors).

County funding will support purchase of supplies (water, snacks, chargers, etc.) and overtime payments for represented staff. The city received a draft intergovernmental agreement (IGA) from the county in late 2024 and are finalizing negotiations for this. At time of adoption, funds will be remitted to the city, retroactively covering 2024 expenses and approving fund reimbursement for 2025 and 2026 seasons.

City's Behavioral Health Program and Homelessness Response

Glen Suchanek, the city's behavioral health specialist, continues to do tremendous work supporting community members in crisis. Glen responds with officers, follows up on reports and takes community calls and referrals for our neighbors struggling with a mental health crisis. Glen works frequently with Don Holden and others from LoveOne to provide individuals experiencing houselessness or on the verge of losing their housing assistance and support. These can include and are not limited to survival gear, referrals to shelters, clean and sober housing, transitional housing, permanent housing and outreach support to meet our houseless community where they are.

In 2022, the city negotiated an agreement with Clackamas County to fund a position at Central City Concern dedicated to providing houseless support services within the city boundaries. The involved parties—the city, Clackamas County, and Central City Concern—agreed to conclude this arrangement in spring 2024 given the support was not being provided as intended due to staffing issues at Central City Concern. The County committed to exploring new pathways to provide this county-funded support to the city. In late 2024, the County completed a competitive process to select a new provider. LoveOne was selected, and Don Holden has moved into that position to be Milwaukie's dedicated houseless liaison. LoveOne will be filling Don's vacated position, resulting in more outreach available to our community members.

Since March 2024, Glen has met over 200 new individuals related to behavioral health, has been deployed to scenes over 60 times with police, has been deployed to scenes without police around 10 times, and has documented more than 400 engagement notes.

Glen and Don participated in the annual Point in Time Count in 2024, where they counted 11 individuals experiencing homelessness within the City of Milwaukie. In late 2024, the city was made aware of camping activity in Kronberg Park. MPD staff, including Glen, spoke to occupants and helped them move along. There was considerable trash and debris left behind. LoveOne will be holding a trash clean up on February 5, 2025.

Library Outreach Services

The Milwaukie Ledding Library provides information, resources, and support to community members experiencing housing or behavioral health challenges. Library staff regularly contact and connect with social service partners to facilitate referrals for service. Since July 2024, Tuesday Library Outreach (in partnership with Milwaukie Police Department, 4D Recovery, LoveOne and NAMI) has served 78 clients, library staff have passed out resource information to over 60 patrons made 31 electronic referrals through PITS (plus numerous text referrals) to outreach partners and distributed over 700 water bottles and granola bars.

Additionally, the library serves as a welcoming and inclusive meeting center to support partners and provide services including a monthly Mobile Outreach Unit with Clackamas County Sherrif's Office (CCSO) Probation and Parole. The first year of this partnership served 113 clients with 11 clients either housed, graduated treatment, or received earned discharge. The program began in Milwaukie and has also expanded to Canby and Sandy libraries. Clients have stated that they are finding the support they need and feel welcomed in the library space which is easier to access.

In October, the library began a partnership with Clackamas County Social Services Housing to provide biweekly Rent Well Labs. The library provides laptops and space for the classes which are provided in English and Spanish. They average 3-4 clients per session.

Pilot rental assistance program administered by the Clackamas Service Center

The County approved funding for a two-year pilot rental assistance program to be run by the Clackamas Service Center (CSC). Today, CSC provides more than 350 Milwaukie residents customized food boxes, and they have recently expanded one-stop stability services through their new Annex West Building. Integrating short-term rent assistance and eviction prevention services with CSC's core basic survival and health and wellness support services will increase ease of access, strengthen the continuum of care, and reduce housing insecurity.

The County has contracted directly with CSC to fund this pilot. It is city staff's understanding that qualified individuals are currently being referred to the rental assistance program via the County's Coordinated Housing Access (CHA) program.

County-run stabilization center on McBrod Ave

City staff were invited by the County to participate in the review of applicants to the request for proposals (RFP) for both the 23-hour stabilization center side of this site and the 13-bed shelter in the back of the site. Maple Star, LLC, was selected to run the 23-hour center and Father's Heart will be running the 13-bed shelter.

Coordination calls between the city and the County have been on hiatus on this project. City staff are advocating for these to restart and will be meeting with County staff again in the next couple of weeks.

Warming Shelter at St. John's Church

The board of St. John's Episcopal Church voted in late spring 2024 to move forward with establishing an overnight warming shelter. St. John's will work with The Father's Heart to provide overnight accommodations, including food, to up to 20 guests per night on dangerously cold nights.

The city applied for grant funding from Clackamas County to facilitate shelter operations and building modifications. The BCC voted to approve this proposal in late 2024. The city is now in

negotiations with the County to establish the most efficient process for getting these funds to St. John's.

BUDGET IMPACT
The city will receive $30,000 annually from Clackamas County to support the extended hours cooling center. The rest of the city's efforts related to houseless services are built into the recently adopted biennial budget, though as demand for these services increases, the need for additional funds to support this work will also rise.

CLIMATE IMPACT
Climate change has a disproportionate impact on those who are unhoused. As severe weather events become more frequent, the efforts the city is taking to support emergency cooling and warming centers are an important climate adaptation strategy.

