

Appendix A: Current City of Toronto activities to support healthy pollinator populations

Toronto is currently undertaking a number of programs and initiatives supporting pollinator biodiversity including:

- Establishment of pollinator friendly habitat across the city, which engage local communities and provide educational opportunities through interpretive signage, community planting events, and tours. Examples include: Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat, Don Valley Brickworks, The Franklin Children's garden, and High Park's Black Oak Savannah restoration areas.
- Producing literature, such as "Bees of Toronto", "Butterflies of Toronto" and "Birds of Toronto" in the City's Biodiversity Booklet Series aid in cultivating a sense of stewardship in members of the public and assist them in making informed individual decisions that support their local pollinator populations. The Series provides the City with a comprehensive inventory of these taxa that live in Toronto, as well as a detailed synopsis on their habitats and life cycles, which will assist us in developing more informed policy initiatives.
- Habitat restoration through our Community Stewardship program which engages community volunteers in planting native species and the ongoing maintenance and management of the watersheds across the Greater Toronto Area.
- Offering ongoing Children's Eco Programs in High Park which educate and engage children through environmental, nature, nutrition and garden programming, which includes pollinators.
- The Horticulture School of Excellence that provides ongoing staff training in pollinator friendly planting and ways to increase native plantings in City parks.
- Public education and promotion of native plantings on private land through the outreach efforts of Live Green Toronto and natural garden inspections conducted by Parks, Forestry and Recreation.
- Recognizing the contribution of citizens who demonstrate environmentally responsible gardening practices through our City of Toronto Garden Awards program.
- Supporting and recognizing pollinator gardens that provide educational opportunities through school programming and that serve as demonstration gardens for their communities through the Live Green Toronto grants program.
- The naturalization of the Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail - part of the larger Gattineau Hydro Corridor Revitalization project managed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail has involved a diverse set of partners and local community members that have worked together to plant a 40 hectare native wildflower butterfly habitat in the heart of Scarborough.
- Toronto was a leader in banning the use of pesticides in 2003 which contributed to protecting the health of pollinators.