



# Bee City Renewal 2020

**Name of City, Town, Municipality or First Nation**

Barrie

---

**Province**

Ontario

---

**Applicant's Name**

Stephanie Wideman

---

**Applicant's Job Title**

Parks Technician

---

**Organization or Department**

City of Barrie- Parks and Forestry

---

**Address**

165 Ferndale Drive North  
Barrie, ON  
L4M 4T5

---

**Applicant's Phone**

+17057394220

---

**Applicant's Email**

[Stephanie.Wideman@barrie.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Wideman@barrie.ca)

---

**Are you the primary contact person?**

No

---

**Contact's Name**

Chesley Stone

---

**Contact's Phone**

+17057394220

---

**Contact's Email**

[Chesley.Stone@barrie.ca](mailto:Chesley.Stone@barrie.ca)

---

## **Pollinator Team Members**

Kevin Bradley, Manager of Parks and Forestry Operations- [Kevin.Bradley@barrie.ca](mailto:Kevin.Bradley@barrie.ca)  
Chesley Stone, Supervisor of Parks Service and Construction- [Chesley.Stone@barrie.ca](mailto:Chesley.Stone@barrie.ca)  
Mona Boyd, Foreperson of Horticulture- [Mona.Boyd@barrie.ca](mailto:Mona.Boyd@barrie.ca)  
Jenna Webb, Parks and Forestry Coordinator- [Jenna.Webb@barrie.ca](mailto:Jenna.Webb@barrie.ca)  
Stephanie Wideman, Parks Technician- [Stephanie.Wideman@barrie.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Wideman@barrie.ca)

---

## **Briefly summarize your Bee City experience during the past year. Please include information about challenges, feedback, and media responses.**

The City of Barrie was honored with the designation of becoming Canada's 30th Bee City and has been steadily working to build and expand the initiative. It has been busy both on the forefront and behind the scenes.

Much of the work has focused on revitalization and initiation of habitat, creating resources, building strong partnerships, promoting education, and community outreach. Our team has been learning and growing into the role of pollinator people leaders so we can teach and guide our community. People are eager to learn more about Bee City and how to be a part of the growing movement of protecting pollinators.

Bee City designation was a premier event for the Community in Blooms International competition, which helped Barrie maintain its 5-blooms rating and provided the starting-point of our Bee City development. This created the bulk of our multiple media releases which produced many positive requests and inquiries from the public. By far the biggest challenge has been the cancellation of most of our celebratory events that were planned for 2020 which is both heartbreaking and necessary. This has opened the door for more online opportunities showing us that there are always ways to be connected.

---

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

The City of Barrie implemented the Pesticide Reduction Policy in 2003 and council adopted the Naturalization Policy in 2007. This framework strengthened our Integrated Pest Management strategy. This year's focus has been for the control and education of terrestrial invasive species which includes:

- Attending and sharing information gathered from training and conferences about invasive species.
- Providing training to multiple departments and summer staff about identification of invasive

species such as Phragmites, Giant Hogweed and Garlic Mustard.

- Training on how to input inventory of invasive species with EDDMaps and the Collector app.
- Working with community partners and volunteer groups to strategize on control measures and removals of phragmites.
- Updating the City of Barrie website to include content and resources on invasive species.
- Invasive species display at our Public Works Week Open House.

We will continue to track our invasive species and perform measures to restrict the movement of these invaders in hopes of protecting our native plant communities that are vital for pollinators.

---

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

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

- Urban Pantry is a local community food program operating out of the Canadian Mental Health Association -Simcoe County that received a grow grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. With this grant, our community gardens program got an expansion that created new gardens plots in two of our parks. A mix of both regular, double-sized, and accessible raised beds created a total of 39 allotments. This increase of food production space increased area for pollinator activity to occur and provides education opportunities about pollinators role in food production.
- Phrag Busters is a grass roots community group championed by passionate people who cares about our land being invaded by Phragmites. It is with their lead that partnerships were created with Royal Victoria Hospital, Georgian College, and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority to remove phragmites at the Dunsmore Marsh. This group also organized a removal along our North Shore Trail and are part of Strategic group to identify other infestations, control measures and organize other clean up days.
- Gables Park Shoreline Restoration: The City of Barrie Parks and Forestry department remediated a section of shoreline in one of our waterfront parks. Heavy wave action, coupled with sandy soil, lack of vegetation and the deterioration of an outdated break-wall caused heavy erosion. All aspects of the project were completed in house and the re-wilding of the shoreline with native plants and natural stone will provide prime waterfront habitat for our pollinators.
- City-funded native tree community plantings at various parks and natural areas got the community and our partners, Living Green and the local conservation authorities, together out learning about the importance of preserving and intensifying our urban forest and natural areas.