EQUITY IMPACT
The work described above is all core to the Team Milwaukie priority of Helping Milwaukians Most in Need. Community members living on low-incomes or experiencing housing insecurity are disproportionately burdened by rising housing costs, health care costs, substance abuse crises and more. Allocating city facilities, staff time, and budget to these services helps address these disparities in our community and support improved outcomes for marginalized community members.

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Increasing rates of houselessness and behavioral health challenges in our community undoubtedly put a strain on city resources and staff workload. Operating the extended hours cooling center requires the availability of staff willing and interested in working extra hours and would only be possible with county funding to pay for staff overtime.

COORDINATION, CONCURRENCE, OR DISSENT
None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommend Council receive the update and ask staff any questions they have about this work.

ALTERNATIVES
N/A

ATTACHMENTS
1. None.

SS 2. 2/11/25
Presentation

Houseless and Behavioral Health Services Update

February 11, 2025

OVERVIEW

1. Activity updates
   - Ledding Library extended hours cooling center
   - City's behavioral health program and library outreach services
   - Pilot rental assistance program administered by Clackamas Service Center
   - County-run stabilization center on McBrod Ave
   - Proposed warming shelter at St. John's Church
2. Questions/discussion
   - Cadence of future updates?

Activity Update: EXTENDED HOURS COOLING CENTER

- $30,000 in grant funding authorized by BCC for two-year pilot (IGA/contract in progress)

- Mobilization criteria
  - When heat risk is Major or Extreme as defined by the National Weather Service
  - When we have sufficient staffing available (currently require three employees, at least one of whom is a manager)

- Year 1 numbers
  - Operated for a total of 8 nights
  - 72 total people through the doors (average of 9 per night)

- Exploring building modifications that could allow for volunteer staffing/potential expansion

Activity Update: CITY SUPPORT AND OUTREACH SERVICES

- Behavioral health resources available to the city:
  - Glen Suchanek, MPD Behavioral Health Specialist
  - Don Holden, LoveOne Houseless Liaison (paid by County)
  - To-be-hired LoveOne Houseless Liaison to replace Don's old role

- Since March 2024, Glen and Don have:
  - Supported more than 200 new individuals
  - Deployed to scenes with police more than 60 times
  - Deployed to scenes without police around 10 times
  - Documented more than 400 engagement notes

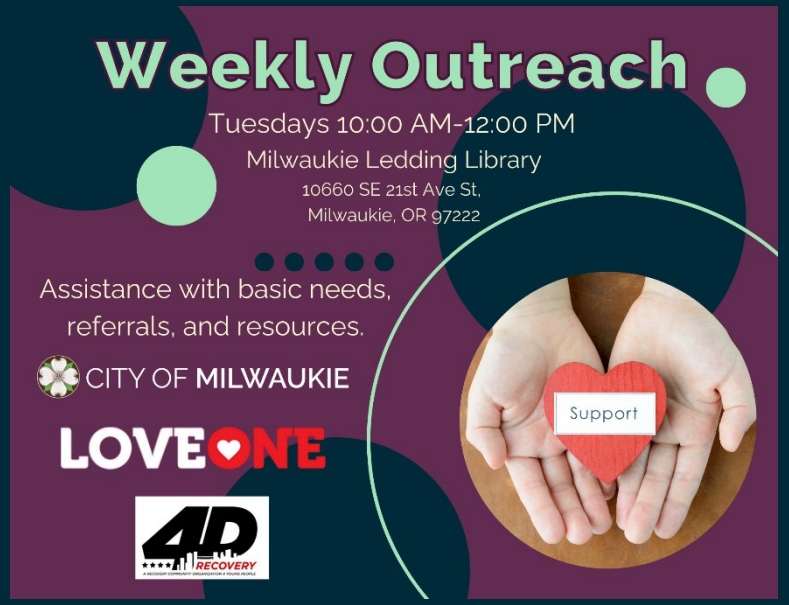
- Camping and houseless-related updates:
  - 2024 Point in Time Count: 11 individuals experiencing houselessness
  - Feb. 5 trash clean up of campsite in Kronberg Park conducted by LoveOne
  - Metro IGA in the works to support future clean ups

LOVE ONE

Activity Update: CITY SUPPORT AND OUTREACH SERVICES

- Outreach services provided at the Ledding Library since July 2024
  - Tuesday outreach events with MPD, 4D Recovery, LoveOne and NAMI (served 78 clients)
  - Resource information provided by staff (60 patrons)
  - Electronic referrals for services (31 referrals)
  - Distributed more than 700 water bottles and granola bars
  - Probation and Parole mobile unit (113 clients served; 11 have been housed, graduated treatment, or received earned discharge)

- Began biweekly Rent Well Labs in October 2024 in partnership with Clackamas County Social Services
  - 3-4 clients served per session



Activity Update: PILOT RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- County approved funding for two-year pilot program
  - Money to go directly to Clackamas Service Center (CSC)

- Funding will support:
  - Service Navigation Personnel co-located at Clackamas Service Center - 1.0 FTE; $75,000
  - Program Director - .30 FTE $20,000
  - Program materials/supplies - $30,000
  - Short- and long-term rent assistance allocation - $275,000
  - Nutritional Support Personnel - .25 FTE $15,000
  - Food Box Delivery - $25,000
  - Organizational Management and Administration - $10,000

