

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, June 8, 2015

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Thurston County Now More Bee-friendly with Community Involvement *Pollinator Garden dedication and multi-jurisdictional pesticide ban celebration, June 24*

OLYMPIA - There's some good news for bees in Thurston County – our community is coming together in a big way to make sure our lands are pollinator approved! On Wednesday, June 24, join the Thurston County Bee Team, the Olympia Bee Keepers Association, and our partners at the Panorama retirement community for a celebration of all of the work being done to help save these fragile creatures.

The celebration will be held at Panorama's new Pollinator Garden, a chemical-free bee and butterfly safe haven. Planting pollinator friendly plants is the first step that all of us can take towards helping bees make a comeback. If you want to start a garden of your own the Thurston County Bee Team will be unveiling their new sign, designed by local artist Nikki McClure, to designate pollinator-friendly gardens and lawns. The sign represents the community awareness and action campaign to encourage healthy garden and lawn practices to increase forage for bees and other pollinators.

In addition to the garden dedication, recognition will be given to Olympia, Tumwater, the LOTT Clean Water Alliance, and the Nisqually Land Trust, who all signed a Thurston County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on their properties. Neonicotinoids are a group of systemic chemicals that make pollen and nectar poisonous to bees and are a key factor in the decline of bees. The MOU protects almost 13,000 acres of land throughout our community from these harmful substances.

What: Garden Dedication & Community Celebration for Pollinator Health

When: Wednesday, June 24, 5:30pm

Where: Panorama Pollinator Garden, parking at 1600 Sleater Kinney Rd SE, Lacey, WA 98503.
A shuttle will be available to take guests to the site.