



## 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 year.

## Application Form

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City of Toronto**

(Name of Municipality/First Nation)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ontario** (Province/Territory)

Please send application, to [applications@beecitycanada.org](mailto:applications@beecitycanada.org)

## Contact Information

### Liaison:

Name Annemarie Baynton and Patricia Landry  
Title Senior Environmental Planner, Parks Program Officer  
Organization or Department Environment and Energy Division & Parks, Forestry and Recreation  
Municipality/First Nation City of Toronto  
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### 1. Briefly summarize your Bee City experience.

Please include community feedback, obstacles and media responses.

After officially becoming a Bee City, we have had an overall positive experience with Bee City, in particular in raising awareness of pollinators in the city. An obstacle faced when seeking approval was the amount of staff time that was needed for the application and approval process, which required a full staff report to be presented to City Council. In addition, the timing of the application and report may have been premature as Bee City Canada was not officially established which made it difficult to gain support for the initiative.  
There has been some positive media attention around Toronto becoming the first Bee City in Canada.  
We appreciated the support of Bee City Canada at our first National Pollinator Week celebration in June 2016. Going forward, we are excited to continue our relationship with Bee City Canada and being a part of the growing Bee City community.

### 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.

1) Two advisory groups were established - the Internal Inter-Divisional Pollinator Working Group and the External Expert Pollinator Advisory Group.  
2) The City has had a Pesticide ban in place since 2003 and we are working towards revising the City's existing pesticide use policy, as well as guidelines regarding plants grown in City greenhouses, to include a commitment to grow plants and seeds that have not been treated with systemic pesticides.  
3) The City has been active in habitat creation and enhancement in City parks and staff are continually engaged in planting native species on an ongoing basis.  
4) Live Green Toronto has created engagement pieces and workshops on pollinators for residents, with a pollinator-themed garden and demonstrations at the Lovin' Local Food Fest and a mural unveiling and celebration, featuring a green metallic sweat bee took place during National Pollinator Week.

### 3. What activities or habitats did you create or engage in this year?

Many initiatives to support and encourage pollinator protection were undertaken, some highlights include:

- 1) Kids World of Energy Festival (May 2016) - engaged elementary school students in a workshop about bees and food.
- 2) National Pollinator Week Celebration (June 2016) - a mural featuring a green metallic sweat bee was unveiled at Bloor St. and Howland Ave., with the support of Burt's Bees
- 3) Lovin' Local Food Fest (July 2016) - featured a demonstration garden focused on pollinator friendly plants, with staff and volunteers engaging residents in activities and literature
- 4) Canadian National Exhibition (August-September 2016) - public engagement at the Live Green Toronto booth featuring pollinator literature and free native plant seeds for residents who filled out a survey on pollinators
- 5) Wildflower Plantings (summer 2016) - volunteers planted more than 1,000 wildflowers on City managed land (eg Rowntree Park and Humber Bay)

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

Affiliation with Bee City Canada was promoted in the following ways:  
1) At the National Pollinator Week celebration in June 2016,  
2) In a proclamation from the Mayor and  
3) On the Live Green Toronto website.

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.

Toronto is taking action to protect pollinators through the development of a Pollinator Protection Strategy. The goal of the strategy is to identify additional actions that the City and community can take to ensure that pollinator species found in our city can survive and be sustained. The final Pollinator Protection Strategy will be presented by the end of 2017, as part of the City's broader Biodiversity Strategy. The draft strategy identifies six key priorities, and for each priority, a series of proposed actions. The primary focus of Toronto's strategy is the protection of native bees and butterflies, but many of the actions proposed will benefit all pollinators, both managed and native.

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

Continue your educational efforts to increase awareness of pollinators.

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

We wish you all the best as you grow the Bee City community in Canada!

**Submitted by:**  
Annemarie Baynton  
Patricia Landry

**Date:**  
March 30, 2017

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## **Suggested Activities:**

### **Habitat:**

- Work with growers and experts to develop a Pollinator-Friendly Species List of attractive plants that: are native to your locale, provide food or nesting materials for pollinators, and are available from local seed and plant suppliers.
- Identify areas that can be enhanced for pollinator habitat.
- Collaborate with public and private groups to host plantings and invasive species removal.
- Track annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced by square footage and/or acreage.
- Include educational signage near habitat whenever possible to encourage others to create their own.

### **Policies & Practices:**

- Develop and adopt a Recommended Pollinator-Friendly Species List of attractive plants that: are native to your county, provide food or nesting materials for pollinators, and are available from local seed and plant suppliers.
- Create incentives for or require developers to use native, pollinator friendly plants in their landscaping.
- Identify an inventory of Municipality/First Nation land that could be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings.
- Create disincentives for or bans on using pesticides for cosmetic purposes on municipal property, or within the municipality's jurisdiction
- Develop a least toxic integrated pest management (IPM) plan.
- Review the Municipality/First Nation Plan and other relevant documents for ways to support pollinator conservation using methods mentioned above.

### **Education & Outreach:**

- Provide staff development regarding managing landscapes to sustain pollinators.
- Provide public education through workshops, brochures, websites and media regarding best practices to sustain pollinators.
- Plant and/or label native, pollinator-friendly plants in highly visible locations.
- Recognize businesses, residents, or neighbourhoods for establishing and maintaining pollinator friendly habitats and demonstration gardens.
- Encourage mowing lawns less frequently to allow dandelions and clover to bloom, or replace lawns with pollinator meadows.
- Report pollinator-friendly activities in the media and on your Bee City Canada web page.
- Collaborate with the Department of Transportation to make roadsides pesticide-free native pollinator meadows.
- Host citizen science projects to inventory pollinators.