



# ENVIRONMENT PROJECT

Rotary Club of Canton

## TRAIL CREATION | SAVE THE BEES

### THE TRAIL

Location on 149 acres in northeast Cherokee County, Cherokee Veterans is one of the largest parks in the county's park system. Canton Rotary is partnering with the County on the expansion of new approximate one-mile trail denoted in the photo in red.



During various work sessions in the coming year, county master trail makers will supervise groups of Rotarians, family members and other civic and community volunteers, coordinated by Canton Rotary in the finishing details of the trail creation.

Highlights of this trail include naming the trail in honor of Canton Rotary, the building in various bridges in select locations along the trail which will bear the Rotary logo, and an addition of a second peace pole at the park.

During the planning sessions, the importance of protecting the environment was highlighted. The county agreed that the use of non-harming insecticides is in use and will continue and they support our plan to incorporate our second component of our environmental plan, ‘Save the Bees’ in terms of beautification at the trail and other areas within the county.

### **SAVE THE BEES**

75% of the world’s food crops rely on pollinators. Through their pollination, bees not only promote biodiversity, they secure our food supply. But, 1 in 4 species of bees risk extinction in North America and populations are declining in Europe, South America, and Asia.

### **What can we do?**

Educate – Partner with EarlyAct and InterAct and present an educational program about the importance of bees, what is happening and what we can do to mitigate the problem. We call on the students to work with us to act.

Action – We provide each student with a packet of wildflowers to plant at their own home. Wildflowers are fantastic for bees because they provide a great resource of nectar and pollen.

For our **Service Project**, we partner with Cherokee County for parcels of land where we can plant wildflowers. We invite Rotarians, students, family and friends.



Bees are also in danger from many toxic pesticides. In our education, we will also present on the best way to reduce the risk (never during bloom, at night and to use the lowest toxic risk).

### **International Component**

**Beekeepers Abroad– Empowering Women, Alleviating Poverty**

Beekeepers for Life, a UK based charity runs a program called, Bees Abroad. This program empowers women in the poorest communities in rural Africa to become beekeepers. Participants generate income to enhance their livelihoods, improve their quality of life and encourage vital bee populations



in Africa.

The community makes skincare products and lip balm from the wax and sells them through cooperative outlets. This program is vital in Africa where 80% of flowering plants benefit from honeybee pollination.

We can be a part of this program through a PayPal donation. \$25 British pounds (~\$35 USD) will provide one hive.

### SUMMARY

This project addresses the environmental threat to our ecosystem and our global food supply through initiatives to save bees and preserve the livelihood of bees. Below are the areas and components this initiative encompasses.

- **LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT:** Planting wildflowers helps the environment locally and strengthens our member engagement through a hands-on project. It also allows for the inclusiveness of family, non-Rotarians and our youth organizations.
- **YOUTH:** Providing education and hands on participation activities engages our youth. Including wildflower packets for all students expands the reach of the program.
- **INTERNATIONAL:** For a very modest financial donation, an international component can be incorporated that keeps with the theme.

- **EMPOWERING WOMEN:** When the international component is included in this project, it also empowers women by providing them education in a skill to provide for their family financially, how to run a business and a skill that sustains their eco-system.
  - **ELEVATING POVERTY:** When the international component is included in this project, it also helps alleviate poverty in some of the poorest areas of the world, with a sustainable program.
  - **ENVIRONMENTAL:** This program addresses the local environment NOW through our service project. And it helps the environment internationally through the partnership with Beekeepers Abroad. Through the education we provide the youth and the educational portion of the international project, this becomes a sustainable and long-term project, having a greater impact to the environment, than what we put in today.
  - **HARD COSTS:** 300mg Wildflower Mixture Seed Packets on Amazon are anywhere from \$19.39 to \$22.99 for a bulk of 50 packets, or \$0.40 to \$0.46 each for non-bee branded. For the ones with bee branded, they are \$1.00 per pack. To sponsor a hive with Beekeepers Abroad, it is ~\$35 depending on the exchange rate.
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