



Bee City Renewal 2023

Name of City, Town, Municipality or First Nation

City of Brampton

Province

Ontario

Applicant's Name

Karley Cianchino

Applicant's Job Title

Environmental Project Specialist

Organization or Department

City of Brampton

Address

2 Wellington Street
Brampton, Ontario
L6Y 4R2

Applicant's Phone

+14375522166

Applicant's Email

karley.cianchino@brampton.ca

Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Pollinator Team Members

Michael Hoy Environmental Planning Manager
Karley Cianchino Environmental Project Specialist
Zoe Milligan Environmental Project Specialist
Edward Fagan Parks Maintenance and Forestry, Director
Werner Kuemmling Open Space Development Manager
Jessica Skup Community Program Coordinator
Edward Hunwicks Urban Forestry Supervisor
Brian McKelvey Horticulture Supervisor
John Allison Landscape Architect

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

The City of Brampton was officially recognized as a Bee City in June of 2021. Since then, the City of Brampton continues to implement strategic frameworks and leverage existing programs that support the Bee City designation.

During the past year, the City held various events during pollinator week such as a scavenger hunt and Twitter campaign to educate and advocate for pollinators. Additionally two major initiatives were started:

Dearbourne Pollinator Habitat Pilot Project

In 2021, an area within the Dearbourne Park was selected for a pilot project as a potential location for a new program that enhances the No Mow program. The intent of this new phase is to build a community program focused on creating and maintaining pollinator habitat on public lands in local neighbourhoods. In 2022, the City hosted an open house to engage the community about the potential habitat, its development and succession. The City is now working to plan the project and will be engaging the community again in 2023.

Grass and Weed Cutting Bylaw Update

In 2022, the City begin drafting a proposed update to its Grass and Weed Cutting By-law. The update will aim to provide property owners with more choice over their approach to gardening. The proposed changes offer more flexibility, while maintaining the health and safety of residents, their properties, and Brampton's environment.

Information on the By-law update here:

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/GrowGreen/Pages/Grass-and-Weed-Cutting-By-law-Update.aspx>

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

The City follows the governance of the Pesticide Act, 1997, and the cosmetic pesticide ban, 2009. Under this ban, the City of Brampton has limited the use of pesticides for treating weeds to protect biodiversity and human health

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

1. The Don't Mow, Let it Grow Program is an initiative that converts select areas of public land originally covered by turf grass into meadows and pollinator gardens. By doing so, this initiative restores and creates habitats by allowing for the natural growth of native grasses and flowers to support pollinators and wildlife. In 2022, the City selected its first high-traffic no-mow area. This action led to various community concerns and the identification of the community's interest in creating a community pollinator garden. In 2023, the garden will be developed and established.

2. The Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) is a collaborative model that supports sustainable urban renewal and climate action on the neighbourhood scale. For example, rain gardens (Fletchers Creek SNAP) and bioswales (County Court SNAP) provide unique habitats for pollinator species.

Snap Projects Information:

Projects: County Court Boulevard Fitlerswale - Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
City of Brampton | Stormwater | Stormwater Projects

3. Brampton's Naturalization program has naturalized over 220 hectares of land since 2002.

Through the use of native seed mixes, shrubs, and trees, this program provides food and habitat for pollinators.

4. The Natural Heritage Restoration Program (NHRP) is an initiative to protect, restore, connect, and enhance the health and biodiversity of Brampton's natural heritage and urban forest system.

Through this initiative, the City looks for opportunities to create naturalized habitats and enhance natural heritage within green infrastructure and parks. The city developed a Natural Heritage Restoration map to display Brampton's NHS and the restoration work and opportunities within it. See the map here: Natural Heritage Restoration (arcgis.com)

How did your community promote being a Bee City?

