



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, May 10, 2021 Guelph, Ontario

Local Groups Receive Grants in Support of Pollinators

Bees, butterflies and other essential pollinating insects will benefit from projects recently funded through Pollination Guelph's Community Grants Program. Thirty one applications for funding were received and a total of \$10,000 was awarded to 16 non-profit organizations located in Guelph and Wellington County:

- Bird Safe Guelph & the Sustainability Office at the University of Guelph
- Ecole Fred Hamilton
- Everdale Environmental Learning Centre
- Food from Home-Food for Home
- Guelph Black Heritage Society
- Guelph Horticultural Society
- Guelph Human Society
- Guelph Tool Library
- Artists Lisa Hirmer and Christina Kingsbury
- The Julien Project
- St. George's Park Neighbourhood Group
- Trees for Guelph
- Trout Unlimited: Speed Valley Chapter
- Taylor Kerekes Graduate Research Student
- Westminster Woods Mutual User Committee
- Yorklands Green Hub

Most projects involve plantings that will establish or increase pollinator habitat. In many cases, the projects also include educational activities that teach about pollinators and pollination and engage adults and/or children as planting volunteers.

Funded projects are in diverse settings including recreational trails, public parks, community gardens, storm water management ponds, and landscaping around buildings. Through partnerships with local non-profit organizations, Pollination Guelph aims to make the inclusion of habitat for pollinators a routine component of any planting project designed to restore natural areas, grow food, beautify a garden or landscape an institutional/commercial site.

For example, the partnership with Everdale Farm will enable the inclusion of pollinator habitat in the development of a food forest of fruit and nut trees. In the words of Jonathon Harris of Everdale Farm *"(we are) very excited to have got these funds to help advance our Good Food Forest/pollinator habitat at the farm"*. The grant to Trout Unlimited will ensure shrubs and trees that support pollinators can be included in a creek-bank planting of trees and shrubs designed to restore water quality in the Hanlon Creek.

A grant to the Guelph Horticultural Society will add pollinator habitat to the much-used Riverside Park. Elaine Harris, speaking on behalf of the Society, noted that *"We are well under way on our plans to make this a showcase garden and are grateful for the assistance that Pollination Guelph is providing."*

A garden designed to support moths, to be located on the grounds of Ignatius Jesuit Centre, will be a novel addition to pollinator habitat in Guelph. In acknowledging the award of the grant, Lisa Hirmer, one of the project organizers, said *"We are really excited about this work and the opportunity to contribute to pollinator conservation, especially for underappreciated nocturnal pollinators."*

In addition to pollinator habitat creation and conservation and public education, Pollination Guelph's mission includes supporting research. We are pleased to grant funds to assist graduate student Taylor Kerekes with a study of bumblebees in the Guelph area.

Given the on-going challenges presented by COVID 19, grant recipients will have until the end of 2022 to complete their projects and submit their final reports. We hope that this will allow applicants that largely rely on students and groups of volunteers to still benefit from their grant.

The Community Grants Program was established in 2019 by Pollination Guelph to leverage our financial resources and foster an increase in pollinator habitat through collaboration with non-profit community groups interested in developing and maintaining plantings that support pollinating insects. As funds permit, we aim to offer grants annually. We are pleased that, in its second year of operation, thanks to the generosity of donors and our fundraising, we were able to double the funds available to support community groups. More information is available on our website, www.pollinationguelph.ca.

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***Pollination Guelph** is a group of individuals dedicated to the conservation and development of pollinator habitat for current and future generations. We are a charitable, federally incorporated non-profit organization that has been active in the community for over 13 years.*

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