

## Bee City Renewal - Entry #16

<b>Name of City, Town or Municipality</b> City of Toronto
<b>Province</b> Ontario
<b>Applicant's Name</b> Annemarie Baynton
<b>Applicant's Job Title</b> Program Manager
<b>Organization or Department</b> Environment and Energy Division
<b>Address</b> 55 John Street Metro Hall, 2nd floor Toronto, ON M5V 3C6
<b>Applicant's Phone</b>
<b>Applicant's Email</b>
<b>Are you the primary contact person?</b> Yes
<b>Contact's Name</b>
<b>Contact's Phone</b>
<b>Contact's Email</b>

**Briefly summarize your Bee City experience during the past year. Please include information about challenges, feedback, and media responses.**

As the first Bee City in Canada, we have had an overall positive experience with Bee City, in particular in raising awareness of pollinators in the city.

It was a challenging process to officially become a Bee City, as the timing of the application and may have been premature as Bee City Canada was not officially established which made it difficult to gain support for the initiative. A great deal of staff time was needed for the application and approval process, which required a full staff report to be presented to City Council.

**Please tell us about your community's efforts to reduce the use of pesticides.**

Toronto passed a Pesticide By-law in 2003, which triggered a Provincial ban in 2009, leading to significantly reduced cosmetic pesticide use in our city. The City does not use neonicotinoids in any of its greenhouses, parklands or gardens.

In addition, the City also practices Integrated Plant Health Care (IPHC). IPHC is a core strategy for PF&R that has been in place since 2002. IPHC is an active plant management strategy that provides two functional tools - Plant Health Care (PHC) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the maintenance of parkland. PHC is a program that involves the timely delivery of best Plant Health Care practices to establish and maintain optimum plant health. IPM is a decision making process that uses all necessary and legislatively compliant techniques to control pests effectively, economically and in an environmentally sound manner. These tools combine into an integrated system used to create and manage healthy green spaces and functional hard surface infra-structure while effectively eliminating the unnecessary use of any type of pesticide. IPHC is then by design, a pesticide reduction strategy.

**Outline community initiatives focusing on habitat creation and restoration. If possible, include a plant list.**

Pollinator garden beds are increasing in City managed spaces, with the goal of expanding to all wards in the future. Parks, Forestry and Recreation has encouraged each District Supervisor to add pollinator beds in every district. Horticulture staff have set goals for new pollinator habitat for the coming year. A plant list and guidebook are available to City staff.

**How did your community promote being a Bee City?**

We have included information about Toronto becoming the first Bee City in Canada in our Pollinator Protection Strategy booklet and online.

**Please tell us about your efforts aimed at educating your community, including residents, city employees, contractors, children and other groups.**

In 2019, The City launched the PollinateTO Community Grants Program to encourage the creation of pollinator habitat in neighbourhoods in Toronto. Up to \$5,000 per project is available for resident-led pollinator habitat creation projects that educate and engage the community. All non-profit groups located in Toronto are welcome to apply for funding.

In June 2019, thirty-seven applications were selected to receive funding from among 151 applications submitted. Approved projects include community faith gardens, Indigenous education gardens, residential rain gardens, schoolyard teaching gardens, and multiple front-yard gardens on residential streets (which serve as pollinator

pathways).

In total, more than 10,000 square metres of pollinator habitat will be created through the grants. The projects will also engage and educate the community through a variety of measures including signage, workshops, tours, videos, seed exchanges, community planting days, indigenous knowledge sharing, senior and youth programming, newcomer education, interpretive art and citizen science.

The PollinateTO grants are a component of Toronto's Pollinator Protection Strategy, adopted by City Council unanimously in 2018. The strategy identifies habitat creation as a key priority to protect pollinators in Toronto.

In 2019, the City offered free pollinator-friendly plant kits to help expand pollinator habitat in Toronto and support the goals of the City's Pollinator Protection Strategy. PollinateTO Native Plant Kits were provided at 38 Community Environment Days Events from May to October 2019. In total, 3,648 native plants were distributed across Toronto.

Each kit includes everything residents need to welcome pollinators to your garden:

- Three native wildflower plants in three inch pots
- Tips on creating pollinator friendly gardens
- A list of the best native plants for Toronto gardens
- Two pocket guides (wild bees and native wildflowers)

**Please tell us about your community's participation in National Pollinator Week celebrations and other events.**

In 2019, Mayor John Tory proclaimed June 16 to 22 Pollinator Week in Toronto. Residents were invited to celebrate by visiting the Live Green Toronto tent at the Pollinator Party at Withrow Park Farmers' Market on Saturday June 22. Visitors learned more about pollinator-friendly gardening and picked up free native-plant seeds.

**Describe your plans for creating, improving and maintaining pollinator habitat during the next year.**

We will launch another round of PollinateTO grants in 2020 and continue to increase pollinator habitat across the city on private and public land.

**Provide information about any events, activities or initiatives that you have organized and would like highlighted through our social media channels.**

**File Uploads**

**File Uploads 2**

**File Uploads 3**

**Has your City/Town/Municipality created a Bee City website or webpage?**

No

**If you answered "Yes", please provide the URL of your Bee City webpage.**

**Bee City Renewal Fees**

**We welcome your comments and suggestions to help us improve Bee City Canada.**

[Bee City Canada](#)