



Bee City Renewal 2020

Name of City, Town, Municipality or First Nation

City of Niagara Falls

Province

Ontario

Applicant's Name

Jeff Guarasci

Applicant's Job Title

Community Development Coordinator

Organization or Department

Recreation & Culture Department

Address

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Applicant's Phone

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Applicant's Email

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Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Pollinator Team Members

Jeff Guarasci - Primary organizer - jguarasci@niagarafalls.ca
Renee Delaney - Primary Community Volunteer - info@smallscalefarms.ca
Mark Richardson - Primary Grounds Manager - mrichardson@niagarafalls.ca
Kerry Royer - Local Conservation Support - kroyer@npca.ca
Corey Burant - Niagara Parks Liaison - cburant@niagaraparks.ca

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

The City of Niagara Falls has had success in installing another large pollinator garden in Firemen's Park, which is the main destination park in the City. Through past experiences, we found that we needed to post large information sign to identify these gardens to the public and to the public works staff to ensure these locations were not walked on or mowed. Additionally, by acquiring community volunteer

help to manage the up-keep of the gardens was a major factor at the start of these gardens to ensure they had a good opportunity to establish themselves.

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

The City of Niagara Falls does not use pesticides in green public spaces.

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

The City is currently looking at partnership opportunities to help restore areas within the City. A plan has not been established to identify particular areas to date.

How did your community promote being a Bee City?

The City has highlighted the pollinator garden build events through a media advisory, social media feeds and content on their website.

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

The City of Niagara Falls, through the Park in the City Committee has made efforts through their event schedule to ensure to include the public to participate in all of their tree/pollinator planting initiatives. Each session includes an introductory session on how to plant trees/pollinators. In partnership with Small Scale Farms and Cemetery Services, the City has held "seed bomb" demonstrations with local youth. Coming in 2021, the Park in the City Committee will be hosting their first ever Mother Earth Day event, which is an environmental festival that includes various enviro vendors, demonstrators, entertainment, locally sourced food fair, a community clean-up, tree and pollinator planting. Another initiative that is under review is an on-going community sponsored tree/pollinator planting program that can be used for team building purposes.

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

These plans are on hold until the COVID-19 pandemic is resolved. Online content is currently being produced to promote gardening and pollinators through the Park in the City Committee. These videos will be posted online on the City's website as they are produced.

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

In later 2020, (pending on conditions) the Park in the City, in partnership with the NPCA will be establishing a new pollinator garden at Drummond Hill Cemetery. In 2021, the Park in the City Committee will be conduct their first environmental fair called Mother Earth Day, which will include establishing another pollinator garden at Firemen's Park. The City is always open to creating more gardens in partnership with local community organizations if those opportunities arise.

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

in 2019, we were able to establish 2 new pollinator gardens (Patrick Cummings Park and Firemen's Park). Due to COVID-19, our 2020 plans have been put on hold until the emergency status is raised. We are hoping to establish another garden at one of our local cemeteries in partnership with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and local grade school students. The larger 2020 Mother Earth Day event has been postponed until May 29, 2021. This event will include enviro vendors, demonstrators, entertainment, locally sourced food fair, a community clean-up, tree planting and pollinator garden planting.

File Uploads

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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://niagarafalls.ca/city-hall/committees/park-in-the-city/conservation-waste-reduction.aspx>

Bee City Renewal Fees

Less than 5,000 population - FREE