



# Bee City Renewal 2022

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

City of Airdrie

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**Province**

Alberta

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**Applicant's Name**

Rebecca Nielsen

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**Applicant's Job Title**

Community Developer

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**Organization or Department**

Community Development

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**Address**

400 Main Street  
Airdrie, Alberta  
T4B 3C3

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**Applicant's Phone**

+14039488800

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**Applicant's Email**

[rebecca.nielsen@airdrie.ca](mailto:rebecca.nielsen@airdrie.ca)

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**Are you the primary contact person?**

No

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**Contact's Name**

Gail Gibeau

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**Contact's Phone**

+14039488800

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**Contact's Email**

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

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**Pollinator Team Members**

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

Although COVID impacted outdoor spaces less than indoor spaces, City of Airdrie staff capacity to implement Bee City related initiatives was greatly reduced during this time period due to changing priorities and lack of capacity. The permanent pollinator friendly initiatives in our City such as our community orchards have been ongoing throughout this period and have garnered additional interest from the Community as we are seeing a rise in interest about the sustainability of food supply on a local level. We have recently connected with a local community group who are interested in becoming part of the Pollinator working group and helping City staff to extend the project's reach in the community and to guide our efforts with their input.

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

The City of Airdrie only sprays for broadleaf weeds when the threshold warrants. Most weeds in shrub beds and the orchards are hand picked.

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

Annuals planted throughout the City are buzzing with lots of bees, especially the hanging baskets and the marigolds at Gwacheon park. There are also volunteer community lead pollinator beds in the Community of Silver Creek. They have plants like long- fruited anemone, Harebell, Prairie smoke, Purple prairie clover, Wild blue flax, Smooth aster, White pussy toes, Milkweed and hollyhocks to name a few. We also have the community orchards in town that are pollinator friendly - a variety of Apples, Cherries, Pears, Haskaps, Saskatoons, Gooseberry and Currants. We also plan on planting more fruit bearing trees and shrubs throughout the City in coming years.

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

We have a Bee City sign and have chosen a location in one of the City of Airdrie orchards to place the sign. In past years we created a map that was shared during pollinator week to show all of the Communities in Airdrie where pollinator initiatives were taking place.

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

We developed pollinator walks where a member of our Parks team took groups on interpretive walks through park spaces or at community orchard locations to share information about the plants located there, how they support pollinators and gave advice about plants that residents can grow at home to support pollinators.

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

Due to COVID no National Pollinator Week celebrations were carried out in 2022. We intend to revive previous year's celebration events for 2023 including asking for a City Council declaration to recognize Pollinator Week in Airdrie and to light City Hall in Yellow and Black. We will be working with a local Community group to plan new events to recognize Pollinator week 2023.

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

The Parks team has planting more fruit bearing trees/shrubs throughout the City as part of the plans for the coming years.

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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 would like to stay connected to Bee City Canada and share our new initiatives as they are developed.

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

No

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

Yes

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**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**

50,001 – 100,000 population - \$400