



Bee City Renewal 2023

Name of City, Town, Municipality or First Nation

City of Toronto

Province

Ontario

Applicant's Name

Tara Mabon

Applicant's Job Title

Project Lead

Organization or Department

Environment and Climate Division

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Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Pollinator Team Members

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Tara Mabon, Project Lead Environment, tara.mabon@toronto.ca

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.

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 Toronto. 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).

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

Pollinator garden beds have increased in City managed spaces, with the goal of expanding to all wards across Toronto. Parks, Forestry and Recreation has encouraged each District Supervisor to add pollinator beds in every district. A plant list and guidebook is 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. We include a link to the Bee City Canada resources page to PollinateTO grant recipients to utilize in their pollinator garden and community engagement projects.

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.

Since the launch of the PollinateTO Grants in 2019, over 150 projects have been funded. 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 400 pollinator gardens and over 23,800 square meters 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 City also offers free pollinator-friendly plant kits to help expand pollinator habitat in Toronto and support the goals of the City's Pollinator Protection Strategy. Since 2019, 4,098 native plants have been distributed across Toronto.

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

The City celebrates and builds awareness annually with Toronto's Mayor proclaiming the third week of June as Pollinator Week in Toronto. Residents are further encouraged to celebrate through social media campaigns, newsletters and events like native plant giveaways and community environment days.

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

We will launch the 5th round of PollinateTO grants to continue engaging communities in pollinator habitat creation and education.

We will engage Toronto residents in pollinator education and habitat creation through social media, educational webinars and public events including pollinator-friendly native plant giveaways and community environment days.

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

2023 Native Plant Kit Contest - Win a free native plant kit. Visit <http://www.toronto.ca/wildbees> for more information and to enter the contest. Contest closes April 30th, 2023.

2023 PollinateTO Grants - Launching September 2023. Visit <http://www.toronto.ca/pollinateTO> for more information, upcoming information sessions and to apply.

Has your City/Town/Municipality/First Nation posted Bee City Canada signage?

No

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

No

Bee City Renewal Fees

Less than 5,000 population - FREE