



Park People

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Parks and Environment Committee
c/o Carol Kaustinen
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

May 3, 2017

RE: PE19.3 Pollinator Protection Strategy Update

Dear Members of the Parks and Environment Committee,

We're excited to see the draft pollinator strategy presented and want to lend our voice of support to its actions and the excellent work of City staff. Park People was happy to sit on the pollinator advisory group.

As the draft strategy indicates, the health of pollinators is crucial to our city. Our parks and public spaces are excellent places to increase natural habitat, but also engage the public and build partnerships with non-profit organizations, such as Park People, to help implement the pollinator strategy. In that vein, we wanted to update committee members on a pollinator initiative we are undertaking in partnership with the City of Toronto on the Green Line.

Park People has been working on the Green Line, a vision to transform an urban hydro corridor just north of Dupont street into a 5km linear park and trail, since 2014. Our Green Line work has included both community and political engagement to build support, events and activities to draw people to the area, and tangible improvements like new murals and gardens. This work led to the City initiating a master plan process for the park this year.

This year we are working on the Bee Line, with funding from TD Friends of the Environment and the Helen McRae Peacock Foundation. The Bee Line will create four new pollinator gardens along the Green Line in existing parks that will be cared for through volunteer stewards, provide plants to residents to plant on private property around the Green Line, educate and raise awareness around the importance of pollinators, and celebrate pollinators through a festival marking the start of Pollinator Week in June. All of these help to further the objectives of the draft pollinator strategy.

The City of Toronto is a partner with us on the Bee Line. We want to thank Patricia Landry as well as the park supervisors for the area, Graham Parsons and Diane Tomlin, for their continued work on the Bee Line. We also want to thank Councillors Cesar Palacio and Joe Mihevc for their support in outreaching to the community.

On June 18 in Bartlett Parkette on the Green Line, we will celebrate the Bee Line with a Pollinator Parade and Festival led by Clay and Paper Theatre that will invite community members to participate in art-making, dance, and music that promotes our bees, butterflies, and birds. We hope to see members of the Parks and Environment Committee at the event and invite you all to celebrate with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Harvey". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dave Harvey
Executive Director, Park People