



Connecting People,
Pollinators and Places

Bee City Canada Renewal

Congratulations on your continued commitment to supporting pollinator health!
Your efforts and dedication are having a positive impact in your community
and across Canada.

As part of the Bee City Canada renewal process, we ask that you share with us
some information about your experiences to date and your plans
for the upcoming year.

Application Form

City of Chestermere
(Name of Municipality/First Nation)

Alberta
(Province/Territory)

Please send renewal application to applications@beecitycanada.org

Liaison Contact Information:

Name: Alison Ciupa

Title: Gardening Lead Hand

Organization or Department: Parks & Recreation / Community Services Department

Municipality/First Nation: City of Chestermere

Phone: 403-207-2807

Email: aciupa@chestermere.ca

1. Briefly summarize your Bee City experience. Please include information about community feedback, challenges and media responses.

This past year we continued planting flowering trees, shrubs and perennials in several areas around the City including Cornerstone Community Park where we held a volunteer planting event during National Pollinator Week.

We helped to educate people about the importance of our pollinators by visiting local schools and helped the Calgary Zoo spread the word by volunteering at their Bee City information booth during their Easter Eggstravaganza weekend.

Moving forward it will be essential to find community partnerships and more volunteers who can bring new ideas and continued enthusiasm in maintaining and creating habitats and providing educational opportunities for all ages.

Media responses have been positive. In July, an article about Airdrie's beekeeping efforts was published in the [Calgary Herald](#). Chestermere was recognized as a bee city in the article.

Please tell us about your experiences with the Pollinator Working Group.

There are currently 3 community members and 3 city staff members on the Bee City Committee. We have ad-hoc meetings, next year, we will try and meet more regularly to further promote activities in our community.

Please tell us about your community's efforts to reduce the use of pesticides.

In 2018 the City's Parks Department continued its reduction of pesticide use that was formally introduced to the parks maintenance program in 2017. This included an update to the "[Parks and Recreation Open Spaces Maintenance Standards](#)". Specifically, the threshold values for treatment of broadleaf weeds were doubled for Class 1 parks. Also the practice of spraying as a method of weed control on medians and boulevards was eliminated. Whenever possible, other non-chemical methods of weed control are favored such as mowing and hand-pulling. The focus has shifted to improving turf health through

proactive maintenance practices such as aeration, top dressing and over seeding.

For the first time, the Parks Department brought in a [herd of goats](#) four times this growing season. The goats were introduced as a means of controlling various noxious weed species that were growing in close proximity to Chestermere Lake. This location, being an environmentally sensitive site, required that an alternative approach to weed management without introducing potential toxins to the environment.

Please tell us about community initiatives focusing on habitat creation and restoration. If possible, include a plant list.

This year we held a planting event with volunteers from Lake Ridge Community Church and Synergy at Cornerstone Community Park. This is home to the city's new Centre for Community Leadership and the Chestermere skate park. Various flowering shrubs and perennials were planted that attract pollinators over the entire growing season such as Lilac, Potentilla, Spirea and Monarda. Photos below.

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

Dr. Preston Pouteaux, our founding community member, continues to educate children about pollinators. He is also the author of a new book entitled "The Bees of Rainbow Falls". In his book, Preston tells us how becoming a beekeeper changed his perception of his neighbors and his neighborhood.

One of the group members attended an educational event at the Calgary Zoo at Easter to help with the kick-off of the Zoo becoming a Bee Business along with Shelly Candel, Director of Bee City Canada and Sarah Johnson, Lead Biologist for Wildlife Preservation Canada.

Please tell us about your community's participation in International Pollinator Week celebrations and other events. Include photos, web links, stories, media pieces and posters which can be shared through our website and social media networks.

This year, the Mayor of Chestermere, Marshall Chalmers, made a [formal proclamation](#) recognizing national pollinator week at a Council Meeting. We also held a [planting event](#) with community volunteers at the Centre for Community Leadership in Cornerstone Community Park. We also had a social media campaign during pollinator week (see below).

Twitter:
Facebook:



Tell us how your Municipality/First Nation promoted being a Bee City.

We provided promotional materials such as bookmarks and small yard signs to Chestermere's Mighty Neighbourly program. This volunteer program welcomes new families to the community by delivering a basket of goodies and information to help connect them to businesses, organizations and events in Chestermere.

We also ensure to mention it in regular stories and publications, such as this [article](#) regarding DIY planters posted July 12 to our website, as well as printed community newsletter (which is sent to all residents' homes in Chestermere).

During pollinator week, we had a social media campaign. The facts and graphics provided by Pollinator Week Canada were very helpful!

We also regularly update our [Bee City webpage](#) with any upcoming events, activities or campaigns.

What are your plans for the coming year? Please attach any documents outlining plans for habitat restoration or new habitat creation, pesticide reduction, demonstration gardens, community education initiatives and celebrations.

Over the next year:

We would like to set up a booth at our annual Canada Day Celebration to provide education and encourage residents to provide food and nesting opportunities for pollinators at home.

Work in conjunction with an edible garden and permaculture initiative that is currently in the planning stages to convert unused lawn area into a biodiverse source of food for people as well as pollinators.

Find new members for the working group to continue to help spread the word about pollinators to the community.

Update the city website with more educational material

Erect signage on our new signboards at the main entrances into the city.

How can Bee City Canada help to facilitate your vision of a community which supports pollinators?

It would be helpful to have some age-appropriate presentations that could be downloaded and use for classroom presentations.

We welcome your comments and suggestions to help us improve Bee City Canada, our web site and other communications.

Goats at Chestermere Lake:



Bee City Planting at Centre for Community Leadership:



Bee City Easter Eggstravaganza:



Submitted by: _____

Date: _____

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Suggested Activities:

Habitat:

- Work with growers and experts to develop a Pollinator-Friendly Species List of attractive plants that: are native to your locale, provide food or nesting materials for pollinators, and are available from local seed and plant suppliers.
- Identify areas that can be enhanced for pollinator habitat.
- Collaborate with public and private groups to host plantings and invasive species removal.
- Track annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced by square footage and/or acreage.
- Include educational signage near habitat whenever possible to encourage others to create their own.

Policies & Practices:

- Develop and adopt a Recommended Pollinator-Friendly Species List of attractive plants that: are native to your county, provide food or nesting materials for pollinators, and are available from local seed and plant suppliers.
- Create incentives for or require developers to use native, pollinator friendly plants in their landscaping.
- Identify an inventory of Municipality/First Nation land that could be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings.
- Create disincentives for or bans on using pesticides for cosmetic purposes on municipal property, or within the municipality's jurisdiction
- Develop a least toxic integrated pest management (IPM) plan.
- Review the Municipality/First Nation Plan and other relevant documents for ways to support pollinator conservation using methods mentioned above.

Education & Outreach:

- Provide staff development regarding managing landscapes to sustain pollinators.
- Provide public education through workshops, brochures, websites and media regarding best practices to sustain pollinators.
- Plant and/or label native, pollinator-friendly plants in highly visible locations.
- Recognize businesses, residents, or neighbourhoods for establishing and maintaining pollinator friendly habitats and demonstration gardens.
- Encourage mowing lawns less frequently to allow dandelions and clover to bloom, or replace lawns with pollinator meadows.
- Report pollinator-friendly activities in the media and on your Bee City Canada web page.
- Collaborate with the Department of Transportation to make roadsides pesticide-free native pollinator meadows.
- Host citizen science projects to inventory pollinators.