



Bee City Renewal 2021

Name of City, Town, Municipality or First Nation

Niagara Falls

Province

Ontario

Applicant's Name

Jeff Guarasci

Applicant's Job Title

Community Development Coordinator

Organization or Department

Recreation and Culture

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Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Pollinator Team Members

Renee Delaney - Small Scale Farms
Corey Burant - Niagara Parks Commission
Kerry Royer - Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
Sue Clarke - Niagara Parks School of Horticulture
Mark Richardson - Manager of Cemetery Services

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

This past year we were able to create a large 200 metre linear pollinator garden along the fencing at our Fairview Cemetery on Stanley Avenue. Due to the COVID crisis, we were limited in how many people could participate in public events. This garden is now part of a larger pollinator network at the cemetery and throughout the City. Partners including the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and Land Care

Niagara were involved with the install, including other local volunteers from the community. The event was covered by local media in the newspaper (Niagara Falls Review) and through social media means.

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

The City of Niagara Falls does not use pesticides on City lands.

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

The City recently created a new pollinator garden at Fairview cemetery to restore natural grow areas along the perimeter of the park land. Native species planted included the following:

Tall white beardtongue
Butterfly weed
Common milkweed
Sneezeweed
Grey headed coneflower
Brown eyed susan
Narrow leaved goldenrod
Wavy leaved aster
Zig zag goldenrod
Liatris spicata
Virginia mountain mint

How did your community promote being a Bee City?

Initially, the City promoted being a Bee city during the designation phase at Fairview Cemetery. Media included TV, newspaper editorial and social media. During the spring months of this year, the City conducted social media promotional pieces geared to get people outside at home, including planting pollinator gardens. Also, through the Park in the City Committee's Summer Trillium Awards, residents were encouraged to plant pollinators in their curbside landscaping.

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

Education features were included in the above promotional pieces (COVID activities and Summer Trillium). Also the Park in the City Committee created a video series on gardening, including pollinator planting.

Here is a link where you can view our video on pollinators:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tw0UW98x11I> NOTE: file attachment exceeds size limit in your previous upload section. You can view it from YouTube.

Students volunteered to help pollinators at our last garden build, which includes a brief intro and tutorial about plant species.

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

During National Pollinator Week, the Park in the City Committee was able to coordinate a pollinator planting event at Fairview Cemetery. Over 1,500 plugs were installed by volunteers through the help of Sassafras Farms, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and Land Care Niagara. The event was covered by the local newspaper and social media.

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

In 2021, once restrictions are lifted, the City plans to install an additional large pollinator Memorial Garden. This garden will be roughly 400 metres long along a stone dust pathway that will include memorial markers for youth who have past away in the community. The install will be done by volunteers with the assistance of City Staff. Hardscapes will be installed by contractors. Local sponsors and donations will be utilized to help develop the project that was approved by Council in January. The project is currently in design mode with a date for installed to be announced later this year. All trees and plants will be native and will include pollinator attracting plants.

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

You can highlight our recent pollinator planting event that took place at Fairview Cemetery during National Pollinator Week. We planted a 200 metre linear pollinator garden along the fence line utilizing volunteers to help install the plugs.

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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/pitc>

Bee City Renewal Fees

50,0001 – 100,000 population - \$400

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

Keep up the great work! Bee City is very important for communities to keep this topic on top of mind.