

Press Release West Bloomfield Parks

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Henry Ford West Bloomfield and West Bloomfield Parks partner to bring honeybee colonies to the community

WEST BLOOMFIELD May 30, 2018 - West Bloomfield Parks (WB Parks) has partnered with Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital to bring two new honeybee colonies to the community. The colonies were installed at Schulak Farm on May 20 by Bees in the D, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bee conservation. The goal of the project is to educate the community about the importance of bees in the environment through interpretive programs and signage. To further this education, the hospital will also be hosting healthy cooking classes focused on honey in the fall.

"WB Parks is excited to expand a long-standing relationship we have with the Hospital to establish honeybees in West Bloomfield," said Jennifer Tucker, executive director of WB Parks. "The hives will help us continue our commitment to outdoor education and stewardship of our parklands."

Unlike wasps, honeybees are not aggressive and focus on doing their job as pollinators. Without the assistance of pollinators, most plants are unable to produce fruits and seeds. Honeybee populations have suffered in recent decades due to a number of factors including the increased use of pesticides and a decline of their natural food sources.

"Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital is proud to support WB Parks in this initiative and bring awareness of the importance of saving the bee population," said Trevor Johnson, resident farmer at the hospital. "This partnership is another effort we are undertaking to create a healthier community while providing awareness and education of the importance of bees and how they can affect local food production."

Bees in the D has placed and manages more than 90 honeybee hives at 30 plus locations, including Cobo Hall and the GM Renaissance Center in Downtown Detroit.

The organization will be maintaining the hives through its partnership with WB Parks and Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital.

For additional information, contact:

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About West Bloomfield Parks - The West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission, established by voter mandate in 1970, is committed to the residents of West Bloomfield. Our mission is to meet the community's recreation, leisure and social needs by acquiring and enhancing public parkland and supporting year-round facilities and programs for youth, teens, adults, families and seniors. Our goal is to enhance the quality of life in our community by providing facilities, programs and natural settings for the enjoyment of residents. More information can be found at www.wbparks.org