Activity Update: STABILIZATION CENTER

- County-led project
- To be housed at the County-owned facility on McBrod Ave
- Two components:
  - 23-hour stabilization – to be operated by Maple Star LLC
  - 13-bed shelter – to be operated by Father's Heart
- Coordination calls to resume soon with County to finalize Good Neighbor agreement and shared logistics

Activity Update: WARMING SHELTER AT ST. JOHN'S

- Funding ask submitted on behalf of St. John's, LoveOne, and Father's Heart to the County in June
- Project approved by County BCC in December
- County contracting directly with St. John's
- Expect to open for operation in 2026

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

SS 3. 2/11/25
Exhibits
Mayor Batey

From:	Lisa Batey
To:	Scott Stauffer; Nicole Madigan
Cc:	Emma Sagor; Joseph Briglio
Subject:	Fwd: HB 2135
Date:	Friday, February 7, 2025 3:51:07 PM
Attachments:	image001.png We sent you safe versions of your files.msg House Bill 4027 (2022 Session).pdf image002.png image004.png image003.png HB2135 (2025).pdf

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Please include in packet for Tuesday.
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Travis Stovall <travis.stovall@greshamoregon.gov>
Date: February 7, 2025 at 3:12:49 PM PST
To: Larry Morgan <larry.morgan@greshamoregon.gov>, Chris Fick <chris.fick@greshamoregon.gov>
Subject: HB 2135

Hello Fellow Mayors,

I know that we are all extremely busy managing our day-to-day efforts along with the legislative session activities. I want to bring to your attention a bill that Gresham has significant concerns about. Here is an excerpt from an email that our City Manager, Eric Schmidt, sent out to a few City Managers.

“There’s a bill moving through the legislature that I believe cities should oppose and hoping that you will offer support if possible. According to our lobbying team, the proponents are claiming that Cities of Medford and Salem and Portland have no concerns with this bill, so part of my email is also fact-checking a bit.

Gresham has serious concerns about HB 2135, a bill that would allow electric fences on non-residential property, because such zoning in cities often allows for residential development. And even if a commercially zoned property doesn’t have housing units, there are very likely housing units within close proximity, as residential and commercial uses are often adjacent, which is the case here in Gresham.
Housing located near electric fences is a serious concern as children could accidentally

touch the fence or be attracted to play with the fence and receive a shock. There may also be pedestrian paths/trails adjacent to these sites, which is also true in our city.

The perimeter fences located in front of the electrical fences are often chain-link fences located 6 inches in front of the electric fence. This makes it incredibly easy for a child to stick a hand or something else through the chain-link and receive a shock.

And these electric fences carry a powerful shock. One of Gresham's City Councilors had one at his business and after an employee was accidentally shocked by it, the employee could not work the remainer of the day. An employee in Albany, OR was shocked and claimed to be seriously injured and is suing the fence maker.

These electric fences located in commercially zoned areas can also give the unsightly impression of fortification within cities as commercially zoned areas are often along arterials and other streets with a lot of traffic. Gresham has had these fences show up in areas zoned for commercial use.

Please see the photos for reference that depict a fence directly adjacent to a pedestrian path on an arterial that connects to our Springwater Trail. Another property was directly across the street from a large apartment complex.

The City of Gresham will be drafting testimony in opposition to this bill, and we'd ask that you please consider joining us in signing on. If you are interested, please let me know ASAP and I will send you a sign-on letter for your consideration."

The original bill, HB4027 (attached), was drafted and passed a few years back allowing these fences to be installed with little local municipality oversight (read Section 3). At the time it was presented that there were no cities who opposed these fences. The City of Gresham was sued when we denied the company the ability to turn on two of these fences on properties that are zoned residential but are currently used as commercial. These two properties are directly across the street from a number of multifamily complexes. We litigated the suit and prevailed, the company has subsequently appealed the court's decision. Now this is being brought up to the legislature to change the language to address the issue that Gresham raised.

The company stated at recent committee meeting that only the City of Gresham was concerned about this bill and the electric fences going up in our communities, but I am fairly certain that is not the case. We are looking for letters of support asking the committee to allow for more borders to be placed around these fence installations.

I am happy to jump on a call with anyone to discuss this issue and to provide additional background.

Best,

Travis Stovall, Mayor | City of Gresham
503-618-2697 | GreshamOregon.gov
1333 N.W. Eastman Parkway | Gresham, OR 97030-3813

House Bill 4027

Sponsored by Representative WALLAN (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.**

Limits local government regulations on certain nonresidential alarm systems and battery-charged fences.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to alarms.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Alarm system" means any electrical, mechanical or electronic device or sensor used to prevent, detect or alert law enforcement or occupants of burglary, theft, or intrusion of a structure or a vehicle used as a commercial structure.

(b) "Battery-charged fence" means a fence that interfaces with an alarm system in a manner that enables the fence to cause the connected alarm system to transmit a signal intended to summon law enforcement in response to an intrusion and has an energizer that is driven by battery.

(c) "IEC standards" means the standards set by the International Electrotechnical Commission as most recently published on or before January 1, 2021.

(2) A battery-charged fence:

(a) Must use a battery that is not more than 12 volts of direct current;

(b) Must produce an electric charge on contact that does not exceed energizer characteristics set for electric fence energizers by IEC standards;

(c) Must be surrounded by a nonelectric perimeter fence or wall that is not less than five feet in height;

(d) May not be higher than the greater of 10 feet in height or two feet higher than the height of the nonelectric perimeter fence or wall; and

(e) Must be marked with conspicuous warning signs that are located on the fence at not more than 30-foot intervals and that read: "WARNING: ELECTRIC FENCE."

