



Bee City
CANADA 🍁

Connecting People,
Pollinators and Places

Bee City Canada Application

A) City or Community Information

Municipality/First Nation: City of Brandon

Province/Territory: Manitoba

Mayor, Chief or Chair of Commission

Name & Title: Mayor Rick Chrest

Name of Applicant & Title: Sherry Punak-Murphy, Chairperson Brandon Bee City

Organization or Department: Assiniboine Food Forest

Address: 229 – 4th Street

City/First Nation: Brandon Province/Territory: Manitoba

Postal Code: R7A 3G7

Email: Sherry.PunakMurphy@gmail.com Phone : (204) 573-7356

Bee City Liaison & Title (if not Applicant): Lindsay Hargreaves
Environmental Initiatives Coordinator

Organization or Department: Operations – City of Brandon

Address: 2020 McGregor Avenue

City/First Nation: Brandon Province/Territory: Manitoba

Postal Code: R7B 4B5

Email: L.hargreaves@brandon.ca Phone : (204) 729-2171

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

Name	Affiliation	Email
Sherry Punak-Murphy	Assiniboine Food Forest	Sherry.PunakMurphy@gmail.com
Melanie Dubois	Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada	Melanie.Dubois@agr.gc.ca
Mireille Desilets	Assiniboine Food Forest	Mireilledesilets@hotmail.ca
Lindsay Hargreaves	City of Brandon	L.Hargreaves@brandon.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.

Bee City Brandon will take a focused and coordinated approach to these three commitments. A coordinated approach to an issue leads to focused collaboration, better informed action, new knowledge creation and real influence on positive outcomes. We will use Bee City framework to be a leader in the development and sharing of information programs and activities that support the creation and stewardship of bee habitat and provides learning opportunities to the public. Bee City Brandon will assist in focusing the great on-going initiatives of the City of Brandon and our many potential partners (gardening groups, conservation groups, commercial gardening companies, lawn care businesses, community groups), increase collective effectiveness, and strengthen the engagement of not only those directly involved, but decision-makers and land owners/managers who are the intended target and recipients of the work of Bee City Brandon and our partners.

Bee City Brandon would foster an alliance of gardening, conservation agencies and non-government organizations, enhance cooperate in the development, sharing and dissemination of bee supporting information and habitat restoration/creation actions in a multi-agency manner, engage property owners and the general public with a regionally relevant approach based on sound ecological principals, and build on and promote the elements of bee habitat stewardship and protection from pesticides. Bee City Brandon would act as a main coordinator and provide leadership and expertise.

Bee City Brandon will utilize products and tools developed by organizations such as Xerces and the Pollinator Partnership that will improve pollinator habitat management, and enhance the public's adoption of gardening and pesticide practices beneficial to pollinators. Bee City Brandon will modify current pollinator habitat assessment methodologies to provide a baseline of how well Brandon is currently providing the necessary resource and protection supports for bees. This benchmark information will guide recommendations for targeted habitat improvement and provide program performance monitoring information. This will allow Bee City Brandon and our project partners to adopt an adaptive management approach, ensuring that subsequent work plans incorporate the best information available for the targeting of project activities and locations. Key to the success of this initiative will be the hard work of the assembled Bee City Brandon team to create this Brandon network based in the sharing and aggregation of existing knowledge among organizations on habitat planting and pollinator support, combined with the creation of new initiatives and public events. The end result is integration of bee support principals into habitat creation and restoration activities, built on the best information available, in the quickest time possible.

The City of Brandon has a network of Community Gardens throughout the City where citizens can rent a garden plot and plant vegetables. Currently we have 804 public community plots and 4 private ones. One garden has a plot of native prairie species which encourages native pollinators to the area. Raspberry canes are also left during the winter for bees. Another garden recently has planted a 'bee garden' to attract pollinators to their gardens. Brandon is also an active Communities at Bloom competitor and has won numerous awards for their outstanding work.

The Assiniboine Food Forest has reclaimed an area where they planted native prairie species. The City of Brandon's Riverbank Discovery Centre has a native prairie plot which is well established.

The Brandon Environment Committee and the City of Brandon partnered with an Assiniboine Community College student for her capstone project to create a "Pollinator Management Guide" for Brandon. This can be found on the Environment Committee's website <http://brandonenvironment.ca/public-engagement>.

There are several schools in the City that have planted pollinator friendly gardens on school grounds.

The City of Brandon operates its own greenhouse and over the past year have purchased several types of annuals that are bee friendly. These annuals are planted throughout parks, and boulevards in the community. There are also a number of perennial plants located in our greenspaces that are bee friendly.

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.

GOAL	DETAILS	TIMELINE
Develop partnership with Community Garden Network	Through a partnership with CGN encourage the use of vacant garden plots for native / bee friendly forbs	June 2018 – May 2019
Development partnership with Gardening Club	Create a partnership for further discussions in bee friendly gardens	June 2018 – May 2019
Develop partnership with the City of Brandon Community Services Department	Discuss the potential of bee houses in a few green spaces throughout the community	June 2018 – May 2019
Develop a partnership with Riverbank Discovery Centre	Develop an information video to play in their interpretive centre, assist with the creation of signage that highlights pollinator habitat on their trails.	September 2018 – December 2018
Complete a pollinator habitat assessment of the City of Brandon	Modify the Xerces Society Pollinator Habitat Assessment Form for applicability to our city; develop recommendation to: increase connectivity between existing	September 2018 – May 2019

	habitats, improve season long resource availability	
Establish goals for habitat creation in areas identified in the assessment	Look at areas with little habitat, work with local groups to increase the habitat	September 2018 – May 2019

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

GOAL	DETAILS	TIMELINE
Have a booth at the City of Brandon's ECODays at the Global Market in May	Our first introduction to the citizens of Brandon will be at ECODays. Here we will make some 'bee houses' for the kids and provide information on how to make them.	26 May 2018
Participate in EnviroExpo that is put on yearly for grades 5-6 students.	Give a presentation and demonstration to the students about pollinators and their importance in our food chain.	5 June 2018
Three presentations per year to various groups	Members would give talks about pollinators and their importance	June 2018 – May 2019
Develop logo	Provide a recognizable image that represents Bee City Brandon	June 2018
Develop social media presence	Create Facebook page, Instagram feed and a Twitter profile	June 2018
Develop an implementation plan for habitat improvement recommendations	Provide recommendations to the city and community gardening groups for a coordinated approach to increase habitat in areas identified through the habitat assessment	January 2019 – April 2019

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

GOAL	DETAILS	TIMELINE
Proclamation	Proclamation by the Mayor designating third week in June as International Pollinator Week	June 2018
Social media blitz	Daily posts on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter during the week	June 2018
Host a community even	Give a workshop on bee biology, pollinator plant selection, building bee houses	June 2018

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


Signature

SHERRY PUNAK-MURPHY
Print Name

Chairperson Bee City Brandon
Title

10 May 18
Date

Bee City Canada Liaison (if not Applicant)


Signature

Lindsay Hargreaves
Print Name

Environmental Initiatives
Title Coordinator

May 10, 2018
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 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.

