



Bee City Renewal 2022

Name of City, Town, Municipality or First Nation

City of Brooks

Province

Alberta

Applicant's Name

Alan Martens

Applicant's Job Title

Chief Administrative Officer

Organization or Department

City of Brooks

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Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Pollinator Team Members

Name Role Email Address

Christine Magsombol EcoBrooks Committee

Tracy Oliver EcoBrooks Committee

Emrrys Oliver EcoBrooks Committee

Nicole Oliver EcoBrooks Committee

Rudy Esau EcoBrooks Committee

Ray Juska City of Brooks / EcoBrooks Committee

Jenny Wallace City of Brooks

Phil Lunn City of Brooks

Allan Philpott Philpott's Honey Producers

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

This past year, the EcoBrooks committee has been working hard to build a stronger community presence following the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on community events and gatherings. Our first year as a Bee City included a variety of virtual and in person initiatives to reach the community. These included social media contests, giveaways, small meet ups, and local booths at tradeshow and markets.

We found Bee City Canada's resources to be extremely helpful in communicating accurate information to the public regarding pollinators.

Our main challenge was engaging with the community through virtual means (i.e.: social media platforms) due to our small following – but with the help of the City of Brooks communication team as well as our local radio station, we were able to reach a wider audience. Consistent presence in the community has also helped us build connections with people and communicate our events. This was done through a weekly presence at the Brooks Farmer's Market where we shared our initiatives as a Bee City, encouraged residents to visit our edible community garden, and shared resources on how to protect pollinators.

In the upcoming year, we hope to continue our existing initiatives (i.e.: edible community garden, pollinator week celebration, community clean ups) and being present at more local events (i.e: markets and tradeshow). We are also looking into hosting educational workshops geared towards educating the public on how to create pollinator friendly green spaces. We are also continuing to build our Pollinator resource kit with brochures and infographics that pertain to our community specifically, and we anticipate that this will be very useful for us going forward.

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

Currently, the City of Brooks Parks Department does not use any form of insecticides on public

green spaces. Herbicides are considered on a case-by-case basis, and if deemed necessary.

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

This year, the City of Brooks has planted a mixture of annuals in 52 designated areas and placed 44 hanging baskets around the city. A new planter was built this year and another one is in the works for next year – the City will be adding approximately a few hundred flowers in the planters. Flowers and hanging basket plants not only add to the beautification of our city, but also provide a habitat for our local pollinators. The City also plants an average of 35 trees on a yearly basis and are continuing to plant more flowering trees each year.

How did your community promote being a Bee City?

When we first presented to our City Council in September 2021, media coverage by the Brooks Bulletin was able to promote the idea to the public through our local newspaper, which received positive reactions and interest from the community

When our Bee City designation became official In October 2021, both the City of Brooks and the EcoBrooks committee promoted our upcoming initiatives for the year through social media platforms. We first began working on our edible community garden – a space for people to gather and learn about growing fresh produce and creating healthy and diverse spaces for pollinators. Through the edible community garden project, we were able to promote our Bee City initiatives to a small group of likeminded individuals. Those who took part in this initiative gained new knowledge and skills on growing produce and learned the role of pollinators in this process.

During the Spring Tradeshow in May 2022, we continued to promote our initiatives by interacting with residents and visitors from surrounding municipalities. We shared information available from pollinator.org and Bee City Canada's website. We also

continued promoting our edible community garden.

In June 2022, our main project was celebrating Pollinator Week. We partnered with our local honey farm, Philpott's Honey, to give away jars of honey to residents of our community, along with information regarding pollinators. We also did a social media contest where residents shared their garden spaces to inspire others in the community to create pollinator friendly spaces. EcoBrooks placed signs around Lake Stafford and our edible community garden informing residents about the space being home to pollinators.

From August 2022 until now, we have been present at our local farmer's market, continuing to promote our Bee City initiatives and upcoming Fall Community Clean Up.

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

Our continued presence in various community events has allowed us to reach a variety of residents and diverse groups around the community. Our close partnership with City of Brooks employees has allowed us to receive strong support from those on the municipal decision-making level.

Later this year and continuing onto the upcoming years, we hope to host educational workshops that are about building bee hotels, bat houses etc. Interactive workshops allow residents of all ages to learn from community experts and share learned knowledge with their connections.

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

During Pollinator Week, we partnered with our local honey farm, Philpott's Honey, to give away jars of honey to residents of our community, along with information regarding pollinators. We also did a social media contest where residents shared their garden spaces to inspire others in the community to create pollinator friendly spaces. EcoBrooks placed signs around Lake Stafford and our edible community garden informing residents about the space being home to pollinators. We hosted an in person meet up at our edible garden to work on general maintenance of the garden (i.e.: weeding) and some planting.

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

In the upcoming year, we hope to continue our existing initiatives (i.e.: edible community garden, pollinator week celebration, community clean ups) and being present at more local events (i.e: markets and tradeshow). We are also looking into hosting educational workshops geared towards educating the public on how to create pollinator friendly green spaces.

We will be continuing to work with the City of Brooks Parks Department in planting and maintaining more flowers and trees throughout the city. Our goal is to also have information about specific plants available for the public to view and become informed.

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

Yes

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

No

Bee City Renewal Fees

10,001 – 25,000 population - \$200

Sent from [Bee City Canada](#)