(3) Except as required by state building code, a local government, as defined in ORS 197.015, may not adopt or enforce any ordinance, land use regulation or building code for property not zoned or used for residential use that:

(a) Prohibits the installation or use of a battery-charged fence.

(b) Imposes installation or operational requirements inconsistent with IEC standards or this section for an alarm system or battery-charged fence.

(c) Requires a permit for the installation or use of a battery-charged fence that is additional to an alarm system permit issued by the local government.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

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May 16, 2023 at 12:21:58 PM
949–999 SE 202nd Ave
Gresham OR 97030
United States

SS13


SS14


SS15

SS16

House Bill 2135

Sponsored by Representative WALLAN; Representatives HELM, OWENS (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.** The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: This Act amends where battery-charged fences are allowed. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.2).

Allows battery-charged fences on properties not used as residences.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to battery-charged fences; amending ORS 195.870.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 195.870 is amended to read:

195.870. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Alarm system" means any electrical, mechanical or electronic device or sensor used to prevent, detect or alert law enforcement or occupants of burglary, theft, or intrusion of a structure or a vehicle used as a commercial structure.

(b) "Battery-charged fence" means a fence that interfaces with an alarm system in a manner that enables the fence to cause the connected alarm system to transmit a signal intended to summon law enforcement in response to an intrusion and has an energizer that is driven by battery.

(c) "IEC standards" means the standards set by the International Electrotechnical Commission as most recently published on or before January 1, 2021.

(2) A battery-charged fence:

(a) Must use a battery that is not more than 12 volts of direct current;

(b) Must produce an electric charge on contact that does not exceed energizer characteristics set for electric fence energizers by IEC standards;

(c) Must be surrounded by a nonelectric perimeter fence or wall that is not less than five feet in height;

(d) May not be higher than the greater of 10 feet in height or two feet higher than the height of the nonelectric perimeter fence or wall; and

(e) Must be marked with conspicuous warning signs that are located on the fence at not more than 30-foot intervals and that read: "WARNING: ELECTRIC FENCE."

(3) Except as required by state building code, a local government, as defined in ORS 197.015, may not adopt or enforce any ordinance, land use regulation or building code for property [*not zoned or used*] **zoned to allow for commercial or industrial use and not used** for residential use that:

(a) Prohibits the installation or use of a battery-charged fence.

(b) Imposes installation or operational requirements inconsistent with IEC standards or this section for an alarm system or battery-charged fence.

(c) Requires a permit for the installation or use of a battery-charged fence that is additional to

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

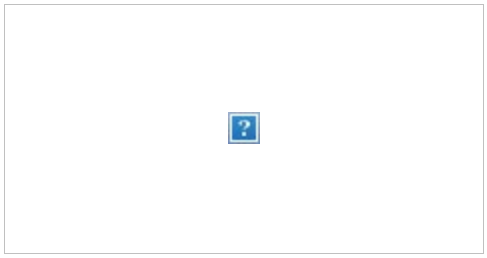
an alarm system permit issued by the local government.

From: Lisa Batey
To: City Council; Peter Passarelli
Subject: links on local Bee-lieve Education Foundation and on honey bees and native bees
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:39:55 PM

Scott/Nicole: Please include in the record for the Feb 11 study session.

All: these are a couple of links I referenced in my council report tonight.

https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/why-getting-hive-wont-save-bees



Why Getting a Hive Won't "Save the Bees" - Xerces Society

In the face of ongoing reports of pollinator declines, honey bees are frequently the first bee that comes to mind -- yet these bees are not native to North America and their presence in our landscapes add to the threats facing

xerces.org

https://bee-hivehoney.com

Discover the fascinating world of honey bees

Learn about the importance of honey bees and how they create the sweet honey we all love.

bee-hivehoney.com

Lisa M. Batey, Mayor (she/her)
City of Milwaukie
E-mail: bateyl@milwaukieoregon.gov
Message line: 503-786-7512

Honey Bees in North America

Why Getting a Hive Won't "Save the Bees"


Lynn Friedman, Flickr (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)


JP Goguen, Flickr (CC BY-SA 2.0)


John Flannery, Flickr (CC BY-NC 2.0)

Faced with news of bee declines, people have added honey bee hives to gardens, parks, and other places in towns and cities. Studies show that this can pose a risk to our native bee species, and the presence of hives may be harming the pollinators you seek to help.

Honey bees are amazing animals, with fascinating behaviors and interactions that provide people with a connection to the natural world in a way that few other insects can. They hold an unusual position for an insect in our society and culture: loved, cared for, kept close to where we live, represented in art and literature. From our earliest age we are exposed to honey bees in storybooks and pictures, household decorations and garden ornaments, movies and TV shows, and news stories. Honey bees are an important component of our farming system and directly provide us with a number of useful products, not the least of which is honey. They also have played a significant role in raising awareness of the essential role of pollinators.

In the face of ongoing reports of pollinator declines, honey bees are frequently the first bee that comes to mind. As a result, a tangible goal for some people has been to get a honey bee hive and hives have appeared in gardens and backyards, on rooftops, in parks, and in natural areas. This is well-intentioned and driven by a true desire to help pollinators, and on the surface, it makes sense—if bees are declining, it would seem that more bees in more places will help. Yet, these actions raise questions about the impact of honey bees and beekeeping on native bees, and whether getting a hive will "save the bees."