The City of Brampton promoted being a Bee City through the following initiatives:

- Promotion of Bee City certification at all relevant outreach activities such as the Brampton Farmers Market
 - Bee City Logo on staff emails
 - Pollinators webpage with Bee City Logo and recognition: City of Brampton | Parks and Open Spaces | Supporting Pollinators
 - Recognition of Pollinator week and Bee City certification on June 22, 2022 via social media https://www.instagram.com/p/CfHf_xlu9he/?igshid=YWJhMjlhZTc=
-

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

The City of Brampton educates residents through a variety of community engagement programs such as the Parks Environmental Stewardship Program, the Community Garden Program, the Backyard Garden Program, Seedy Saturday, and Gardens of Brampton Program. These programs encourage and educate residents to undertake pollinator friendly gardening techniques. Programs run annually.

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

In 2022 the City hosted the "Pollinator Week Photo Contest"

Contest Details:

Get outdoors and snap a photo of what pollination means to you. While out for a walk at the local park, hanging out in your backyard or exploring your neighbourhood, take a moment to find pollinators in action. Some example photos include:

- A pollinator on a wild flower
- A pollinators habitat
- A pollinator garden

All participants who submit a photo will be entered into a draw for a Native Flowers Planting Kit or 100 Easy-to-Grow Native Plants for Canadian Gardens

Additionally, the City celebrated Pollinator Week at the Brampton Farmers' Market, below is the advertisement for the event:

On June 25th, Parks Programming and Grow Green team will be at the Brampton Farmers' Market at Gage Park serving free lemonade made with honey from our local bees. Pick up a free native seed pack and pollinator colouring sheets while they last!

Visit us at the Market and learn about local pollinators, actions you can take to help pollinators and current pollinator initiatives the City is undertaking, including:

- City and Community Pollinator Beds
- Community Gardens Program
- Grass and Weed Cutting Bylaw update
- Don't Mow, Let it Grow Program
- Parks and Valleyland Naturalization Program

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

The City of Brampton is proud to share the follow plans to support pollinators in 2023:

- Begin Phase 3 pollinator beds at Loafers Lake
- Partner with Brampton Horticultural Society to help maintain, monitor and provide educational outreach with the public
- Expand the pollinator bed at the Earnscliffe community garden
- Expand the pollinator bed at Creditview Community Garden
- Expand the pollinator bed at Crawley Community Garden
- Create a volunteer training course to teach residents how to maintain pollinator beds
- Partner with the Brampton Public Library to showcase a pollinator based storybook walk
- Implement the Dearbourne Pollinator Habitat Pilot Project at Dearbourne Park
- Create a No-Mow monitoring program to monitor No-Mow sites
- Bring the Grass and Weed Cutting Bylaw update to City Council that supports pollinator habitat
- Jessie Park – City staff planting event (pollinator plants, shrubs, etc)
- Actively identify opportunities to support pollinators through new and existing City initiatives

Pollinator Week Events:

- Pollinator planting with TRCA at FlowerCity Campus with Queen Street P.S. during the week of June 19th
- Pollinator planting at Creditview Community Garden June 20
- Pollinator planting at Earnscliffe Community Garden June 21
- Pollinator walk and Talk with CVC June 22 at Fred Kline/Chris Gibson Park
- Pollinator booth at the Brampton Farmers Market June 24 (featuring a honey lemonade stand, a pollinator themed photobooth, and origami butterfly making)
- Pollinator talk with native plant expert Shawn Patille at Loafer's Lake Park June 25

Pollinator Week Activities and contests:

- Pollinator scavenger hunt contest
- Pollinator themed colouring contest for two age groups
- Pollinator trivia on social media (true or false and multiple choice questions)
- How-to videos on social media and website (how to make a bee hotel, how to make a bird feeder, how to make a water bath)
- Links to pollinator friendly cookbook on website and social media

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

- Once information available, the Dearbourne Pollinator Habitat Pilot Project would be a great initiative to showcase on the Bee City social media accounts.

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.brampton.ca/EN/residents/parks/Pages/Supporting_Pollinators.aspx

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

Thank you for accepting our 2023 renewal application. If you have any questions, do let me know.