- Enhanced natural areas with purposeful planting of pollinator loving native plants that are highly ornamental in various patches in Sunnidale Park.
  - Collection of milkweed and other seeds from parks for future plantings that will ensure genetic provenance that local collecting provides.
  - Increased no mow areas in parks that have slope, close to water courses and wet areas.
- 

### **How did your community promote being a Bee City?**

Building up relationships with people in the community was the driving force of promoting Bee City Barrie. There were many groups and organizations that took interest, but the Barrie Public Library has been a driving force from the initial designation. Some of their events, including Seedy Saturday and the Reading Garden Openings, all revolved around the Bee City Barrie initiative.

The connections made with community groups, businesses, organizations, and citizens through email, phone calls, texts and in person conversations built a growing interest in what Bee City Barrie is going to do. This turned into opportunities to get out into the community with information and answers. Other stand out examples include:

- CARP (Canadian Association for Retired Persons) article on the community page in their spring newsletter.
  - Publicity from our designation and other events, including social media, articles, press releases, and posters.
  - Website updates and access to more resources.
  - Signage placed at the Bee Hotel in Sunnidale Park and along the busy path at our waterfront are prominent locations to display our designation.
  - Bee City Barrie brochure that highlights our designation.
  - City of Barrie Spring/Summer Leisure Guide 2020
  - Promotional items such as a cut out board for kids faces and blade signage.
- 

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

- Buzz webinars sessions and sharing resources with staff.
- Information session to the residents of Parkside Village about Bee City and a Q+A session about a swarm of bees that was left untouched in their neighborhood park.
- Activities and games about pollinators with a summer camp at the park about Bees and the swarm.

- Created displays about Bee City and ‘What do Bee’s do in Winter’ activities at our Nature in Winter event.

Many of the upcoming events were directed at educational, hands on activities such as Seedy Saturday and Celebrate Barrie.

There has been much time spent gathering and creating resources for both internal use and public knowledge. Many of them are on hold until post-COVID recovery including:

- City of Barrie Native Pollinator Plant List
- Barrie Bee Hotel Maintenance Guide
- Bee’s of Barrie- iNaturalist Citizen Science Project (engage the community to capture photos of our bee’s and discovering together what is Barrie’s Bee)
- Virtual Community Connections- Videos of about various aspects of pollinators and habitat.
- Detailed update of the Bee City Barrie Website

---

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

The City of Barrie became a Bee City on June 24th, 2019, which marked the end of National Pollinator Week with the ultimate celebration. This presentation was attended by the international judges of Community in Blooms which launched their tour of Barrie. This was a chance to highlight Bee City, our new Bee Hotel, and the pollinator patch in Sunnidale Park on an international platform.

In the short time that COVID-19 has changed our world and impacted every facet of our lives, we look to the future for when we can gather, as a community, to celebrate what is important. To cancel our events was a tough decision, but the time and effort will not go to waste as it is only on hold. COVID-19 cancellations included:

- Seedy Saturday
- Barrie Public Library- Reading Garden openings
- Celebrate Barrie
- Pollinator Week Kick-Off
- Communities in Bloom

The City of Barrie will be celebrating Pollinator Week virtually through our Together at Home digital hub. We are inviting our residents to get involved with our ‘Pic-a-Pollinator’ contest, in which the winner will receive a Butterfly House for their garden and will have their photo featured across multiple media channels. There will be other activities and information posted on both on the City of Barrie’s website and Together at Home.

---

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

There are so many positive gains to be made and are planned for the next year, which all hinge on COVID-19. We hope to still be able to accomplish these goals:

- Community garden and teaching garden expansions
- Installation of more Bee Hotels and other habitat structures
- North Shore Trail Restorations
- Expansions of pollinator patches and native plantings
- Increase signage in parks and in community gardens
- Continue the development of resources.
- Increase invasive species removals and collection of inventories.
- More hands-on educational opportunities in the community.

---

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

Due to COVID-19, we are recognizing Pollinator Week virtually! We invite residents to do their part safely at home and 'bee' online with us to celebrate Pollinator Week. Visit Barrie's 'Together at Home' to take part in our 'Pic-a-Pollinator' contest. Snap a photo of a pollinator in your backyard and submit it here. One lucky person will have their photo featured on the City's website, social media channels and will win a Butterfly House! (must be a Barrie resident, entries accepted from June 22 to June 28, 2020).

<https://www.buildingbarrie.ca/togetherathome>

---

**File Uploads**

[BeeCityRenewalPhotos2020.pdf](#)

---

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

Yes

---

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

<https://www.barrie.ca/Living/Environment/Conservation/Pages/Bee-City.aspx>

---

### **Bee City Renewal Fees**

100,001 – 250,000 population - \$500

---

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

It would be amazing to compile a comprehensive plant list from all of the Bee City's to create a collaborative Bee City Canada Native Pollinator Plant guide. This would draw on all of the expertise in our pollinator protection community and capture the range of flora in such a large country.