



Bee City Renewal 2021

Name of City, Town, Municipality or First Nation

Barrie

Province

Ontario

Applicant's Name

Stephanie Wideman

Applicant's Job Title

Parks Program Coordinator

Organization or Department

The City of Barrie

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Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Pollinator Team Members

Kevin Bradley, Manager of Parks Planning

Stephanie Wideman, Parks Program Coordinator

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

The City of Barrie has been Canada's 30th Bee City for three years, building and expanding our status as a pollinator supporter. Our work focuses on the revitalization and initiation of habitat, creating resources, fostering strong partnerships, promoting education, and increasing our community outreach. Our team has evolved as we continue to develop our role as pollinator people leaders for our community. Residents are looking to get involved in various ways to help protect pollinators.

Due to Covid-19, our programming has been virtual allowing for safe participation. With more people getting outside into our parks, there has been an increase of citizen involvement in supporting

pollinators as residents identify opportunities to add pollinator beds or naturalized areas in their neighbourhoods. The City has initiated talks to expand programming with citizen groups like the Butterfly Rangers, Barrie Rotary Club, and Barrie Urban Gardeners. Connecting with these groups has been crucial for developing strong ties with our community.

Unfortunately, the impact of the pandemic demanded an adjustment of priorities and reduced staff time which drastically effected the number of projects that could be completed or initiated during the past year. There are some positives that came out of the pivots through innovation and program re-evaluations which we will continue to work through to help us reach our Bee City goals.

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

The City of Barrie continues to follow the implemented Cosmetic Pesticide Reduction Policy and turns its attention to the control and education of terrestrial invasive species which includes:

- Attending and sharing information gathered from training and conferences about invasive species.
- Working with the local Conservation Authorities to strengthen partnerships to identify locations for habitat protection control measures for Phragmites.
- Updating the City of Barrie website to include content and resources on Invasive Species.

The Forestry Department launched initiatives to help control the LDD moth that favours many native tree species that support pollinators. This included:

- Integrated management approach in response to the LDD Moth infestation
- Updating the City of Barrie website to include resources and steps residents can take to protect their trees from the LDD Moth infestation

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.

- The impact of Covid-19 demanded reduced staff time for parks operations that initiated a re-structuring of our mowing routines that lead to a lower mowing rate in many of our open park spaces.
- Urban Pantry, a local community food program operating out of the Canadian Mental Health Association in Simcoe County, received an Ontario Trillium Grant to build community gardens in our parks. The builds were put on hold for 2020, however, we were able to add an expansion at Shear

Park. This increase of food production space will increase area for pollinator activity to occur and provides education opportunities about pollinators role in food production.

- Increase use of native pollinator plants, such as Anise Hyssop, at highly visible locations along the waterfront.
- Initiated work with members of the Butterfly Way Rangers to create butterfly habitat in various park spaces.
- The City added a bioretention cell (Low Impact Development-LID), to the Victoria Woods Park parking lot. This LID looks like a typical garden feature that contains native grasses and flowers and offers a habitat for bees and butterflies. It also captures rainwater runoff from the parking lot and filters the water to remove sediment and phosphorus that is harmful to our streams and lakes. The City worked with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (LSRCA), utilizing a grant to fund the project.
- The Wilkins Beach shoreline restoration used native plants and naturalized areas to help restore wildlife habitat and provides pollinator support.
- North Shore Trail shoreline restoration included native plants that support pollinators, increase pollinator habitat and help naturalize the shoreline.
- Rotary Club of Barrie planted a pollinator garden in Hyde Park using the following plant list:

LATIN NAME COMMON NAME

Baptisia australis Wild Blue Indigo

Cephalanthus occidentalis Button Bush

Eurybia divaricata White Wood Aster

Ilex verticillate - Winterberry Winterberry

Monarda fistulosa Wild Bergamot

Schizachyrium scorparium Little Bluestem

Symphotrichum novae-angliae New England Aster

Tiarella cordifolia Heartleaf Foamflower

How did your community promote being a Bee City?

