

## Bee City Canada Application



## A) City or Community Information

**Municipality** Hamilton, Ontario  
**Mayor** Mayor Fred Eisenberger  
**Name of Applicant and Bee City Liaison** Cathy Plosz, Natural Heritage Planner

Organization or Department City of Hamilton  
Address 71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Email Catherine.Plosz@hamilton.ca Phone 905-546-2424 Extension 1231

### Bee City Working Group (part of the Biodiversity Working Group)

Name	Affiliation	Email
Jen Baker	Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Pollinator Paradise Project	land@hamiltonnature.org
Cathy Plosz	City of Hamilton Planning Department	Catherine.plosz@hamilton.ca
Beatrice Ekoko	Environment Hamilton, Pollinator Paradise Project	bekoko@environmenthamilton.org
Barb McKean	Royal Botanical Gardens, Head of Education	bmckean@rbg.ca
Charlie Briggs	Royal Botanical Gardens, Gardener	Cbriggs@rbg.ca
Andrea McDonald	City of Hamilton, Senior Project Manager of Parks and Cemeteries	Andrea.mcdonald@hamilton.ca
Cherish Gamble	Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program	Cherish.gamble@conservationhamilton.ca

### Hamilton’s Pollinator Protection Initiatives

There are a number of pollinator protection initiatives underway in the city of Hamilton, ranging from habitat creation projects to training sessions and outreach activities. The activities involve the broader community as many people are concerned about pollinators and want to help, including students, community volunteers, residents, municipal staff, conservation groups, ecologists and biologists.

Many of the activities are coordinated through the Pollinator Paradise Project, which is a collaboration between Hamilton Naturalists' Club and Environment Hamilton, that is working to build a Pollinator Corridor across the city. The project has support from the community and from municipal staff to create pollinator habitat in both public and private spaces. Education sessions are held regularly to demonstrate the importance of pollinators and what we can do to help. We also offer hands-on workshops to provide the practical skills needed to create pollinator habitat. A free certification program is available to residents, that recognizes the pollinator habitat they have planted (certification signs read "We are feeding Pollinators"). The Monarch Awards program was developed with residents to honour gardeners who work hard to create sustainable and biodiverse gardens. This awards program recognizes outstanding efforts by community gardeners and also helps to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable gardening which benefits pollinators. The Mayor has demonstrated support for the Monarch Awards financially and by giving out the annual Awards at Council meetings.

Many Hamilton councilors, including the Mayor, have shown their support for the community initiatives by signing on to be a Politician for Pollinators.

## **B) Commitments and Actions**

I/we, the undersigned, understand that the Bee City Canada program consists of three commitments, and that we will take the indicated actions to support those commitments:

### **1. Creating Healthy Pollinator Habitat:**

City of Hamilton staff, Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Environment Hamilton, neighbourhood groups, residents and students will continue to build Hamilton's Pollinator to facilitate travel across the city for pollinators. Hamilton Naturalists' Club and partners will provide seeds and plants to help them get started and local expert volunteers will provide guidance. Participants will receive a certification sign and will be entered into the Monarch Awards program.

City of Hamilton staff, Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Environment Hamilton, neighbourhood groups, residents and students will work to ensure pollinator-friendly plants are planted in parks where applicable and that the plants are from good sources and are neonicotinoid-free. The city does not use neonicotinoids in the Gage Park greenhouse.

Hamilton's urban Official Plan should be reviewed soon and this will provide a good opportunity to provide protection for pollinator habitat.

### **2. Education about Pollinators**

We will host yearly information nights about new pollinator research, pollinator conservation success stories and what everyone can do to help and where they can get the resources they need.

We will continue working with conservation partners and native plant growers to hold spring and fall native plants to make it easier for residents to purchase native plants.

We will promote the pollinator habitat certification and the Monarch Awards. As we continue to raise the profile of these recognition opportunities, we also raise awareness about gardening with native plants and the benefits this brings to pollinators.

We will hold hands-on workshops led by local experts based on the needs and interests of the community. This includes designing native plant gardens with 'curb appeal', fall maintenance, pollinator-friendly rain gardens, growing native plants from seed, etc.

### 3. **Celebrating Pollinators:**

We will celebrate Pollinator Week with a social media campaign.

We will also be recognizing pollinators through community events and garden tours, native plant sales, habitat creation projects, classroom education programs.

## **C) Other Requirements**

I/we, the undersigned agree to:

1. Publicly acknowledge Bee City Canada designation through the city website, signage and during the Monarch Awards celebration.
2. Annually re-apply for Bee City Canada designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.

## **D) Requested Attachments**

With your completed application, please provide:

1. One or more photos representing your city/region/community for use on the Bee City website and social media platforms. These could showcase pollinator initiatives or the members of your Bee City Working Group.
2. Your city, region or First Nation logo (png format) and any usage guidelines.

## F) Signatures

### Applicant

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Signature

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Print Name

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Title

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Date

### Bee City Canada Liaison (if not Applicant)

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Signature

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Print Name

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Title

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Date

## G) Next Steps

1. (Applicant) Email completed application and resolution (in PDF format) with requested attachments to [applications@beecitycanada.org](mailto:applications@beecitycanada.org) with "APPLICATION" in the subject line.
2. (Bee City Canada) Your application will be reviewed within three business days. We will notify you as soon as your application has been approved or promptly request any clarification, if necessary.

## H) Bee City Canada's Commitment

Bee City Canada is committed to publicizing your designation as a Bee City through our website, social media and other channels. In addition, our "Bee City Welcome Package" will be sent to you and will include:

1. An official declaration, recognizing your city or First Nation as a Bee City.
2. An aid with helpful ideas for communities joining the Bee City Canada program.

3. Our media kit to use for making Bee City Canada signs and other artwork.

Bee City Canada is grateful for your commitment to take positive actions to help pollinators and for being a role model to other communities across Canada.