While the honey bee is ingrained in our culture and important for crop pollination, it is not native to North America—the first hives were brought from Europe by colonists in early seventeenth century—and despite facing many challenges, the honey bee is not at risk. In comparison, there are thousands of species of bees that are native to this continent, some of which are in trouble, with several truly facing the risk of extinction. Whether native or non-native, all bees are impacted by habitat loss, pesticide use, diseases, and other threats, including climate change. We must take action to counter these, but also need to ensure that the steps we take to help pollinators do not endanger the very animals we're trying to protect. We know that in some situations honey bees are harmful to our native bees, through competition for nectar and pollen and disease transmission. There are reasons to become a beekeeper, such as a fascinating hobby or a desire to produce your own honey, but bee conservation is not one of them. If you are thinking of getting a hive, especially if conservation is a goal, we encourage you to carefully consider whether it is

XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation

the right step. Whether you are a beekeeper or not, there are alternative actions that will not only help honey bees, but also the thousands of native pollinators that call North America home.

History of Honey Bees in North America

The honey bee that is widely found in North America is the European or western honey bee, *Apis mellifera*. It is native to Europe, Africa, and parts of Asia. Thanks to the value of honey, wax, and other hive products, western honey bees have been managed as domesticated livestock for millennia and introduced to many other parts of the world, including North America. They were brought over to North America in the 1620s by European colonists for honey (sugar) and wax production, with the first recorded arrivals at Jamestown in what is now Virginia (DeGrandi-Hoffman 2003), and had reached the West Coast by the 1850s (Carpenter & Harpur 2021). The introduction of the removable frame beehive in 1852 by L. L. Langstroth transformed hive management and made large-scale beekeeping possible, but it was the advent of the automobile and motorized trucks in the early twentieth century that sparked the widespread adoption of honey bees and migratory beekeeping in North American agriculture (Rucker & Thurman 2019).

There is evidence that at one time honey bees roamed at least a part of prehistoric North America—a single fossilized bee discovered in paper shale from Nevada. It was named as *Apis nearctica* (Engel et al 2009), a different species from the western honey bee. The fossil is the only specimen of this species and there is no indication that it persisted beyond the era in which the shales were formed, ca. 14.5–14 million years ago.

Honey bees—and beekeepers—play an essential role in large-scale agriculture and the production of food crops. Honey bees are most effective with mass-flowering crops, and their benefit as pollinators decreases away from farm fields. (Photo: Ian Sane, Flickr [CC BY 2.0].)

Honey Bees are Not Endangered

Honey bees are not endangered nor at risk of extinction. In addition to persisting in the wild in those regions where they are native with no significant indication of decline, there are millions of managed hives throughout the world, both within and beyond their native range. Globally, the number of hives is stable or increasing year over year (Phiri et al 2022).

The fact that honey bees are domesticated and managed negates the possibility of being endangered. This does not mean that they do not face challenges, or that hives are completely healthy. The annual hive loss figures in the U.S. that jumped from roughly 10% in the mid-90s to 30–45% starting in 2006 is evidence of the problems facing honey bees and beekeepers. The fact that the number of hives is replenished every year (through a practice known as hive splitting) is testament to the dedication and hard work of beekeepers. Figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (NASS 2022) show that in April 2022 there were more than 2.9 million hives in this country.

Like our native bees, there are several threats impacting honey bee health, most notably pesticides, diseases, and a lack of diverse forage. We need to target efforts at ensuring the agricultural landscape can sustain the pollinating animals farming relies on (see Shanahan 2022). We must change how land is managed to create more habitat and alter how pesticides are used to reduce or remove exposure to bees. As with other work focused on habitat, this will benefit both honey bees and native bees.

Native Bees have Different Needs than Honey Bees

Asked to think of bees, many people picture a hive with a single queen and thousands of workers that tend the honeycomb and dance to tell each other where to find the best forage. However, the honey bee is a really unusual bee and this image of hive life is quite different from the reality of how most bees live. A more accurate generalization is that of a single mom working as hard as she can to build her small nest and make sure that her offspring will be healthy and successful.

There are more than 3,600 species of bees in the United States and Canada (a total which rises to around 4,500 species if we include Mexico). Honey bees, bumble bees, stingless bees, and other highly social species make up fewer than 5% of bees. The rest are mostly solitary, with a single female working to create a nest, typically, a narrow tunnel

A metallic sweat bee forages beside a bumble bee on a thistle, illustrating the diversity of color, size, and hairiness of native bees. Behind is a third bee, probably a small carpenter bee. (Photo: © Bryan E. Reynolds.)

How a bee carries pollen influences how effective it is as a pollinator. The majority of native bees, like this mining bee, carry pollen as dry grains, which can brush off as it continues foraging. (Photo: © Bryan E. Reynolds.)

dug in the ground with brood cells off the tunnel or a hollow twig divided into brood cells. The female supplies the brood cells with nectar and pollen and lays a single egg in each. She lays only two to three dozen eggs in her short adult life and dies before her offspring emerge the following year. With so many different species, there are some that have two or three females tending a nest or a few that do have an overlap between generations, but this annual cycle with the adults active for only a few weeks is the overwhelming norm.

