

# PE10.3

## Attachment A

### RESOLUTION DESIGNATING CITY OF TORONTO A *BEE CITY*

WHEREAS, the goal of *BEE CITY* certification is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, climate change, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, cities and their residents have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions and engagement among community stewards; and

WHEREAS, the economic benefits of (native and honey) bee-friendliness are:

- Healthy ecosystems--insect pollinators are required for pollination and reproduction of about 85% of flowering plants globally, plants that: 1) are vital for clean air and water; 2) provide food, fiber and shelter for people and wildlife; and 3) support the very insects that pollinate our crops and form the basis of food webs.
- Increased vegetable and fruit crop yields due to bee pollination. One in every three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination.
- Increased demand for pollinator friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers.
- Income earned by beekeepers and others through the sale of bee products, beekeeping equipment and supplies, and hive rentals for pollination; and, heightened prestige and premium asking prices for place-based honey, which enhances the visibility and reputation of its community of origin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Toronto ("Toronto") in the Province of Ontario should be certified as a *BEE CITY* community because Toronto is currently undertaking a number of programs and initiatives supporting pollinator biodiversity including:

- Establishment of pollinator friendly habitat across the city, which engage local communities and provide educational opportunities through interpretive signage, community planting events, and tours. Examples include: Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat, Don Valley Brickworks, The Franklin Children's garden, and High Park's Black Oak Savannah restoration areas.
- Habitat restoration through our Community Stewardship program which engages community volunteers in planting native species and the ongoing maintenance and management of the watersheds across the Greater Toronto Area.
- Offering ongoing Children's Eco Programs in High Park which educate and engage children through environmental, nature, nutrition and garden programming, which includes pollinators.
- The Horticulture School of Excellence that provides ongoing staff training in pollinator friendly planting and ways to increase native plantings in City parks.
- Public education and promotion of native plantings on private land through the outreach efforts of Live Green Toronto and natural garden inspections conducted by Parks, Forestry and Recreation.
- Recognizing the contribution of citizens who demonstrate environmentally responsible gardening practices through our City of Toronto Garden awards program.
- Supporting and recognizing pollinator gardens that provide educational opportunities through school programming and that serve as demonstration gardens for their communities through our Live Green grants program.
- The naturalization of the Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail - part of the larger Gatineau Hydro Corridor Revitalization project managed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail has involved a diverse set of partners and local community members that have worked together to plant a 40 hectare native wildflower butterfly habitat in the heart of Scarborough.

- Toronto was a leader in banning the use of pesticides in 2003 which contributed to protecting the health of pollinators.

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession from spring to autumn.
- Provides clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling.
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses because many native pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-evolved.
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness.
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among municipal staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, Toronto agrees to meet the following commitments required of all *BEE CITY* communities:

1. Adopt this *BEE CITY* resolution (which articulates these commitments).
2. Designate Toronto's Environment & Energy Division ("EED") as the Bee City program sponsor and an employee from EED as the Bee City program "liaison;" and assign facilitation of the Toronto Bee City program to the Pollinator Working Group (consisting of City staff from multiple Divisions) to encourage and coordinate local pollinator habitat and awareness activities. This body will serve as the intermediary between the citizenry and the municipality on matters of enhancing pollinator awareness, conservation and habitat, fulfilling the following commitments:
  - Annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase Toronto's commitment to enhancing pollinator biodiversity and habitat.
  - Annually apply for renewal of Toronto's *BEE CITY* designation and submit a report of the previous year's activities.
3. Publicly acknowledge Toronto's commitment by agreeing to a) display *BEE CITY* signage in a prominent location, and b) create/maintain information on Toronto's website which includes links to this signed Resolution and the *BEE CITY* website, contact information for Toronto's *BEE CITY* liaison and designated committee, and reports of the pollinator friendly activities Toronto has accomplished the previous year(s).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY TORONTO CITY COUNCIL THAT:

The CITY OF TORONTO accepts the designation and commits to the standards of the *BEE CITY PROGRAM*.

---

Mayor or Designate