

## Attachment 2



Connecting People,  
Pollinators and Places



## Bee City Canada Application

## **A) City or Community Information**

**Municipality/First Nation:** City of Guelph

**Province/Territory:** Ontario

### **Mayor, Chief or Chair of Commission**

**Name & Title:** Cam Guthrie, Mayor

**Name of Applicant & Title:** Dave Beaton, Supervisor Trails and Natural Areas  
Stewardship

**Department:** Parks Operations and Forestry, Parks and Recreation, Public Services

**Address:** 1 Carden Street

**City/First Nation:** Guelph

**Province/Territory:** Ontario

**Postal Code:** N1H 3A1

**Email:** dave.beaton@guelph.ca **Phone:** 519-822-1260 x 2761

**Bee City Liaison & Title:** Samantha Dupre, Community Stewardship

Coordinator

**Organization or Department:** Parks Operations and Forestry, Parks and

Recreation, Public Services

**Address:** 1 Carden Street

**City/First Nation:** Guelph

**Province/Territory:** Ontario

**Postal Code:** N1H 3A1

**Email:** samantha.dupre@guelph.ca **Phone:** 519-822-1260 x 2655

Please list the members of your community's **Bee City Working Group**. This group will oversee the Bee City program.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Email</b>
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### **Media Contact**

**Name & Title:** Dave Beaton, Supervisor, Trails and Natural Areas Stewardship

**Department:** Parks Operations and Forestry, Parks and Recreation, Public Services

**Email:** dave.beaton@guelph.ca **Phone:** 519-822-1260 x 2761



**Part 1: 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.**

### **City of Guelph Official Plan policies**

The City of Guelph Official Plan recognizes the important role that pollinator habitat plays in supporting ecosystem functions across the city. Official Plan policies encourage opportunities to protect, maintain and enhance pollinator habitat.

Excerpt from the City of Guelph Official Plan, March 2018 Consolidation

#### 6A.6.4 Pollinator Habitat

1. The City recognizes the role that pollinator habitat plays in supporting ecosystem functions.
2. Opportunities to protect, maintain and enhance pollinator habitat within City parks, restoration areas and ecological linkages, lands adjacent to storm water management facilities and open space areas will be encouraged.

Pollinator Habitat is defined as natural areas within the landscape that contain indigenous plants, shrubs, and trees that provide pollen, nectar, and other floral resources for pollinating insects and other animal pollinators. In addition, these

areas may provide appropriate nesting sites, such as exposed soil, rotting logs, cavity trees, hollow-stemmed plants, and host plants specific to local pollinators. As a result of these policies, pollinator habitats are often part of the discussion for City-led and private development projects. During the review of development applications, proponents are encouraged to incorporate native, pollinator friendly plantings/gardens. For example, during the planning and development of the MetalWorks Condominium site in downtown Guelph (53 and 63 Arthur), pollinator gardens were incorporated into the landscaping along the Speed River's Riverwalk area which is privately owned but publicly accessible.

### **Demonstration Gardens**

Working with local partners, the City has installed several demonstration pollinator gardens. Each garden features species native to Ontario and includes educational signage describing pollinators and their critical roles within our environment.

Two demonstration gardens are located along the Trans Canada Trail near the Speed River. Three additional gardens are located in Riverside Park. In addition, the City and partners created a one-acre meadow at the Clair Road Emergency Services Centre (160 Clair Rd W) featuring masses of native Ontario forbs, grasses and shrubs that attract pollinators.

Other demonstration sites include rain gardens that provide pollinator plantings at the City's Water Services (29 Waterworks Place) and at First Baptist Church (255 Woolwich St). The City has also partnered with various local groups to install a Food

Forest that provides plant diversity, pollinator forage habitat and an outdoor education area, in a neighbourhood park (91 Ironwood Dr.).

### **Guelph Community Gardens**

The City of Guelph, in partnership with the Upper Grand District School Board, currently provides support for a network of over 20 volunteer-led community gardens on public properties in Guelph including: school grounds, churches and city parks. These gardens all include plantings of vegetables, herbs, and/or fruit, many of which can attract pollinators and provide them with forage and habitat. In 2017, 60% of surveyed gardens indicated that in addition to the sections of the garden that are dedicated to growing food, a section of the garden is planted with flowers and plants specifically designed to attract pollinators. Several community garden groups are also currently working on projects to install educational signage related to the important role of pollinators in our environment. The City works with community members on an ongoing basis to identify opportunities to add new gardens to the network. The community garden network provides pollinator habitat and connects volunteers with resources to learn about the important role of pollinators in our environment.

