



Bee City Canada Application

A) City or Community Information

Municipality/First Nation Town of Ajax

Province/Territory Ontario

Mayor, Chief or Chair of Commission

Name & Title Steve Parish – Mayor

Name of Applicant & Title Jade Schofield – Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Organization or Department Town of Ajax – Operations and Sustainability

Address 800 Salem Rd N

City/First Nation Town of Ajax Province/Territory Ontario

Postal Code L1Z 0K4

Email jade.schofield@ajax.ca Phone 905-619-2529, ext. 4227

Bee City Liaison & Title (if not Applicant) _____

Organization or Department _____

Address _____

City/First Nation _____ Province/Territory _____

Postal Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please list the members of your community's **Bee City Working Group**. This group will oversee the Bee City program. (expand or reduce table as required)

Name	Affiliation	Email
Jade Schofield	Environmental Sustainability Coordinator	jade.schofield@ajax.ca
Craig Blencowe	Arborist	craig.blencowe@ajax.ca

Shaun Walker	Working Foreperson Environmental Services	shaun.walker@ajax.ca
Anusha Santhakumar	Environmental Intern	anusha.santhakumar@ajax.ca

Media Contact (if not Applicant)

Name & Title _____

Department _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Tell us about any initiatives currently taking place in your city, community or region which aim to help pollinators. These may include existing pollinator gardens, habitat restoration projects, efforts to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and public education activities to raise awareness about pollinators.

- The Town has a number of policies in place to help ensure that pollinator habitat is made available throughout Ajax by encouraging the growth and establishment of native plants on both public and private property. Policies are found in a number of strategic documents including: Official Plan Consolidation (2016), Urban Forest Management Plan (2012), and Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (2013)
- Pollinator Meadowscape Project is a collaborative three year project with the Town of Ajax, and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), alongside collaborative partners Durham Sustain-Ability, Native Plants in Claremont and Community Development Council Durham. The purpose of this project is to link natural spaces with pollinators and community gardens. By engaging the community we are able to work with volunteers to establish a number of native plant

demonstration gardens, whilst increasing knowledge and understanding of the role pollinators play in our local food supply. Over the three years this project was able to achieve: the creation of two demonstration gardens (St. Andrews Park & Community Development Council Durham – Community Garden), Ajax Meadow reha-bilitation, and the installation of 22 pollinator habitats.

- In partnership with LEAF, the Town of Ajax has participated in the #Bees Need Trees, Green Living Days, and Green Garden Events. #Bees Need Trees is a cam-paign to help increase awareness on the important role that trees play for pol-linator habitats. This campaign was used for the National Tree Day 2017 celebra-tion in Ajax, to help increase, in addition to offering subsidized Bee kits as part of the Back-yard Tree Planting program. This garden kits provide residents with an assortment of shrubs and native plants to help increase pollinator habitats in their backyards at a subsidized cost. Green Living Days is one of many free eco events dedicated to en-hancing pollinator habitat. In 2018, this will be achieved through the Pollinator Gar-den Maintenance Workshop. This event typically sees 30-50 vol-unteer's help with weeding, mulching and the planting of native plants to ensure that the pollinator habi-tat remains healthy. Green Garden Events is every year during May and June, and the Town hosts a series of "Green garden Events" in partnership with TRCA. In 2018, two sessions are dedicated to pollinators: Balcony Gardening with Native Plants Seminar (May 30th, 2018) which will provide the op-portunity to learn about the in-spiring beauty and practical benefits of gardening in small spaces with native plants and edibles, and Maintaining Pollinator Habitat Workshop (June 6th, 2018) which will help participants learn how to identify native plants and invasive species during a hands on session, whilst helping to maintain Ajax's pollinator habitat by planting na-tive plants, weeding and mulching.

