

Bee City Renewal - Entry #21

<p>Name of City, Town or Municipality</p> <p>Chestermere</p>
<p>Province</p> <p>Alberta</p>
<p>Applicant's Name</p> <p>Alison Ciupa</p>
<p>Applicant's Job Title</p> <p>Parks Coordinator</p>
<p>Organization or Department</p> <p>Community Operations</p>
<p>Address</p> <p>105 Marina Road Chestermere, AB T1X1V7</p>
<p>Applicant's Phone</p>
<p>Applicant's Email</p>
<p>Are you the primary contact person?</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Briefly summarize your Bee City experience during the past year. Please include information about challenges, feedback, and media responses.</p> <p>In 2019 our main focus was to build our volunteer base and shift from a City organized function to a community based program. In the first quarter of 2019 we began advertising for new committee members and at our first meeting in April we had 10-15 new volunteers join us. We elected an executive and set up various sub-committees. We drew up a "Terms of Reference", "Volunteer Code of Conduct Policy" and an "Overview of Robert's Rules of Order".</p>
<p>Please tell us about your community's efforts to reduce the use of pesticides.</p> <p>During our first years as a Bee City we updated our "Parks and Recreation Open Spaces Maintenance Standards" to include an increase of our threshold values for the treatment of broad leaf weeds and the practice of blanket</p>

spraying has been replaced with spot spraying whenever threshold values are exceeded. The City of Chestermere follows Integrated Pest Management practices to ensure that whenever possible, other non-chemical methods of weed control such as mowing and hand-pulling are used. For the past two summers we have brought in a herd of approximately 300 goats to munch through the north end of the lake (off-leash area). Target Browsing with goats is ideal for ecologically sensitive areas where herbicides or other control methods are impractical or not appropriate.

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

The city owns a small greenhouse to grow annuals for our seasonal floral displays. In 2019 we also grew *Liatris* bulbs, a hardy perennial that attracts pollinators. The committee planted these during National Pollinator Week into beds that we created in 2017 and that were specifically planted with pollinator-friendly plant material. Not only did the bees enjoy the *Liatris*, we also attracted a large number of Painted lady butterflies to the site.

How did your community promote being a Bee City?

We provided bookmarks to the Mighty Neighborly's "Welcome to Chestermere Crate" program. This program provides new residents with a wooden crate full of promotional goodies from local businesses as well as information about community services. Our Bee City bookmarks help to steer people to our website where they can find more information about local Bee City initiatives. In 2020 we would like to include a native perennial seed packet and a pamphlet with more information about creating habitat on your own property to attract pollinators.

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

We set up information booths at our Canada Day and Chestermere Fall Fair to talk to residents about the importance of pollinators and handed out "Buzzing Gardens" native perennial seed packets that were given to us by "Bees Matter". Bees Matter is a partnership of agricultural organizations with a vested interest in pollinator health. We were introduced to this group through our involvement with the "Communities in Bloom" program. The city also has a website with a page devoted to Bee City.

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

Again this year, our Mayor, Marshall Chalmers, made a formal proclamation recognizing National Pollinator Week. The committee got together during the week to plant perennials in our pollinator gardens.

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

The committee is interested in creating habitat around the many storm ponds in the city. A source of native plant plugs has been identified and we will be looking for ways to fund this project as well as collaborating with the City of Chestermere Parks Department to determine the best path forward with respect to location and ongoing maintenance requirements. The Rotary Club in conjunction with the Parks Department are planning an Edible Garden with construction scheduled for spring/summer 2020. Not only will this garden provide a source of food for the community but the numerous flowering trees, shrubs and perennials will be a welcomed source of food for pollinators as well. The Edible Garden plan includes a bee garden where we can showcase plant material and educate residents through the use of signage.

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

None at this time

File Uploads

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File Uploads 2

[IMG_1914.JPG](#)

File Uploads 3

[IMG_1892.JPG](#)

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

Yes

Bee City Renewal Fees

10,001 – 25,000 population - \$200

[Bee City Canada](#)