

WELCOMING HONEY BEES

A MESSAGE TO OUR NEIGHBORS

As you know Gardens for Charlestown at the corner of Bunker Hill and Main Streets has been maintained for over 40 years by its Members who tend plots there and maintain this beautiful green space that is open to the public from dawn to dusk 365 days a year.

We are planning to add a small apiary to the Gardens pending approval by the City. Since you live nearby, we wanted you to know why we want to do this, what the benefits of an apiary are to the environment, and our emphasis on safety.

www.gardensforcharlestown.org
499 Main Street, Charlestown, MA 02129

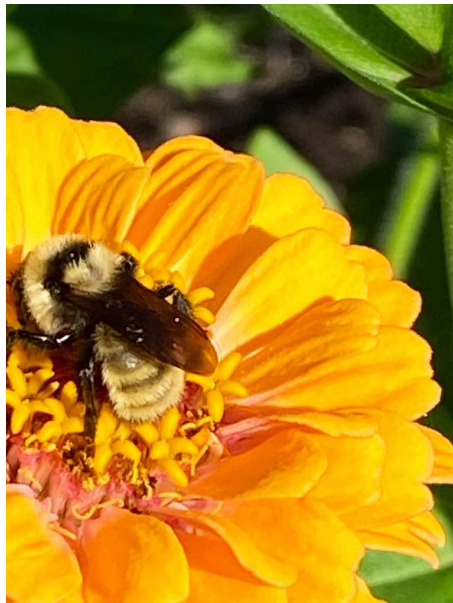


WHY WE WANT BEES AT THE GARDENS

In short, we need the bees and the bees need us. Honey bees play a vital role in our food system and provide important insights into the environment, biology, ecology, and nutrition.

Our Gardens already provide a natural habitat area for bees, including the bumble bees in our photos. Pollinators are not phased by city life; as long as there are patches of flowers and vegetables, bees will visit. We want to give them a proper home.

We also hope to use our new apiary as a teaching tool for our expanded Kids & Family educational programming.

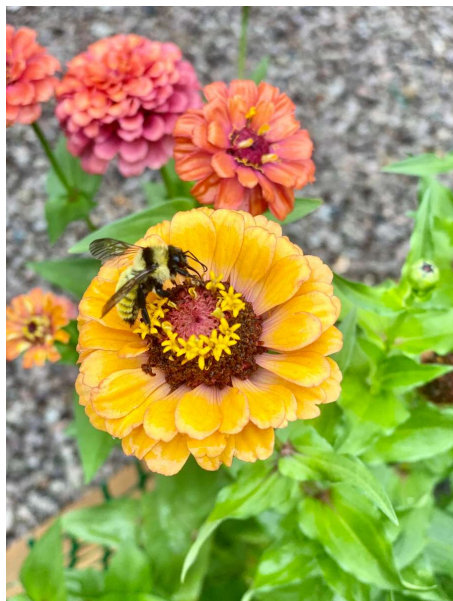


HOW AN APIARY BENEFITS OUR ENVIRONMENT

Somewhere between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants need help with pollination. And 1 out of every 3 bites of food you eat is because there are pollinators.

Although bees are critical pollinators, their populations are in decline.

The presence of apiaries in our urban environments are a welcome return to traditional practices of generations past. By renewing our commitment to the bees, we can help bee populations recover from the bee crisis and continue in a centuries-old partnership that is good for us, for the bees, and for this world we call home.



IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY

Honey bees are generally not aggressive and we will use good beehive management. Our veteran beekeeper is committed to tending to our apiary and providing key information to our Members and the community at large. In addition, the actual apiary is small and will be located in a safe spot with plenty of signage.

If you have any questions or comments about our proposed apiary, email us at president@gardensforcharlestown.org