The Value of Honey Bees as Pollinators

There is no question that honey bees are excellent pollinators of many crops, but they are not the optimum pollinators in all situations. They're at their best with a single mass-flowering resource such as an almond orchard or canola field. In such systems, they can mobilize the colony to exploit the abundant pollen and nectar, and their sheer numbers make up for their relative inefficiency per visit. Consequently, honey bees play an essential role in modern agriculture (aided by the fact that hives can be moved in and out of fields on demand and trucked around between regions to service a variety of crops). Native bees also significantly contribute to crop pollination, and are better pollinators of some crops (Artz & Nault 2011; Garibaldi et al 2013) and can even make honey bees become better pollinators (Greenleaf & Kremen 2006). Nevertheless, our current agricultural system could not exist without the pollination services of honey bees and the hard work of beekeepers.

In North America, the benefits of honey bees as pollinators decrease beyond farm fields, especially in natural areas, where honey bees are often incompatible with the management goals. Such areas are made up of diverse vegetation with flowers of all shapes, sizes, and quantities of resources supporting a diversity of pollinators that also come in all different shapes and sizes. Some native flowers require specific native bees for pollination. For example, some flowers are too small for honey bees to access or don't have much pollen, so honey bees ignore them. But, there are native bees that will forage for that pollen, even specialize in collecting it. In addition to not pollinating such flowers, honey bees can disrupt pollination networks, and even increase seed set in invasive, or non-native plants, reducing plant diversity.

The way that honey bees interact with flowers means that they sometimes contribute little or nothing to pollination—in a bee-to-bee comparison our native bees tend to be more efficient pollinators. One reason for this is that honey bees groom their pollen and carry it in neat pollen cakes, moistened with nectar and safely tucked into the baskets on their hind legs. By contrast, many of our native bees tend to be messier, carrying pollen as dry grains, often all over their bodies. This messiness means that the pollen they carry is more likely to contact the stigma of another flower and pollinate the plant. In addition, honey bees are known "nectar robbers" of many plants, accessing their nectar in a way that means they don't touch the pollen, often by biting a hole in the base of the flower. Page & Williams (2022) studied the impact of honey bee introductions in meadows in the Sierra Nevada of California. They found that honey bees were ineffective as pollinators of camas lilies and that native bee visitation was reduced in areas with honey bees, resulting in reduced pollination of the lilies.

Native Bees also Pollinate Crops

Honey bees are profoundly important for large-scale agriculture. However, many species of native bee are much more effective than honey bees at pollinating flowers on a bee-per-bee basis. For example, as few as 250 female orchard mason bees (genus *Osmia*, also called blue orchard bees) can effectively pollinate an acre of apples, a task that would require one or more hives, each with thousands of honey bees. There are many reasons for this increased efficiency. Mason bees are active in cooler and wetter conditions than honey bees, and how they actually handle each flower when

Native Bees at Risk

Several species of our native bees are in danger of extinction, and some may be at or beyond the brink. One species, Franklin's bumble bee, native to Oregon and California, has not been detected since 2006, despite significant efforts to find it. Eight other native bees join Franklin's bumble bee on the list of species protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act—the rusty patched bumble bee is the best known—and others have been petitioned and are currently under review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Extinct?: Franklin's bumble bee (Brendan White, USFWS).

Endangered: Rusty patched bumble bee (Xerces Society / Rich Hatfield).

At-risk: Western bumble bee (Xerces Society / Rich Hatfield).

foraging leads to more pollen movement than from honey bees alone.

In other cases, honey bees are simply not well adapted to certain crops. Alfalfa flowers have a very active pollen-release structure that hits bees. Honey bees try to avoid being hit, while the alkali bee (*Nomia melanderi*) is happy to forage on these flowers. Other native bees specialize in one type of flower. Squash bees (in the genera *Peponapis* and *Xenoglossa*), for example, primarily visit flowers from the squash plant family (the cucurbits). The females, which often nest in the ground below the plants, may start foraging before dawn.

Further, bumble bees and many other native bees perform buzz pollination, highly beneficial for the cross-pollination of tomatoes, blueberries, cranberries, tomatoes, and peppers, among other plants. During buzz pollination, the bee grabs onto the flower and vibrates her flight muscles, releasing a burst of pollen otherwise inaccessible within the flower. Honey bees don't have this behavior, and thus cannot contribute to the pollination of these crops.

A Diversity of Bees is Essential for a Healthy Environment

There are more than 3,600 species of native bees in the United States, which have coevolved with our native plants. As efficient as honey bees are at gathering and transporting pollen to the hive, they are not adapted to forage on all flowers. Buzz-pollination is one behavior that honey bees lack, so the many flowers that benefit from being vibrated (e.g., shooting stars, flax lilies, and manzanita) don't benefit from honey bee visits. There are also many specialist bees that forage for pollen on one or a small range of flower species. The spring beauty mining bee is one example. The female bees collect pollen from only two species of spring beauty, a woodland wildflower that blooms during the brief period from winter ending to the forest canopy leafing out. The leg hairs between which the bees carry pollen are just the right size and shape to hold the flower's pollen.