The connections made with community groups, businesses, organizations, and citizens through email, phone calls, texts and in person conversations built a growing interest in Bee City Barrie. This turned into

opportunities to get out into the community with information and answers. Some stand out examples include:

- Barrie Urban Gardens was started in 2021 by a group of people who are passionate about getting the citizens of Barrie excited and engaged in growing food in their homes, yards and through our local community gardens. They installed Seed Boxes at all of the community gardens to encourage the trade and distribution of seeds.

- The Barrie Public Library hosted a month-long Seedy Saturday 2021 where we encouraged residents to learn about and use of open-pollinated and heritage seeds, enabling a local seed exchange, and educating the public about seed saving and environmentally responsible gardening practices.

- o Bee City Barrie: How to Help our Pollinators this Spring, educated viewers on the decline of pollinators, their importance and how to support them. The video provides an example of a native planting plan appropriate for a dry, full-sun area and lists the pollinators they support.

- o Bee City Coffee Chat was a virtual discussion that discussed how Barrie became to be a Bee City.

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

Due to COVID, many of our educational outreach activities our residents and the community were cancelled. In light of that we were still able to continue some of our efforts.

- Staff attended a workshop hosted by the Severn Sound Environmental Association and the Town of Midland. The workshop focused on No Mow/Reduced Mow Sites and the Bee City Canada Program. The City of Barrie presented our achievements and shared lessons learned.

- City of Barrie Forestry Department put out a video on the City's social media that demonstrated management techniques residents can take to protect their trees from the LDD Moth.

- Information continued to be shared through our website and with many one-on-one communications with active citizens and volunteer groups.

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

Pollinator Week 2021 was held virtually through buildingbarrie.ca. We continued our Pic-a-Pollinator

contest for residents to share a picture of a pollinator in their vegetable garden to promote the theme of Pollinator Week 2021, Pollinators and Agriculture: A Partnership on the Land. The winner received a Butterfly House for their garden and had their photo featured across multiple media channels.

In addition, there were activities and information that include:

- A video tour and map showcasing different native flowers in bloom in the conservation area made by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.
- A survey for residents to express their concerns about the declining pollinator population and steps they are willing to take to support them.
- Activities for children and their families from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority including pollinator focused origami, math activities and educational videos.
- Multiple resources and activities from local organizations, authors and the City focusing on pollinator education, tips on identification, gardening, and how individuals can support pollinators.
- A survey for residents to express their concerns about the declining pollinator population and steps they are willing to take to support them.

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

As we look toward the future many of our goals and our opportunities for in-person programs and activities hinge on COVID-19. This year there has been a lot of positive momentum and talks initiated for future projects to be implemented next year. We hope to be able to accomplish these goals in the following year:

- Continue expansion of our urban forestry by planting tree species that support pollinator habitat.
- Continue use of native seed mix for our roadsides after construction.
- Support and increase community gardens, pollinator patches and naturalized areas.
- Expanding our Naturalization Matrix and evaluation structure to determine parks that could be converted and the best practices to increase naturalized areas within our parks.
- Updates to the Naturalization and Boulevard Planting policies.

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

Barrie Public Library

Coffee Chat: <https://my.nicheacademy.com/barrie/course/13022/sequence/13417>

Pollinator video: <https://my.nicheacademy.com/barrie/course/24206/sequence/13060>

CTV Barrie

Pollinator Week Interview-

<https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2230296>

Barrie Today

Barrie Busy as a Bee for Pollinator Week-<https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/barrie-busy-as-a-bee-for-pollinator-week-with-hive-of-activity-3896651>

There's a Real Buzz Around Pollinator Week- <https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/theres-a-real-buzz-around-pollinator-week-3886753>

BuildingBarrie - Pollinator Week 2021

<https://www.buildingbarrie.ca/pollinatorweek2021>

Upload Files



[Biotention-Cell.jpg](#)



[CAPC-in-the-garden.jpg](#)



[HydePark.jpg](#)



[Pic-a-Pollinator Winner 2020.jpeg](#)



[Pic-a-Pollinator Winner 2021.jpeg](#)



[Pollinator-Week-2020.jpg](#)



[Seed-Boxes.jpg](#)



[Wilkins-Restoration.jpg](#)

Has your City/Town/Municipality/First Nation posted Bee City Canada signage?

Yes

Please upload photos of your Bee City Canada signs.



[BeeCitySign.jpg](#)

 [sign.jpg](#)

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

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