



Bee City Canada Renewal

Congratulations on your continued commitment to supporting pollinator health! Your efforts and dedication are having a positive impact in your community and across Canada.

As part of the Bee City Canada renewal process we ask that you share with us some information about your experiences over the past year and your plans for the upcoming one.

Application Form

City of Chestermere
(Name of Municipality/First Nation)

Alberta
(Province/Territory)

Please send renewal application to applications@beecitycanada.org

Contact Information

Liaison:

Name Alison Ciupa
Title Gardening Lead Hand
Organization or Department City of Chestermere - Community Services
Municipality/First Nation _____
Phone _____
Email _____

1. Briefly summarize your Bee City experience.

Please include community feedback, obstacles and media responses.

Our Bee City experience has been fantastic, Chestermere has a remarkable story. We went from being bee adverse to pro bee in a few years and Bee City Canada helped us on that journey. Chestermere became a Bee City on July 18th, 2016 after Dr. Preston Pouteaux, a local beekeeper and advocate approached the City of Chestermere about becoming a Bee City. Chestermere was featured on CBC radio, The Calgary Herald and other local papers after being officially announced as Western Canada's First Bee City. We have not run into any obstacles thus far and the community's response has been very positive.

2. Please share your experiences on meeting the following Bee City requirements:

- Pollinator Working Group
- Pesticide Reduction
- Habitat creation and or restoration, if possible please include a plant list.
- Education (residents, staff, contractors, children, etc.)
- Celebration during International Pollinator Week and any other events.

Please send along photos, web links, stories, media pieces and posters so we can share them with the rest of Canada.

A Bee City Committee was formed immediately following our designation and we began working together to determine what initiatives we would focus on for our first year.

Our Integrated Pest Management Technician updated our worksite practices to reflect a significant decrease in herbicide use. This included a discontinuation of spraying in or around parks that have playground equipment. We doubled the allowable threshold values for our Class 1 parks before spraying is required. We no longer spray medians and boulevards and we are also no longer spraying dandelions. Instead we are taking a more proactive approach that focuses on improving turf health through better maintenance practices. _

___A number of new projects have been identified for increasing pollinator habitat over the

course of the 2017 growing season. This includes 6 new tree/shrub beds with plants that flower over the full growing season. A plant list of pollinator friendly plants was created and added to the City's website.

Dr. Pouteaux, our founding member, has been educating hundreds of elementary school children about bees, has rescued and relocated bee swarms and has recently published a book about bees and connecting with our neighbors.

Other events held this year included setting up our information booth at "Energizer Night" and at our annual Canada Day celebration.

3. What activities did you engage in and what habitats did you create this year?

A number of new projects have been undertaken for increasing pollinator habitat over the course of the 2017 growing season. This includes 4 different sites in the city where new tree and shrub beds have been established. The plant material has been chosen specifically to provide nectar to pollinators from spring through to fall.

Dr. Pouteaux has an open door policy for anyone who wants to visit his backyard hives and keeps people informed about bees through the Chestermere Honey Bee Society Facebook page.

Other events not yet mentioned included a social media campaign to promote and celebrate National Pollinator week which included the roll-out of our local plant list and promotion through our City's Facebook page.

4. Tell us how your Municipality/First Nation promoted being a Bee City.

Promoting our new Bee City designation was done through the following:

- Adding a Bee City page to the City's website.
- Continuing our Facebook presence through the City's and Chestermere Honey Bee Society's Facebook pages
- Attending community events and educating children in our elementary schools
- Our communications coordinator designed banners and other promotional materials such as stickers and bookmarks.

5. What are your plans for this coming year?

Please attach any plans or strategies for habitat restoration/creation, pesticide reduction, demonstration gardens, community education initiatives and celebration plans.

We will continue with our community engagement initiatives. This will include holding an educational and hands-on planting event with school children by adding pollinator habitat behind their school.

We will continue with our educational events by attending local schools.

We will be adding new signage using our logo on one of our most travelled routes through

the city as well as small signs that can be placed in beds that have been specifically planted as part of our initiative to increase pollinator habitat.

We are planning a pollinator perennial bed next to the youth development centre and will engage the youth in the planting and maintenance.

6. How can we help facilitate your vision of a community that supports pollinators?

I think the fact that we are seeing more and more communities joining the Bee City Canada program speaks volumes of your passion and vision for protecting our pollinators, keep up the good work!

We welcome your comments on improving the Bee City Canada platform and any suggestions for the web site and other communications.

Nothing to add at this time

Submitted by: Alison Ciupa

Date: Aug 29, 2017

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