There are numerous other examples of specialist bees that live in all habitats from the cool conditions of New England's broadleaf forests to the heat of the Southwest deserts, and which play an essential role for the plants they visit. Beyond individual bee–plant interactions, there is also evidence that a diversity of bees is necessary to support plant communities and ecosystems. By looking at which bees visited which flowers, Simpson et al (2022) were able to identify the bees that were important for pollinating the flowers in plant communities in New Jersey. The sites had between 22 and 86 species of bees, and the researchers showed that on average 25 percent of the bee species that were important for sustaining a plant community were rare. Clearly, a diversity of bees is necessary to maintain our environment.

Honey Bees Can Harm Native Bees

It is absolutely true that honey bees don't always harm native bees: when resources are plentiful, honey bees are present at low densities, and hive are well-tended, the risks are reduced. Yet, with a changing climate and a growing human population, such places are increasingly rare and becoming progressively more valuable. Research shows that honey bees compete with native bees for pollen and nectar (Mallinger et al 2017; Hatfield et al 2018 and citations within; Iwasaki & Hogendoorn 2022), potentially putting our natural ecosystems at risk. Cane and Tepedino (2017) calculated that over a period of three months, a hive collects as much pollen as could support the development of 100,000 native solitary bees.

Moreover, in recent years evidence has emerged that through competition for resources, honey bees can change a pollination network, disrupting both plant and bee populations. Other evidence shows that honey bees can pass diseases to our native bees (for example, Deformed Wing Virus transferred from honey bees to bumble bees), as well as amplify and distribute diseases within a bee community. Because disease is a leading hypothesis for the decline of our endangered bumble bees (see sidebar opposite), these are real, relevant threats that could have lasting impacts on the survival of species.

Why a Backyard Hive Won't "Save the Bees"

If you are thinking of getting a hive, we encourage you to consider carefully why you want to do so. Adding a hive to your backyard, on your office or hotel roof, or in a local park or community garden will not help native species; indeed, their very presence has the potential to harm them. Introducing more bees to forage in the landscape does nothing to improve the landscapes' ability to support bees, and only increases competition and other stressors for the bees currently there.

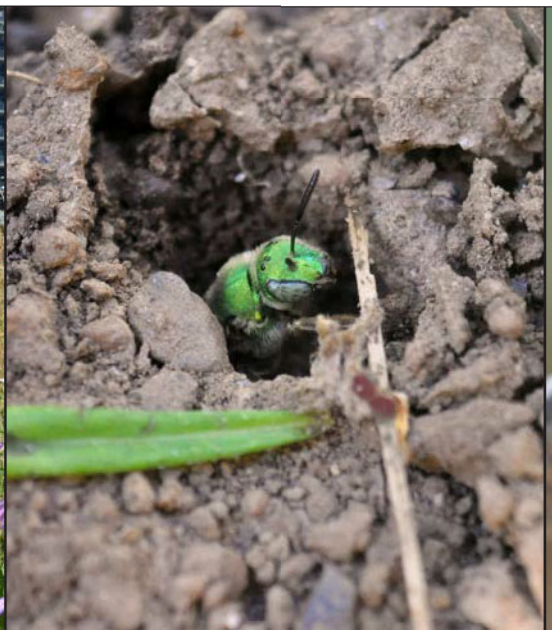
Problems with Diseases

Disease spread and amplified from commercial bumble bee pollinators is currently implicated as a major factor in the dramatic decline of two species of bumble bees that have received protection under the Endangered Species Act. While current evidence does NOT suggest honey bees contributed to those declines, it does show that disease can be a major threat to native bee populations, and we need to do a better job of protecting them from harm.

Further, honey bees forage over a large area—typically up to a mile from the hive, but sometimes much further—so the impact of a hive extends far beyond your garden (even your neighborhood). Evidence that honey bees compete directly with native bees for the available pollen and nectar (see Hatfield et al 2018 and citations within) continues to be reinforced by studies demonstrating changes in native bee activity in the presence of honey bees (e.g., Ropars et al 2019; Prendergast & Ollerton 2021; MacInnis et al 2023). These effects are exacerbated in certain landscapes, and at certain times of year, but the fact remains that honey bees can negatively impact bee communities by increasing competition and shifting resource use among native bees.

Even in Europe, where honey bees are native, there is growing concern about the density of hives in urban areas. Researchers in Switzerland looked at the sustainability of beekeeping in several cities (Casanelles-Abelia & Moretti 2022). They assessed the forage plant availability in the urban landscape and compared that to the known number of hives, and concluded that there was not enough forage to support the hives. Their recommendations included regulating hive numbers and expanding habitat. In Britain, the London Beekeepers Association found that some parts

Bee conservation should focus on creating adequate habitat to support the entire life cycle of bees. This includes appropriate nesting sites. The great majority of native bees are solitary, making their nests in the ground or hollow twigs. (Photos: [l] Matthew Shepherd; [c, r] Sara Morris.)



of London had four-times as many hives as the landscape could support (LBKA 2020), noting that honey bees "are not in decline – not globally, nor in the UK" and that "this misunderstanding can lead to inappropriate actions and unintended consequences." The Association encouraged residents to plant flowers to expand habitat and work to prevent further habitat loss. Also in Britain, the nonprofit Buglife suggests that a beekeeper should add 5 acres (2 hectares) of flowering habitat for each hive (Buglife 2021).

There are reasons for getting into beekeeping—you like honey, you want an intimate relationship with a fascinating insect, it's a fun hobby—but getting a hive to save bees has been likened to keeping chickens to save songbirds. Both honey bees and chickens are domesticated livestock and their care and husbandry won't directly help wild-living native species, nor improve the habitat that is needed to support them. Beekeeping is different from bee conservation, which focuses on providing the conditions that bees need—flowers, nest sites, protection from pesticides.

