

Rod Weersing

From: Maggie Hummel <mcbride.maggie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 2:27 PM
To: Rod Weersing
Subject: Parks intervention for Bees and Monarch Butterflies

Hello Rod,

My name is a Maggie and I am a resident in Jenison. I am also an avid gardener and bee/monarch butterfly fan. I recently read this article and it inspired me to ask myself if there is something I can do to help the bee and butterfly population in our community.

This article features interventions taken on in Amsterdam: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/bees-are-dying-alarming-rate-amsterdam-may-have-answer-n897856>

However, the guidelines could be adopted by any city. I see three primary interventions that could be replicated:

1. Planting native wildflower species in parks or other areas where business owners are in support
2. Providing community education/ordinances that support bee and butterfly health
3. Installing hives or bug motels in parks

I can imagine that there may be some partners in executing these interventions with some good strategy and some elbow grease. I could see the following state and local entities partnering up with the city parks, if there is an interest:

1. MSU Extension
2. Hudsonville Honey
3. Rush Creek Bees
4. Holland Horticulture Club
5. Schools/library partnership
6. Community churches

I am wondering if there is an interest in investing a small amount of time in these concerns? I believe that if some partnerships are made, some of the interventions could be carried out by students or local church groups.

What are your thoughts?

Thanks for any feedback!

best,,

Maggie Hummel

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"Be the change you want to see in the world." -Mahatma Gandhi