### **Park Naturalization Projects**

The City engages with individual community members and partners with community organizations including Trees for Guelph and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Guelph on an ongoing basis to facilitate the addition of naturalization plantings (tree, shrub and herbaceous plants) in city parks and open spaces.

These plantings provide additional forage and habitat for pollinators and create opportunities to educate community volunteers. In 2017, over 30 community naturalization plantings were conducted by these organizations adding over 5,400 native trees and shrubs and 2,500 herbaceous plants including many pollinator friendly wildflowers.

### **Hydro One Corridor Meadow Project**

The City collaborated with Hydro One in the establishment of a meadow along several acres of a hydro corridor east of the Hanlon Parkway and south of the Speed River. Hydro One cleared the existing woody vegetation, consisting mostly of invasive, non-native buckthorn, from the area in 2015 and seeded native meadow species in 2016. Initially, local residents were concerned with the loss of canopy cover, however the opportunity was taken to educate the neighbourhood on invasive species and the importance of meadow habitat. Following this, many community members participated in supplemental plantings. As the meadow establishes itself, the many native plant species provide excellent forage and nesting opportunities for a wide variety of pollinators.

### **Schools**

Kortright Hills Public School in Guelph has been exceptionally active in promoting awareness of bees. Some of the work that this school has done includes:

- The school has planted over \$650 worth of pollinator-friendly plants in the past year.

- Students researched why bees are so important, why bees are in crisis, and how students can help.
- A University of Guelph professor spoke to the students about the value of bees from all around the world.
- Students have made numerous morning announcements about “being” nice to our bee population; they created posters to put up around the school.
- Grade 5 students organized and led an incredible Bee Celebration assembly.

As well, Grade 7 students from Waverley Drive Public School have made bee houses with help from the University of Guelph.

## **Local Organizations that Promote Pollinators**

Three local organizations that promote pollinators and their importance in our environment are highlighted below:

### **A) Pollination Guelph Activities and Demonstration Plantings**

Pollination Guelph (PG) is a volunteer-run, federally incorporated charitable organization. They formed in August 2008 to promote a better understanding of the importance of pollinators, to conserve and develop pollinator habitat and showcase pollinator projects to serve as a model for citizens and communities across Canada and internationally. These activities are accomplished through their goals of education, research, community outreach, advocacy, and conservation. Although they are well known for their outreach and education efforts, and for the successful creation of pollinator habitat throughout the City of Guelph, the Eastview Pollinator Park

has been their flagship project. The following summarizes some of Pollination Guelph's achievements.

**PG1: Annual Pollinator Symposium:** Pollination Guelph (PG) holds an annual symposium which attracts attendees from Guelph and from across Ontario. Over 120 people registered for the March, 2018 event; plans are already underway to hold this event in 2019. The symposium is unique in Canada and has been held for the past eleven years. A broad range of presenters and workshop leaders have provided informative, engaging and educational sessions on a wide variety of topics related to all taxa of pollinators, native plants, restoration projects, gardens, etc. Participants return home with new tools and resources to help them conserve and protect pollinators in their own homes and communities. In addition to the annual symposium, PG maintains a [website](#) with links to helpful resources and does frequent displays and presentations in Guelph and elsewhere. Local media has frequently covered PG activities. PG is now producing signage for property owners to use to identify pollinator habitat to increase awareness of the importance of such habitat to neighbours.

**PG2: Gosling Pollinator Garden:** Undertaken in partnership with the Gosling Foundation and others, the Gosling Pollinator Garden at Hospice Wellington (795 Scottsdale Dr) educates visitors on the importance of pollinators. The garden includes signage, an explanatory book, and a variety of pollinator-friendly native and non-native plants that attract a broad range of pollinators throughout the flight season. The garden acts as an example of how an attractive garden – particularly

in a health care setting - can also serve to provide essential resources to pollinators and enhance the quality of life from a therapeutic perspective at the hospice.

**PG3: The Pollinator Park:** The Pollinator Park is located on the former 45-hectare (112-acre) decommissioned Eastview Landfill property, owned by the City of Guelph (186 Eastview Road). It will feature species of flowering plants and grasses native to southern Ontario that are known to be pollinator-friendly. A four-hectare (10 acre) demonstration garden has been started at the site and further restoration activities are planned. These plantings will gradually replace the non-native species that have colonized the site since the landfill was decommissioned in 2003.

**PG4: Re:Mediate at Eastview Park:** Two local artists joined Pollination Guelph on the Re:Mediate project which is a collaborative textile and audio installation at the Eastview Landfill site. It features a quilt, hand-made from recycled paper embedded with native pollinator-friendly seeds, the pieces of which were sewn together on-site by the artists and public participants. A sculpture in the form of a wooden house filled with stems and wood blocks to provide habitat for tunnel nesting bees was installed on site in 2015.

