INSECT HOTEL

Plight of the Pollinators

As the human population grows, so does our impact on the natural world. Buildings, roadways and crops, crowd out or completely eliminate the natural habitat needed by some species to survive. Pollinators are among those whose numbers are in decline.

Why it matters

Pollinators—mainly insects, birds and bats—play a crucial role in the world's food supply by assisting plants in their ability to reproduce. One-third of the United States' food crops rely on pollinators. That's about one out of every three bites of food we eat, including many fruits and vegetables, dairy products (dairy cows eat alfalfa), chocolate, coffee and tea, wine, and even candy canes (peppermint). Beyond food, pollinators help provide such things as cotton clothing and bedding, colored dyes, and some medicines.

What we're doing about it

The City of Boise has installed an **"Insect Hotel"** at this location to provide a safe nesting site for insect pollinators. Its proximity to flowering plants ensures an adequate supply of nectar for feeding, and the hotel's nooks and crevices offer a safe place for rearing offspring.

How you can help

Anyone can provide habitat for pollinator insects. For building plans and ideas, contact Boise Parks & Recreation at (208) 608-7600.
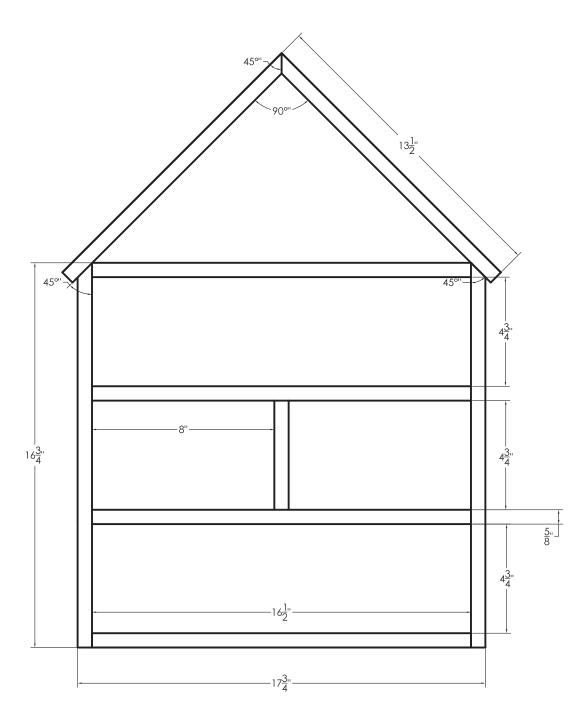
Other ways you can help: Skip pesticides and herbicides and opt for natural gardening methods, buy organic whenever possible, and plant native sources of nectar in your yard.

CONSERVATION CONCEPT
Mutualism:
A relationship between two species that benefits both (in this case, live pollinators and plants).

Build Your Own Insect Hotel!

Materials:

- Three 6' Cedar Pickets (5/8" x 5 1/2")
- Outdoor Wood Glue
- Fasteners: Screws, nails, or staples; A nail gun with 18 gauge brad nails or staples works well.
- Poultry Netting
- Filling Materials: drilled logs (3/8"drill bit, drill 3-4 inches into log), bark, mulch, bunch grass, pine cones, etc.

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