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Item No. 15.1.3
Halifax Regional Council
November 18, 2025

TO: Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: Brad Anguish, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Bee City Resolution

ORIGIN

August 22, 2023, Halifax Regional Council motion, item 15.3.1

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to apply for Bee City status within one year of hiring a naturalization coordinator.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In August 2023, Halifax Regional Council directed the Chief Administrative Officer to apply for Bee City status within one year of hiring a Naturalization Coordinator. The naturalization coordinator began in September 2023. Since then, staff have worked closely with Bee City Canada to meet the program's requirements by expanding pollinator habitats and doing community engagement and education. Achievements include organizing naturalization events involving over 100 volunteers, converting 7,500 m² of municipal land to pollinator-friendly spaces, developing a public naturalization webpage, and establishing a Bee City Pollinator Team. These efforts support Council priorities under HalifACT and the Urban Forest Management Plan, advancing biodiversity, climate resilience, and public stewardship. With the application requirements now met, staff recommend that Regional Council endorse the Bee City Resolution, which is required to finalize the application, to formalize Halifax's designation as a Bee City.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Endorse the Bee City Resolution as outlined in Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

On August 22, 2023, Halifax Regional Council directed the CAO to apply for Bee City status within one year of hiring a naturalization coordinator.¹ Acquiring Bee City status enables Halifax to access a network of knowledge and practices from other cities that work with Bee City Canada and expert pollinator residents at Bee City Canada. Conservation of pollinators is highly achievable in urban areas, because they do not require very much space to thrive when compared with larger mammals. This means that small actions, like encouraging residents to plant more native flowering species, can yield large benefits.² Further information on the rationale for applying for Bee City status is included in that staff report.

DISCUSSION

The Naturalization Coordinator was hired in September 2023. The Naturalization Coordinator and staff began communications with Bee City Canada in the fall of 2023 to discuss the application process. Staff learned that the Halifax Regional Municipality needed to increase its inventory of pollinator habitats and do more to promote and provide pollinator education and public engagement opportunities to fulfill the requirements of the Bee City Canada application.

The Naturalization Coordinator oversaw the following initiatives:

- Organized and led multiple naturalization events, engaging over 100 volunteers
- Converted 7,500 square metres of municipal land sites to naturalized areas that promote pollinators (2024/2025). See Attachment 2 for a list of converted sites.
- Developed a new naturalization webpage which serves to educate the public on our strategy, benefits, and actions undertaken by the municipality to promote these spaces (2025). The webpage can be found here [Park Naturalization | Halifax](#)
- Established a Bee City Pollinator Team, who plan to meet and discuss annual projects each pre-season

These efforts align with Council's priorities under HalifACT and the Urban Forest Management Plan, supporting biodiversity, climate adaptation, and community engagement. The Naturalization Coordinator will continue to collaborate with community groups and environmental organizations to identify new sites for naturalization and expand pollinator education opportunities. Annual updates will be shared with Bee City Canada to maintain designation.

Staff have completed the Bee City Canada application. Through the completion of the above initiatives that create and enhance pollinator habitat, engage the public, promote public engagement opportunities and commitment to celebrate pollinators during International Pollinator week each year, staff consider the requirements of the application met. Council approval of the formal resolution attached is required to finalize the application.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Annual fees to maintain Bee City designation are as follows:

- Population 250,001 – 500,000 - \$750
- Population 500, 001 – 1,000,000 - \$1000

¹ See [Halifax Regional Council, August 22, 2023 – Item 15.3.1](#)

² <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/standing-committees/221103essc1031-pres.pdf>

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is outlined in both the July 6, 2023, meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and the staff report dated May 9, 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

In addition to the benefits outlined in the 2023 report, the work of the naturalization program has positive environmental implications:

- Improved stormwater management
- Supporting local pollinators, birds and wildlife through native planting initiatives
- Public education that shares the importance of naturalization initiatives
- Involves communities in planting and maintenance to foster ownership and stewardship

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, SNS 2008 c 39:

7A The purposes of the Municipality are to (a) provide good government; (b) provide services, facilities and other things that, in the opinion of the Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the Municipality; and (c) develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

79A (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if (a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality.

ALTERNATIVE

Regional Council could choose not to approve the Bee City resolution. This would mean HRM could not meet the application requirements to become a Bee City.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Bee City Resolution

Attachment 2 – List of municipal land converted to naturalized areas

Report Prepared by: Philip Wright, Manager, Asset Control & Service Delivery, Parks & Recreation 902-240-1972

Bee City Resolution

WHEREAS the goal of Bee City Canada designation is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for pollinators;

THAT bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to land fragmentation, habitat loss, use of pesticides, industrialized agriculture, climate change and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

THAT cities/townships/First Nation communities and their residents have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land; and

THAT supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions and engagement among community stewards; and

THAT by becoming a Bee City, the City/Township/First Nation can highlight initiatives already in place and further engage local communities in an environment of creativity and innovation which will promote a healthier life for our community;

THAT staff be authorized to submit the Bee City Canada Application to designate Halifax, Nova Scotia as a Bee City; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Halifax, Nova Scotia accepts the designation and commits to the standards of the Bee City Canada Program.

Read, approved and adopted this

_____ day of _____, 20_____.

Municipality/First Nation

Signature of Mayor, Chief or appropriate official

Print Mayor, Chief or official's name

List of municipal land converted to naturalized areas

Municipal Land Converted to Naturalized Spaces Since the Hiring of the Naturalization Coordinator			
Location	Conversion Date	Conversion Type	Square Metres Converted
Brookline Drive Park	May 2024	Sapling planting	682 m2
Birch Cove Park	June 2024	Riparian zone installation	350 m2
Brookline Drive Park	June 2024	Tree planting	650 m2
Woodside Area Park	June 2024	Tree planting	846 m2
Friesian Court Park	September 2024	Perennials, shrub, and tree planting	230 m2
Wentworth Street Park	October 2024	Perennials planting	196 m2
Penhorn Beach	May 2025	Riparian zone instillation	850 m2
Viscount Run Park	June 2025	Tree planting	1525m2
Ford Needham	September 2025	Invasive species removal, perennials planting	2230 m2
		Total Converted Land	7559 m2