



# Creating Native Pollinator Habitats in the City of Barrie



# Climate Action

- ▶ City of Barrie declared a Climate Emergency
- ▶ Created and adopted a Community Energy Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan
- ▶ Leading by example, reducing emissions and energy use within their buildings, vehicles, operations
- ▶ Engaging community - a priority
- ▶ WE ARE A BEE CITY

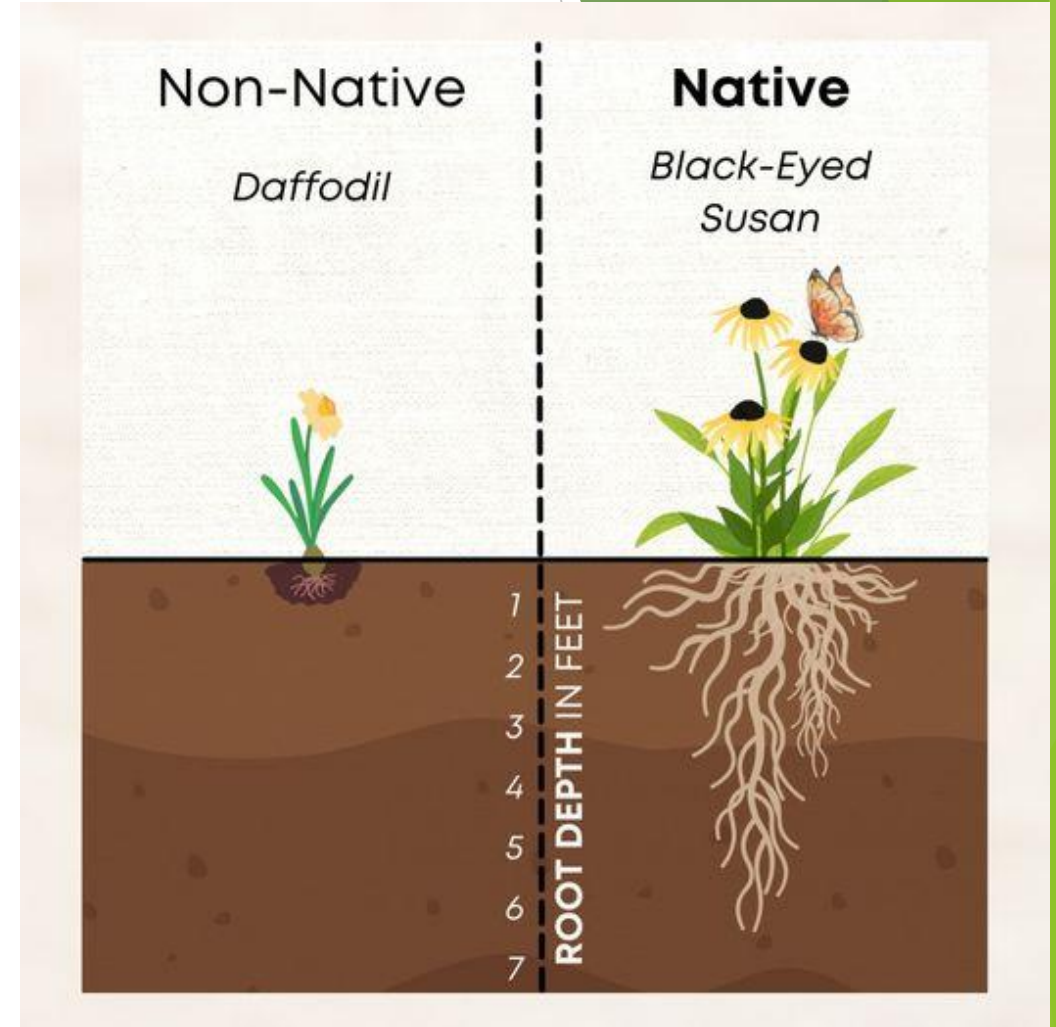
# Overview - TAKING ACTION!

- ▶ We are an engaged and passionate community led group that wants to create and sustain native pollinator habitats in our City. 100+ members in 1 week!
- ▶ Collaborate with the City of Barrie, Barrie Public Library and other interested organizations
- ▶ Educate residents on the benefits of naturalized, native plants and trees
- ▶ Collect seeds and grow plants for sharing
- ▶ Build a Butterflyway--a collection of small and large native habitat gardens in people's yards, boulevards, public spaces
- ▶ Sharing where to get native species in our area – local small business support

# NATIVE vs NON-NATIVE

## Native plants

- deeper root systems that substantially increase the ability of soil to absorb & retain water.
- When native vegetation is replaced with popular turf grasses, less stormwater is absorbed into the ground, leading to more stormwater runoff & water pollution
- Low maintenance, hardier - reduces costs to City
- Save water, carbon capture



# Pollinators

## WHO?

Birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, small mammals, and most importantly, bees are pollinators

## WHAT?

Pollinators provide pollination services to over 180,000 different plant species and more than 1200 crops. That means that **ONE out of every THREE** bites of food you eat is there because of pollinators

## WE CAN HELP





# What other Cities are doing . . .

- ▶ Pollinate Collingwood collaborates with the Town of Collingwood to support Pollinator plantings throughout the Town - educating Public
- ▶ Pollinate Guelph provides grants - works with The City of Guelph's Healthy Landscape Program to help promote and support natural landscapes incorporative native species - offers free of charge site visits
- ▶ Blooming Boulevards - collaborates with The City of Mississauga to support native boulevard gardens - over 100 planted so far - co-ordinate and help the City amend By-laws with specific species recommended for planting

# Boulevard Garden

*Over 400 of native pollinator species have a very small area that they gather food from- sometimes less than 100 meters.*

*In urban and suburban areas, their natural meadow habitats are rapidly disappearing, leaving local populations trapped in scattered habitat fragments, in isolation from one another.*



# City of Barrie Boulevard Policy - By-Law

- ▶ Wonderful that we have one
- ▶ Making it better - encouraging and promoting incorporating native species by providing a suggested plant list - Pollinate Barrie could assist with this
- ▶ Clearly outlining the noxious weeds/invasive species that cannot be planted
- ▶ Developing signage “City of Barrie Approved”
- ▶ Understanding/encouraging when property owners decide to naturalize their front yards with native species
- ▶ Contact person at City





# ACTION Opportunities

- ▶ Pollinator and EDIBLE demonstration garden at our City of Barrie Greenhouse 2022
- ▶ City of Barrie Horticulture - Begin to GROW native species at Greenhouse - PLANT native species Pollinator Gardens - 2022 - CENTENNIAL PARK
- ▶ Policy change/development - leading by example to support Climate Action - parks/horticulture supporting naturalization, native pollinators and habitat restoration

AND the MONEY to do so

Pollinate Barrie would be happy to help!



# Resources

## POLLINATE BARRIE

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/695019338169582>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpymwjMCIQg>

POLLINATOR HABITAT RESTORATION IN MUNICIPALITIES - CASE STUDIES AND  
LEARNING FROM THE CITY OF CALGARY - PRESENTED BY BEE CITY CANADA

<https://www.pollinator.org/>

<http://www.bloomingboulevards.org/>

<https://www.pollinatecollingwood.ca/>