



# Bee City Renewal 2020

**Name of City, Town or Municipality**

City of Airdrie

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**Province**

Alberta

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**Applicant's Name**

Gail R. Gibeau

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**Applicant's Job Title**

Senior Planner

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**Organization or Department**

City of Airdrie - Planning & Development

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**Address**

400 Main Street SE  
Airdrie, Alberta  
T4B 3C3

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**Applicant's Phone**

+14039488800

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**Applicant's Email**

[gail.gibeau@airdrie.ca](mailto:gail.gibeau@airdrie.ca)

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**Are you the primary contact person?**

Yes

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

The feedback from residents has been very encouraging as it relates to pollinators in general. Great care was taken not to focus too much on urban beekeeping as that topic sometimes illicit negative feedback. The negative feedback for urban beekeeping seems to be based on mis-information about bees. In response, the media campaign included providing education material to residents on the differences between bees and wasps, which more people seem to have an issue with. The media campaign also creating and erecting signage with factoids on bees. These signs were moved around to the various parks during the summer months.

It has been particularly challenging to get volunteers for the Pollinator Working Group. Consequently, this year we be placing a big focus on building our volunteer base with the expectation that the community will take ownership of being a Bee City in so doing shifting the level involvement from city staff to the community.

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

In keeping with our Integrated Pest Management Plan, we aspire to keep our City park spaces within our established threshold levels with minimal use of Pesticides.

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

As part of the Urban Beekeeping Pilot Project and the Bee City designation awareness campaign, we encourage our residents to plant pollinator friendly gardens and to get educated on beekeeping. The media campaign included an educational component promoting native plantings that are native to Airdrie. In addition, we hosted a free urban beekeeping workshop at City Hall that was well attended and garnered a lot of positive feedback from residents.

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

1. We issued a press release officially inform our residents of the designation. This followed up by multiple radio and print media interviews aimed at building awareness in the community and soliciting volunteers for the Pollinator Working Group.
  2. Launched a webpage dedicated to promoting Bee City ([www.airdrie.ca/beecity](http://www.airdrie.ca/beecity)) and to inform residents about the various events and initiatives the City is undertaking to celebrate pollinators.
  3. Our proud to be a Bee City sign was erected in a prominent location along an entrance road into the City. Our plan is to move the sign to different locations throughout the summer months.
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**Please tell us about your efforts aimed at educating your community, including residents, city employees, contractors, children and other groups.**

Information booths were set up with education material at various festivals/events in the City. These festivals/events are well attended by residents providing staff an opportunity to inform and educate residents about what Airdrie is doing as a Bee City and what they could do to protect and promote pollinators. All of our bee city events are shared with other city departments who show their support by attending the events.

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

1. City Hall was illuminated in yellow, black and white on June 17, 2019 kicking off Pollinator week.
2. Our Municipal Council declared the week of June 17-23 as Pollinator week in the City of Airdrie.
3. The City of Airdrie put together two events during the International Pollinator Week.

- i. Friendly Pollinator Talk at Airdrie Farmers Market - at this event we provided residents with information package about Airdrie Pollinators. This included a list of annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs that grow well in Airdrie. We also took the opportunity to give tours of an existing community orchard that also contained the various varieties of fruit trees and shrubs that grow in Airdrie.
  - ii. Pollinator Flower Walk in Nose Creek Park - Our Parks department hosted a walk through Nose Creek park which is approximately 20 acres show casing the various plantings done in the park and explaining the Parks department process in managing naturalized areas and pollinator gardens in the Park.
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**Describe your plans for creating, improving and maintaining pollinator habitat during the next year.**

Building on the successful events of pollinator week in 2019, we will be asking Council to declare June 22-28 as pollinator week in Airdrie. A request to have City Hall illuminated in recognition of Pollinator Week will be presented to Council in April 2020. City Hall illumination will once again kick off our pollinator week events. Once again, we will have a pollinator walk in one of our parks and host a friendly pollinator talk. We are researching sources for seeds (ideally free) that we could distribute to our residents during pollinator week.

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

We are in the early stages of planning this year's events, which will include:

1. Friendly Pollinator Talk – staff will have an information both at one of our existing orchards where we will provide information on edible gardens and the role of pollinators.
  2. Pollinator Walk – staff will provide a guided tour of a local park talking about the plantings and what the City is doing in our parks to promote and protect pollinators.
  3. We will be having a volunteer recruitment drive for the Pollinator Working Group
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**File Uploads**

[Airdrie Pollinators.pdf](#)

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**File Uploads 2**

[Bee Keeping leaflet.pdf](#)

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**File Uploads 3**

[Urban Beekeeping Pilot Project Guidelines 1.pdf](#)

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

Yes

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

<https://www.airdrie.ca/index.cfm?serviceID=1479>

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**Bee City Renewal Fees**

50,0001 – 100,000 population - \$400