**PG5: Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.:** One side of a drainage swale, located in front of the Guelph Hydro head office (395 Southgate Drive), has been planted with native shrubs and perennials to create pollinator habitat. First planted in the spring of 2013, the gardens cover area of 1,500 sq. ft. and have established slowly

as they are regularly browsed by deer living in nearby Preservation Park. Native plants contribute to the pollinator habitat in this challenging site.

**PG6: Gosling Wildlife Gardens Entrance Arbor:** Through a collaborative project with The Arboretum (University of Guelph) and funded by The Gosling Foundation, a new arbor was installed at the entrance to the Gosling Wildlife Gardens in 2015. A bed of native plants installed adjacent to the arbor provides habitat for pollinators and native vines will grow up and over the arbor. This project was funded by The Gosling Foundation.

## **B) University of Guelph**

The University of Guelph is internationally known for its work on pollinators. For example, a professor in the School of Environmental Sciences holds the Rebanks Family Chair in Pollinator Conservation. His research focuses on pollinator conservation and behaviour and monitoring of wild pollinator populations in Ontario. His lab studies the behaviour and ecology of pollinators, and the impacts of environmental stressors (e.g. pesticide exposure) on pollinator health. Engaging stakeholder groups, and communicating and translating research results in a useful and understandable way to the most appropriate audiences are critical parts of the lab's mission.

The university campus includes many native trees and shrubs, as well as several formal gardens that provide forage and shelter for pollinators.

## **Arboretum at the University of Guelph**

The Arboretum encompasses 400 acres of plant collections, gardens, walking trails, natural woodlands, wetlands, and meadows. Adjacent to the university's main campus, the Arboretum is free to the public and open from dawn until dusk. The Arboretum provides many educational opportunities that relate to pollinators, including plant and insect identification workshops and access to hundreds of flowering trees, shrubs and forb species.

The Arboretum plans to resume its highly successful plant sale in September 2018. The sale offers many native plant species that are particularly attractive to pollinators of all kinds. The sale also features numerous non-native species, many of which can provide resources – pollen, nectar, nesting sites - to native pollinators.

## **Honey Bee Research Centre**

Also located on the grounds of the Arboretum is the “Honey Bee Research Centre”. Affiliated with the University of Guelph, this center conducts internationally recognized research on honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). The Centre also provides a number of educational experiences for both University of Guelph students and the general public. These include tours of the facility for groups of all ages, courses, workshops, online how-to videos etc.

## **Guelph Bug Day**

More recently, an annual “Guelph Bug Day” has been held at the Arboretum. It is a fun, free, educational event for community members of all ages with a focus on in-

sects of all kinds, including pollinators. Bug Day is sponsored by the Entomological Society of Ontario, University of Guelph Arboretum and Ontario Agricultural College (Richards Trust).

### **C) Wildflower Society**

The value of native plant species to pollinators is well documented. The Nature Guelph Wildflower Society is dedicated to the use and protection of native plants in parks, gardens and other spaces. The society seeks to develop and promote a better understanding of and appreciation for Canada's native flora. Activities include monthly meetings with speakers that are open to the public, as well as local plant salvages, schoolyard restoration projects and an annual native plant sale at the Guelph Farmers Market in May. Work of the society benefits many pollinators by enhancing habitat and raising public awareness.

## **Part 2: 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:**

- A) Creating Healthy Pollinator Habitat: Describe your plans to create, improve and maintain pollinator habitat, while reducing or eliminating pesticide use.**

## **Implementation of Official Plan Policies**

As explained above, the City's current Official Plan includes policies that encourage the protection, maintenance and enhancement of pollinator habitat. Staff will continue to encourage the protection and creation of pollinator habitat through private developments.

## **Creating healthy Pollinator Habitat on City lands and in Partnership**

Guelph has over 1000 hectares of parks and open space, which represents a huge opportunity for the restoration, enhancement and creation of pollinator habitat. The City has undertaken a number of projects to establish pollinator habitat within its boundaries and will continue to do so both independently and in collaboration with community partner organizations. For example, a former grassy slope below the Guelph Civic Museum in the downtown area has been planted in a variety of flowers and trees that provide forage for many different pollinators, while beautifying the urban core. As noted above, the city also works with partner organizations on an ongoing basis to facilitate naturalization plantings (tree, shrub and herbaceous plants) in parks and open spaces that can provide forage and habitat for pollinators.

