

The first quarter of the year brought an unusually mild winter and an early start to spring activity at the River District Apiary. While winter is typically a quieter season for honey bees, warmer temperatures kept colonies more active than usual, increasing their consumption of honey stores. Throughout January and February, hive food reserves were closely monitored and supplemented when needed to ensure the bees remained healthy through the final stretch of winter.



One encouraging sign was the sight of foraging bees returning with pollen as early as January. Local hazelnut trees began blooming ahead of schedule, providing an important source of nutrition and signaling the start of brood rearing within many hives. By February, colony populations were beginning to grow steadily, with worker bees collecting increasing amounts of pollen to support developing larvae. Several strong colonies also began producing additional wax comb, an early indication of continued growth in the weeks ahead.



*Q1 at the Apiary
January – March 2026*

March marked the arrival of spring and a noticeable increase in activity throughout the apiary. Longer days, warmer temperatures, and blooming plants such as willow, dandelion, and dead nettle provided abundant forage for the expanding colonies. With more nectar and pollen available, queens increased egg laying and hive populations began building rapidly in preparation for the busy spring and summer seasons.



Spring growth also requires careful hive management, as colonies can be more vulnerable to certain diseases during periods of rapid expansion. Regular inspections throughout March confirmed that the River District colonies remain healthy and are showing all the signs of a strong start to the season.

As we look ahead to the warmer months, the bees are well positioned to take advantage of the spring nectar flows and continue supporting pollination throughout the River District community. We look forward to sharing more updates as another exciting beekeeping season unfolds.