

# A) City or Community Information

**Municipality/First Nation:** City of Niagara Falls

**Province/Territory:** Ontario

**Mayor, Chief or Chair of Commission**

Name & Title: Mayor Jim Diodati

**Name of Applicant & Title:** Jeff Guarasci, Community Development Coordinator

**Organization or Department:** City of Niagara Falls

**Address:** 1-7150 Montrose Road

**City/First Nation:** Niagara Falls      **Province/Territory:** Ontario

**Postal Code:** L2H 3N3

**Email:** [jguarasci@niagarafalls.ca](mailto:jguarasci@niagarafalls.ca)      **Phone:** 905-356-7521 ext.3341

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

NAME	AFFILIATION	EMAIL
Jeff Guarasci	Staff	<a href="mailto:jguarasci@niagarafalls.ca">jguarasci@niagarafalls.ca</a>
Renee Delaney	Small Scale Farms	<a href="mailto:info@smallscalefarms.ca">info@smallscalefarms.ca</a>
Corey Burant	Niagara Parks Commission	<a href="mailto:cburant@niagaraparks.ca">cburant@niagaraparks.ca</a>

## Media Contact

**Name & Title:** Teresa Simmonds, Communication Officer

**Department:** Communications Department

**Email:** [tsimmonds@niagarafalls.ca](mailto:tsimmonds@niagarafalls.ca)      **Phone:** 905-356-7521 ext.5105

**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.**

The City of Niagara Falls, through the efforts of the Park in the City Committee have made efforts to create awareness and advocate for the installations of new pollinator gardens in the community. Some recent projects included as follows:

- Installations of 2 pollinator gardens at Fireman's Park. This was made possible through a partnership with the Niagara Restoration Council and an AVIVA Grant.
- Installation of a pollinator garden at Westlane Secondary School. This was made possible through the Niagara Region's Healthy Kids Community Challenge initiative.
- For the past few years, schools that have registered in the committee's Niagara Falls Schools In Bloom program have been encouraged to design and install pollinator gardens along their school grounds. In turn, these gardens are used for educational purposes.
- In 2017, through a Canada 150 grant, the City was able to create a green burial site at the existing Fairview Cemetery. Over 10,000 pollinator plants were planted.
- This year, the committee's Niagara Falls Trillium Awards (a curbside view landscape award program) is encouraging participants to plant pollinators and edible plants in their front yard landscaping.
- The Niagara Parks Commission has completed a large amount of work in installing a pollinator garden route for visitor and residents to view. This includes 12 pollinator beds that host over 15,000 pollinator plants. They are in the process of restoring 120 acres of fallow fields at the Chippawa Battlefield site into native grassland habitat to support pollinators and grassland dependent bird species. NPC is also restoring Oak savannah habitat (Chinquapin Oak Savannah across from the Botanical Gardens) through prescribed burning and planting. The Botanical Gardens installed the 1 acre - Legacy Garden in 2012-2014 which was designed using only native prairie and meadow species to support pollinator species and educate the public about native plants. Native bee structures have also been installed at this site.

## **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.**

The City, through partners in the Park in the City Committee and other municipal means will review areas that are able to host pollinator gardens. Staff and volunteers will research available grant opportunities to take advantage of these resources to help enhance the environment. The city currently doesn't use pesticides, which is governed through regional by-law.

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

The educational component is currently taking place through the Niagara Falls Schools in Bloom program and in the Niagara Falls Summer Trillium Awards program. Further efforts will be made through the city's website, newspaper inserts/editorials and at future Park in the City Committee initiatives.

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

The City of Niagara Falls will make efforts to promote Pollinator Week. The Park in the City Committee will investigate options to help promote and possibly create an event to enhance efforts.

## 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:** 

**Print Name:** Jeff Guarasci

**Title:** Community Development Coordinator

**Date:** March 14, 2018