- To encourage residents to establish native plant habitat the Town provides free wildflower seeds to residents who visit the Sustainable Ajax booth at the community events. These perennial wildflower seeds are designed to grow in Ajax and are comprised of a variety of native species including Milkweed.
- The Town of Ajax has a number of educational resources available for free to help support pollinator habitat on private property. The Healthy Yards Program, highlights a number of ways in which gardeners can reduce their environmental foot-print including suggestions for planting native plants that are both beneficial to pollinators and require less watering. The Green Living E-Guide is a free electronic guide to help residents make eco conscious choices within their day to day life. Within this guide an entire chapter is dedicated to pollinators and how home owners can help increase habitat on their property.

B) Commitments and Actions

I/we, the undersigned, understand that the Bee City Canada program consists of three commitments, and that we will take the indicated actions to support those commitments:

1. **Creating Healthy Pollinator Habitat:** Describe your plans to create, improve and maintain pollinator habitat, while reducing or eliminating pesticide use.
 - As per Town of Ajax's Official Plan policies 2.1.10 & 2.5.3, continue to increase the planting of native plants, shrubs, and trees used in Town landscaping
 - Continue to integrate pollinator conservation into Town plans as demonstrated by the Town of Ajax's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. Which recommends actions to 'Plant native species on Town properties and public areas where appropriate and feasible'
 - Support the distribution of native plant seeds including milkweed to residents and property owners of Ajax through the distribution at local community events

- Plant native Milkweed and other native nectar plants in Town parks and open spaces through the Town of Ajax's Environmental Stewardship Programs
- Continue to expand the Town's naturalization program, to help create park and open spaces that are self-sustaining and ecologically diverse with a focus on reducing the use of pesticides

2. **Education about Pollinators:** Describe how you plan to educate community members about the importance of pollinators.

- Hosting the 2018 Green Garden Events, with primary focus on providing educational information for residents on establishing pollinator habitat on private property, as well as and actively enhancing existing pollinator habitat on Town property through planting of native plants including milkweed
- Promote and distribute information about pollinator and Monarch butterfly habitat including the promotion of Ajax's Healthy Yards Brochures, and Green Living Guide at various public events to improve public understanding of wildfire interactions and the benefits of living in a biodiverse community. Staff will also promote the Canadian Wildlife Federation's Backyard Habitat Certification Program
- Continue to support LEAF's Backyard Planting programs, which includes the sale of subsidized pollinator and bee friendly garden kits and #Bees need trees educational campaign

3. **Celebrating Pollinators:** Describe how you plan to celebrate pollinators during International Pollinator Week (third week of June) or at other times.

- Proclaiming June 18-24 2018, *Pollinator Week*

C) Other Requirements

I/we, the undersigned agree to:

1. Publicly acknowledge Bee City Canada designation through the city/region/community website, signage and other means.
2. Annually re-apply for Bee City Canada designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.

D) Requested Attachments

With your completed application, please provide:

1. One or more photos representing your city/region/community for use on the Bee City website and social media platforms. These could showcase pollinator initiatives or the members of your Bee City Working Group.
2. Your city, region or First Nation logo (png format) and any usage guidelines.

F) Signatures

Applicant

J. Schofield
Signature

Jade Schofield
Print Name

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator
Title

June 26th 2018.
Date

Bee City Canada Liaison (if not Applicant)

Signature

Print Name

Title

Date

G) Next Steps

1. (Applicant) Email completed application and resolution (in PDF format) with requested attachments to applications@beecitycanada.org with “APPLICATION” in the subject line.
2. (Bee City Canada) Your application will be reviewed within three business days. We will notify you as soon as your application has been approved or promptly re-request any clarification, if necessary.

H) Bee City Canada’s Commitment

Bee City Canada is committed to publicizing your designation as a Bee City through our website, social media and other channels. In addition, our “Bee City Welcome Package” will be sent to you and will include:

1. An official declaration, recognizing your city or First Nation as a Bee City.
2. An aid with helpful ideas for communities joining the Bee City Canada program.
3. Our media kit to use for making Bee City Canada signs and other artwork.

Bee City Canada is grateful for your commitment to take positive actions to help pollinators and for being a role model to other communities across Canada.