## **Tree Planting**

In addition to numerous other environmental benefits, many deciduous trees provide forage and shelter for pollinator larvae; and nectar and pollen for a variety of adult pollinators. The City is working to maximize the health and size of its urban forest and is committed to having a 40% tree canopy. The city partners with

several community organizations to help in this effort, including “Trees for Guelph” a local organization that has planted well over 150,000 trees and shrubs in the city since 1990. Planting is done primarily by school students, who learn about the importance of trees while helping the environment. Many, if not all the species planted will benefit various pollinators as food and/or shelter. Similarly, the City of Guelph supports the ongoing work of the Speed River Project, an initiative of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) that has been working since 1988 to improve the ecological health of the Speed and Eramosa Rivers. Working in collaboration with the City of Guelph, OPIRG has received funding from the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund for 2018 and for the past several years to engage volunteers in a variety of activities including planting of several hundred native trees and pollinator plants in parks and open spaces along the Speed and Eramosa rivers in Guelph.

### **Boulevard Gardens**

Subject to certain restrictions, the City permits the planting of gardens on city-owned boulevards by homeowners. A growing number of individuals have taken the initiative to plant suitable pollinator-friendly plants on their boulevard.

### **Community Gardens & Pollinator Gardens**

The city will continue to work with community members to install new community gardens and pollinator gardens in public parks and open spaces when opportunities arise.

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

**Pollination Guelph's Annual Symposium**

As noted above, Pollination Guelph (PG) holds an annual symposium to celebrate pollinators which attracts attendees from Guelph and from across Ontario. This event has been held for the past 11 years and occurred on March 10, 2018. Plans are already underway to hold this event again in 2019. A broad range of presenters and workshop leaders provide engaging and educational sessions on a wide variety of topics related to pollinators and participants return home with new tools and resources to help them conserve and protect pollinators in their homes and communities.

The City of Guelph supports pollinator habitat and education to residents through its Healthy Landscapes program. The program is designed to promote outdoor water conservation initiatives and is also the City's landscaping resource hub. It provides a variety of resources to help Guelph residents create water efficient, functional, beautiful and pollinator-friendly gardens. Resources include a website, a speaker series, design courses, community events, demonstration gardens and complimentary 45 minute Healthy Landscape on-site visits. Through the Healthy Landscape program residents are educated on the use of pollinator plants not only to help pollinators but also to make their gardens more sustainable. The gardening design and maintenance principals around pollinator gardens are also the same principals used in water efficient gardening. The program is designed to provide

residents with tips and information on how to improve their gardens, reduce water use and how to garden naturally with no pesticide use.

### **Create a Butterfly and Pollinator Friendly Yard Workshop**

As part of the City's healthy landscape speaker series, the city will be placing extra emphasis on celebrating pollinators this spring by hosting a Create a Butterfly and Pollinator Friendly Yard workshop. Participants will learn about Ontario butterflies and how to create habitat for them and become familiar with some of the most common butterfly species, as well as other pollinators.

### **Community Gardens & Pollinator Gardens**

The city will continue to work with and support its many community partners including trees for Guelph and OPIRG that deliver pollinator education to program participants as part of their ongoing tree planting efforts throughout the city. This includes connecting community volunteers involved in the community gardens program or involved in parks stewardship activities such as creating a pollination garden with local organizations (e.g. Pollination Guelph, the Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners, Guelph Horticultural society) that offer educational opportunities such as pollinator-friendly gardening workshops and talks.

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

## **Pollinator Week Open House**

The City is planning an open house event for 2018 Pollinator Week. The open house will showcase a bee hotel that is being installed on the green roof at city hall (1 Carden St.). The event will be open to the public and include speakers, children's pollinator activities, help stock the bee hotel with bee nesting material and educational material will be available. It is hoped the event will be attended by residents that wish to learn more about pollinators and how they can attract them to their own gardens. This event and pollinator week will be publicized on the city's social media feeds and website to reach as wide an audience as possible.

## **Guelph Bug Day**

As noted above under question two, Guelph Bug day has turned into an annual event to celebrate insects of all kinds, including pollinators and it is expected that this will happen on an ongoing basis.

## **Nature Guelph BioBlitz of Hanlon Creek/Preservation Park**

Nature Guelph (Guelph's Naturalist Club) will be hosting a BioBlitz of the Hanlon Creek/Preservation Park area in June 2018 to close out their Nature in the City series that takes place in partnership with the Guelph Public Library. Participants will survey the parks and catalog all species they come across which will of course include a variety of pollinator species including insects.

## **Dave Beaton Part 3: 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.

## **Part 4: 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.

## **Part 5: Signatures**

### **Applicant**



Signature  
Dave Beaton

Supervisor, Trails and Natural Areas Stewardship

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## **Part 6: 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 request any clarification, if necessary.

## **Part 7: 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.