

Bee City Renewal - Entry #20

Name of City, Town or Municipality Township of King
Province Ontario
Applicant's Name Monica Choy
Applicant's Job Title Environmental Stewardship Coordinator
Organization or Department Parks, Recreation & Culture
Address 2585 King Road King City, Ontario L7B1A1
Applicant's Phone
Applicant's Email
Are you the primary contact person? Yes
Briefly summarize your Bee City experience during the past year. Please include information about challenges, feedback, and media responses. <p>King Township performed a variety of activities related to pollinators in 2019. Activities focused around both increasing pollinator habitat, as well as increasing the community's awareness when it comes to the many issues our native pollinators face. Examples of activities include: pollinator-related educational presentations for the general public, native wildflower plantings throughout the Township involving local volunteers, mason bee house building workshop, and litter clean ups to improve pollinator habitat.</p> <p>Challenges included trying to engage and involve King Township residents, particularly youth, in our pollinator-related events. The population in King Township is quite small and spread out, effective promotion has consistently been a challenge for the environmental stewardship coordinator. However, efforts have been made to overcome this challenge by testing a broader variety of advertising platforms.</p>

Feedback has been generally positive at our pollinator-based events, with a majority of Township residents expressing interest in pollinators and doing their part to help.

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

Community initiatives focusing on habitat creation and improvement involve the Environmental Stewardship Coordinator at King Township organizing wildflower plantings and tall grass restoration across several sites throughout the township, including locations such as Cold Creek Conservation Area, Schomberg Community Farm, King City Community Garden, King Township owned buildings such as the new King Township Municipal Centre and the King Heritage & Cultural Centre.

How did your community promote being a Bee City?

King Township promoted being a Bee City through our webpage in the Environmental Stewardship section of the King Township website. We also promoted being a Bee City and some of our previous year's accomplishments in our bi-annual community guide that is available to the entire municipality.

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

King Township ran several community-based programs that aimed to educate the public including:

- Guided nature walks in partnership with local gardening groups and the local conservation authorities to teach the public about the importance of pollinators.
- A bee house building workshop to show how participants could build a bee house using recycled materials for native bees.
- Participation in local community gardens (King City Community Garden, Schomberg Community Farm) to educate local gardeners about the importance of planting pollinator-friendly, native wildflowers.
- Native wildflower plantings that were open to the general public to attend and plant so that they could not only make a tangible difference in the planting area, but also learn about the importance of pollinators.

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

A few events King Township ran during National Pollinator Week in 2019 included:

- Partnership with a local holistic nutritionist to run a "Healing with Honey" workshop to teach participants about the health properties of honey.
- A public wildflower planting at a King Township property to increase the amount of pollinator-friendly habitat available for local pollinators.
- A bee house building workshop in partnership with a Master Gardener group to teach participants how to build a bee house using recycled materials.

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

King Township's plan for 2020 includes the following:

- Create pollinator habitat at the King Township Municipal Centre (2585 King Road) through the creation of a new pollinator garden in the front section of the building where there is currently only tall, wild grasses growing. This area will be highly visible to the public as you must drive past it to access the parking lot for the building and could also potentially host an educational sign on the importance of pollinators.
- We will continue planting pollinator-friendly wildflowers at Cold Creek Conservation Area (CCCA) to improve

several established pollinator habitats throughout the property, as well as to improve the native vegetative cover of the conservation area as required in the Cold Creek Strategic Plan. An apiary was also installed at CCCA in partnership with Innisfil Creek Honey and signage is currently in the process of being installed to provide an educational opportunity for visitor's to the conservation area.

- A native butterfly garden was planted at the Schomberg Community Farm in 2019 that is available for viewing by all of the community garden gardeners. This butterfly garden will be maintained and added to in 2020.
- King Township plans to continue planting native wildflowers where possible through community events (eg. King City Community Garden, during our pollinator celebration event for National Pollinator Week in 2020).

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

The Buzz – Sunday, June 28

In celebration of National Pollinator Week, join us at Cold Creek Conservation Area for a fun-filled day of eco-activities, vendors, apiary tours, talks from experts, and food and drink all related to our native pollinators! Come learn about the importance of pollinators and what you can do to protect and create important pollinator habitats.

Visit <https://buzz-king.weebly.com/> for more information.

Beginner Bee Keeping Workshops – Multiple Dates

If you have interest in becoming a Beekeeper then this is the workshop for you. After taking this workshop you will have the knowledge to confidently start a bee hive and continue your journey to becoming a bee keeper. This is a hands on and interactive workshop happening in partnership with Innisfil Creek Honey. Registration required; please visit <https://king-beekeeping.eventbrite.ca>

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

Yes

If you answered "Yes", please provide the URL of your Bee City webpage.

<http://www.king.ca/LivingInKing/ParksRecreationCulture/Environmental%20Stewardship/Pages/Bee-City-Certified.aspx>

Bee City Renewal Fees

10,001 – 25,000 population - \$200

We welcome your comments and suggestions to help us improve Bee City Canada.

The Bee City Certification is a great initiative and the Township hopes to continue engaging Township residents about pollinators and what they can do to positively affect our native pollinators!

[Bee City Canada](#)