

Dear Friends ,

We have exciting news about the Bee Research Lab on the St. Paul Campus! On April 11, the Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee passed its bonding bill. We are very pleased that this bill includes bonding for a Bee Research Lab on the St. Paul Campus.

We need Your help. There are many hurdles to clear in the legislative process, and we need to show broad support for this project.

Please consider contacting your legislator to voice your support for this project. Asking for your legislator's support within the next 24-48 hours is especially important. Here are resources to help you follow through on this request:

- To identify your local legislator visit this webpage: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/districtfinder.aspx>
- To learn more about the Bee Research and Discovery Center project please see the attached document. Please note that the bill includes funding exclusively for the research lab on the St. Paul Campus. We are also making progress with separate private funding for the Bee Discovery Center at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.
- Advice on contacting and speaking with legislators:
 - Start by saying you are THEIR constituent
 - Explain why the project is important to you, speak from the heart
 - Ask for their support
 - Ask for their thoughts about the project
 - Follow-up on their requests for more info.

You could also engage your representative or senator through facebook and twitter if they have social media links. If you prefer email, here is an example of a short-and-sweet message that you can modify and use. Also it is HF 270 for those looking to track the progress

Dear Rep. X

I live in your district and I want to express my support for the proposed bonding for the Bee Research facility on the St. Paul Campus.

The Bee Lab is important to me because [.....]

I ask that you support the project. I would appreciate learning what your thoughts are on this project.

Respectfully,

your name



Bees

Bee Center Facility Details

The Bee Research and Discovery Center will be unique among bee labs nationally. The center will encompass two prominent sites at the University of Minnesota: the Research Space will be on the St. Paul Campus and the Discovery Center will be at the Landscape Arboretum. The Center will function like a bee hive, efficiently combining research and educational space to improve bee health and biodiversity and to showcase the importance of bees to agriculture and to human nutrition, health and food safety.

Research Space: The Essential Core

A state-of-the-art Research space will form the essential core of the Center. This research area can be compared to the cluster of bees in a colony, the most important component of a hive. A successful research program, like a healthy bee colony, is productive, efficient and resourceful. The research area will centralize and facilitate the important bee research projects at the University of Minnesota. It will expand and enhance our internationally recognized research program and provide substantial benefits to the University through increased federal funding and interdisciplinary and international collaborations.

Discovery Center: What Research Can Do For You

At the Landscape Arboretum, people of all ages will be invited into a unique destination, the Discovery Center, which will have great potential for capacity building, increasing the University's reputation as a leader in environmental and agricultural research and education. This part of the Center will be an exciting new public attraction, providing a portal to explore the tangible

benefits of university research. The Discovery area will include informative exhibits on current research projects in the Research area. The range of exhibit topics will include:

- Human health benefits derived from bees and bee products (honey, propolis, venom)
- Biology of the fascinating social behaviors of bees
- Ecosystem services provided by bees as key pollinators of our fruits, vegetables, flowers
- Cultural importance of bees throughout the world and history
- Bees as a portal to sustainable stewardship of our environment

In addition, the Discovery area will be a place for the public to safely experience bees and beekeeping and to appreciate the importance of bee welfare. The center will contain a large viewing window where school and public tours can view a beekeeper handling colonies in a garden rooftop setting. Visitors will view live, seasonal demonstrations of how honey is harvested and extracted in a food grade facility.

Bee Landscaping

The Research Space and Discovery Center surroundings will be artfully landscaped with bee-pollinated trees, shrubs, and gardens. Here the public can experience floral landscapes from the perspective of a pollinator and appreciate how pollinators, in turn, shape our environment. Landscape designs will teach how everyone can help to improve habitat and promote bee health and diversity.





The Discovery Center grounds will be beautifully landscaped with bee pollinated trees, shrubs, and gardens.



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