What Can I do Instead of Getting a Honey Bee Hive?

There are many steps you can take to help bees. The primary focus should be on creating the conditions necessary to provide bees with the food and shelter they need to complete their entire life cycle. The core components of bee conservation are providing flower-rich habitat for foraging, places where bees can nest and overwinter, and an environment free of pesticides.

Grow flowers

To be of greatest benefit to the widest diversity of pollinators, foraging habitat should contain a variety of plants that provide a succession of flowers in a range of shapes and colors throughout the growing season. Depending on where you live in the U.S. or Canada, adult bees can usually be seen anytime between February and November (even all year in subtropical climates). A sequence of plants—from willows in the spring to goldenrod in the fall—that provide a diversity of flowers throughout the growing season is needed to support bee species with different flight periods. Native plants are frequently the best choice because native bees tend to prefer them over introduced species or horticultural varieties. Native plants are also adapted to grow in the local climate and soils and, once established, they require less water and maintenance. However, non-invasive, non-native plants can be beneficial and may be used when cost and/or availability are limiting factors. It is important to source your plants from nurseries and providers that do not pre-treat plants with systemic insecticides.

Provide nest sites

The majority of our native bees need bare ground (or at least, access to the soil) in order to dig nest tunnels. Most of the other species need existing tunnels in hollow stems or dead trees in which to create brood cells for their offspring. In addition to ensuring your landscape includes these kinds of features, it is important to retain them for the entire year. Although solitary bee adults may only be active for a few weeks, bees live for a year, spending most of that time dormant in the nest. Bumble bees build their nest in a small cavity, such as an abandoned chipmunk nest, and then overwinter in loose bare soil, pine duff, or leaf litter.

Avoid pesticides

Given the damage insecticides inflict upon pollinators, use of these chemicals should be eliminated or reduced whenever possible. Consider using integrated pest management (IPM), a system that enables you to assess need and use the least hazardous options for bees, when action is necessary against a pest. Of course, healthy, diverse pollinator habitat will also support other beneficial insects, such as the predators or parasites of pest insects. In time, your habitat will reach an ecological balance that negates the need for pesticides.

Bring Back the Pollinators Campaign and Pollinator Protection Pledge

The Xerces Society's Bring Back the Pollinators campaign is based on four principles:

- Grow pollinator-friendly plants
- Provide nesting or egg-laying sites
- Avoid pesticides
- Share the word

Find information about how you can adapt these to your location and sign the Pollinator Protection Pledge at:

BringBackThePollinators.org

Alina Harris

Recommendations for Honey Bees

For some people, the first thought for how to save the bees or help pollinators is to get a honey bee hive. On the surface, it makes sense—if bees are declining, more bees will help. However, a hive in your backyard, on your office or hotel roof, or in a local park or community garden may not help bees, and has the potential to do the opposite. Honey bees are fascinating insects and there are reasons to keep them, whether as a business or hobby. Although they are important for agriculture, the benefit that honey bees bring to gardens, parks, and in particular, natural areas is mixed. Yes, they raise awareness and offer educational opportunities, but they can pose a risk to our native bee species and the presence of hives may be harming the pollinators you seek to help. In all situations, first and foremost, we encourage you to focus on creating habitat that is rich in flowers, provides nesting sites, and is protected from pesticides.

Towns and Cities

- Think carefully about why you want honey bees and the potential impacts before getting a hive, especially in nature parks, natural areas, or other places dedicated to wildlife protection.
- If you choose to keep honey bees:
  - Do all you can to manage bee mites and to help ensure the bees are healthy to avoid spreading disease to bumble bees and other native bees.
  - Create a significant amount of habitat to help them thrive and to protect our native bees.
  - Support habitat creation policies and projects in your community.
- If you have a garden or other space:
  - Grow pollinator-friendly flowers, provide nest sites, and avoid pesticides
  - Leave fallen leaves under trees and shrubs to create potential overwintering refuge for bumble bee queens.
  - Post signs letting neighbors know your garden is pollinator habitat.
- Take the Pollinator Protection Pledge.
- Advocate within your community to engage more people in pollinator habitat conservation efforts.
  - Work with your city council and other community members to join Bee City USA.
  - College campuses can join Bee Campus USA.
- Participate in community science projects such as Bumble Bee Watch.

Wildlands and Natural Areas

- Our natural areas are the last refuge for our native bees, and in these landscapes they should be protected from unnecessary competition and disease as much as possible.
- Public land managers should conduct an assessment to determine the likely impact on native bees—especially imperiled species—and other pollinators, if asked to host apiaries of honey bees.
- Do not place hives within two miles of areas where at-risk species of bees or flowers are known to occur.

Farming and Food

- Growers can adopt bee-safe farming techniques, such as planting or protecting high-quality permanent pollinator habitat (hedgerows, flower strips, etc.), include flowering cover crops in rotations, and use integrated pest and pollinator management (IPPM) or other pest management programs designed to reduce risks to bees, pollinators, and other beneficial insects.
- Consumers can support farmers who practice bee-safe farming techniques or prioritize buying organic products.
- Consumers and food companies can look for farms or food products that have been independently certified as meeting Xerces' Bee Better™ standard.

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