

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD BREAKS GROUND ON UNIQUE COMMUNITY HOP GARDEN

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn – July 9, 2013 – The Minnesota Beer Activists, Hippy Hops Farm, By the Barrel, Rahr Malting, Brewers Supply Group, and Longfellow Community Council are breaking ground on a first of its kind community garden, a garden dedicated solely to the production hops by and for the local community. Join the partners for a ceremonial groundbreaking Wednesday, July 10th, at 9:30 am, when the first hops will be planted at 3116 East 38th St, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

The Longfellow Community Hop Garden is a cooperative effort by Minnesota Beer Activists and Hippy Hops Farm to bring hop growing to the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis.

Residents from the Longfellow area and beyond will be able to sign up to take part in maintaining the garden in exchange for a portion of the annual autumn harvest. Shared responsibilities will include tilling, weeding, and watering.

The community hop garden is brainchild of MN Beer Activists Director Andrew Schmitt. “Gears started turning in my head when I walked by a local community garden with a trellis,” says Schmitt. “Hops have certainly made their way into community gardens before, but this is the first example we are aware of where the entire urban garden was created for the purpose of raising hops.”

The Longfellow Community Hop Garden will serve as pilot project, with the long-term goal of bringing more community hop gardens to the midwest, followed by rest of the country.

The Minnesota Beer Activists (MNBA) is a consumer group whose mission is to engage consumers in education, legislation, and community participation, regarding beer, wine, and spirits, in Minnesota. The organization consists of consumers, volunteers, business owners, and lawmakers. MNBA addresses laws relating to home brewing, on-sale and off-sale, distilling, and wine. For more information regarding events, legislation, or contact information, visit www.mnbeeractivists.com.

Hippy Hops is Minnesota's largest producer of hops with 150 Cascade plants. In May of 2009, 75 rhizomes were planted on land just Northeast of Forest Lake, MN. That fall roughly 12 pounds were harvested off of the 75 plants. A majority of the hops were sold to Lake Superior Brewing.

Contact: Andrew Schmitt
AndrewS@mnbeeractivists.com
651-434-3303
Admin@mnbeeractivists.com