



# Bee City Renewal 2022

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

City of Barrie

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**Province**

Ontario

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**Applicant's Name**

Stephanie Wideman

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**Applicant's Job Title**

Parks Program Coordinator

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**Organization or Department**

City of Barrie

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**Address**

70 Collier Street  
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Barrie, Ontario  
L4M 4T5

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**Applicant's Phone**

+17057264242

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**Applicant's Email**

[stephanie.wideman@barrie.ca](mailto:stephanie.wideman@barrie.ca)

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**Are you the primary contact person?**

Yes

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**Pollinator Team Members**

Stephanie Wideman, Parks Program Coordinator, City of Barrie- [stephanie.wideman@barrie.ca](mailto:stephanie.wideman@barrie.ca)  
Pollinate Barrie, Community Organization, <https://m.facebook.com/groups/695019338169582/>

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

It has been an excellent year for Bee City Barrie in our community as we continue to focus on expanding habitat, engaging our community, and providing educational opportunities. With COVID-19 restrictions lifted, it allowed us to move forward with more in-person and hands-on activities and events. There has been strong support from residents to expand our efforts.

Lingering effects from the restrictions have continued to affect us but the City provided many examples of how to care for and support our pollinators. We are working towards how we can further enable our active volunteers to provide their valuable services to our community.

There has been media coverage with most of the items summarized below, including a media press

release for Pollinator Week. The City of Barrie communications team has excelled at using all available channels to promote the efforts of staff, partners, and active citizens.

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

The City of Barrie is upholding our cosmetic pesticide-free status by utilizing biological and cultural controls in our maintenance and operational practices. Forestry staff implemented several management options for the Spongy (LDD) Moth and encouraged residents to get involved. They handed out free burlap kits, provided directions on how to make their own kits, and encouraged residents to scrape egg masses before the hatching period.

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

Staff, community groups and citizens are working hard to create and restore Bee habitats across the city, with a focus on using native plants.

- Renovated the decommissioned community garden on Coulter Street by reseeding it with native plants.
- Community tree plantings were conducted at Kidd's Creek by Cundles Road, Dunsmore Park, and Willoughby Park with Living Green, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), respectively.
- A Pollinator Garden at Sports Complex was installed with native species and an emphasis on habitat housing for birds.
- A naturalization project at Wilkins Park aimed to restore an area of Hewitt's Creek that including 179 native trees and shrubs
- Students from Assikinack Public School planted 100 trees, 100 shrubs, and 87 perennial plants (pollinator species) along with native pollinator seeding. Fall 2022 will include additional planting and natural bench installation to create an outdoor classroom.
- Pollinate Barrie provided resources and designed pollinator gardens at Tall Trees Park and in the Eastview Community Garden.
- Barrie Garden Club partnered with Maple Grove Public School to plant a pollinator patch on the boulevard.
- The City of Barrie and the LSRCA collaborated to daylight the section of Kidd's Creek between Dunlop Street and High Street, incorporating 2000 native plants that included:  
White Pine  
Purple-Flowering Raspberry  
Eastern White Cedar  
Canada Elderberry  
Serviceberry  
Nannyberry

Red Maple  
Red Osier Dogwood  
Red Oak  
Sweet Gale  
Silver Maple  
Sandbar Willow  
Balsam Poplar  
Shining Willow  
Common Ninebark  
Slender Willow

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

The City of Barrie is a proud Bee City, taking every opportunity possible to promote our Bee City status through social media channels, online resources, and public events to increase knowledge and participation. Some of which include:

- Native Species Illustrations at Wyman Jacques Arboretum Hope Garden by Mar Lewis is a seven-panel installation that showcases a bird, a butterfly, and a plant native to our region. The brightly coloured illustrations are labelled with the common as well as the Latin name for each species.
  - The Downtown Barrie BIA (Barrie, ON) participated in the STEPS Public Art's I HeART Main Street Program to bring a revitalized piano to the community. With the help of local artists Katie Green and Mar Lewis, the piano was beautifully painted with pictures of pollinators to highlight Barrie as a Bee City. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMjINMiG1j8>)
  - Donated a Bee Hotel and interpretive signage to the Janice Laking Community Garden for Earth Day.
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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 are building ties with the newly formed community groups such as Pollinate Barrie, and continuing to strengthen existing partnerships with groups such as Nature Barrie, Living Green, Urban Pantry, local school boards, and several other projects including the following:

- The Barrie Public Library was pleased to host a virtual engagement as a part of their Seedy Saturday with guest speaker Frankie Flowers who talked about his new book, Food to Grow, and included a discussion on the important role pollinators play in food production.
- Distributed Backyard Bingo cards for kids to explore and learn about pollinators and nature.
- Completion of Riverwood, Batteaux, and Lampman Community Gardens with the Urban Pantry Trillium grant to include Andrew Hunter Elementary School Teaching Gardens in addition to Lampman Lane Community Garden.
- Created a demo garden at Lampman Lane Community Garden to highlight the importance of pollinators for food production that is used as a launching point for programming with the City of Barrie-

Camp Barrie recreation camp.

- Training session for seasonal staff and students about invasive species and noxious weeds.
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**Please tell us about your community's participation in National Pollinator Week celebrations and other events.**

This year, we were fortunate to hold our National Pollinator Week celebrations in person as part of Open-Air Dunlop. The Barrie Public Library and the Barrie Garden Club participated with handouts, activities, and free plant giveaways. We continued our popular Pic a Pollinator contest and hosted free native plant walks at Sunnidale Park.

In addition to our National Pollinator Week celebrations, the following events also included:

- Nature in Winter is part of the Hello Winter campaign. This year we featured an event at Heritage Park with our partners the LSRCA and the NVCA featuring activities centered around local flora and fauna
  - Snow-shoeing tour around Sunnidale Park featured many native plants over winter in our landscape.
  - For Seedy Saturday, we continued to promote seed boxes in the community gardens and the seed library with the Barrie Public Library which included resources as an update to the community garden webpage.
  - Lampman Lane Garden Party, hosted by Urban Pantry, was held to celebrate the service of our hard-working volunteers. We provided a bee hotel craft and takeaway, with handouts and information about Community in Blooms and the Bee City initiative.
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**Describe your plans for creating, improving and maintaining pollinator habitat during the next year.**

The City of Barrie has initiated several outreach programs with community groups and institutions to further improve pollinator habitats, expanding education on native plants stewardship and programming, moving into the next year.

- Working alongside the newly formed Pollinate Barrie to expand habitat and promote educational resources and public participation.
  - Continuing work on updating the naturalization policy
  - Install habitats that students from a local school built and donated to our parks and community gardens.
  - Continue work to support our volunteers and community groups by enhancing the means for volunteers to complete projects and provide ongoing support and maintenance for habitat
  - Seed saving practices and workshops
  - Continued involvement in community events and activities
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**Upload Files**

 [Pollinator-Week-2022.pdf](#)

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

Yes

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**Please upload photos of your Bee City Canada signs.**

 [20211021\\_144914.jpg](#)

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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.barrie.ca/Living/Environment/Conservation/Pages/Bee-City.aspx>

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**Bee City Renewal Fees**

100,001 – 250,000 population - \$500