Trees for Bees

What is a “Trees for Bees” pod?

These pods are comprised of a native tree surrounded by plants that support pollinators like birds, butterflies and of course, bees! The pods are enclosed by a recycled plastic lumber frame that acts as a border to protect the plants from other landscaping activities - particularly turf grass maintenance.

Why?

Trees for Bees are a WIN-WIN-WIN for our local environment!



Win #1 **The trees will have their roots and trunk protected which will help it to grow to maturity.**

Many trees planted in mowed turf-grass areas have a hard time reaching maturity because of:

🌱 Compacted soil from mowers, vehicles or feet– roots can’t grow or absorb water.

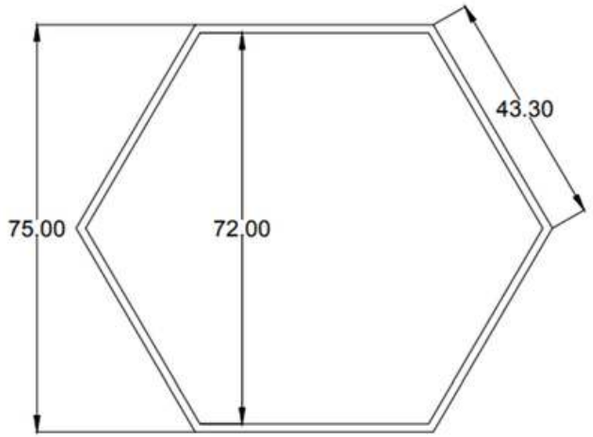
💧 Lack of watering and competition for nutrients from the grass– young trees need regular water and mulch to retain moisture.

⚠️ Trunk damage – mowers and trimmers strip bark and kill trees.

Urban stress from salt, drought, pollution, and pests weakens trees.



TREES FOR BEES Pods create a protective root barrier around the tree.





Win #2 “Wild” pollinator mini-habitats are created in our manicured urban landscapes.





Creating and maintaining naturalized areas in public parks can be challenging. These spaces are vital habitats for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds, yet they are often misunderstood or removed because they can appear “weedy” or unkempt.

To help shift this perception, we use framed planting areas—clearly defined, intentional spaces that balance the natural look of native plants with the tidy aesthetic people expect in parks.



These frames signal deliberate design, guide maintenance staff where to stop mowing, and allow a manicured lawn aesthetic to coexist with thriving habitat patches.

Trees for Bees were carefully selected for their high ecological value. Native species like Tulip Tree, Red maple, Basswood, Black cherry, and Redbud provide flowers, berries, and seeds essential for pollinators and other wildlife throughout the year.

Win #3 The ground frames are made from locally manufactured, 100% recycled, durable plastic lumber

Sustainable Tree Frames

Our tree frames are made from recycled plastic lumber—not pressure-treated wood.

This choice reduces long-term maintenance and replacement costs, making it more cost-effective year after year.

It's also an environmental win-win-win: the recycled plastic is diverted from landfills, sourced from a local Barrie business (Greenwell Plastics), and avoids the chemicals found in treated wood that can leach into groundwater.











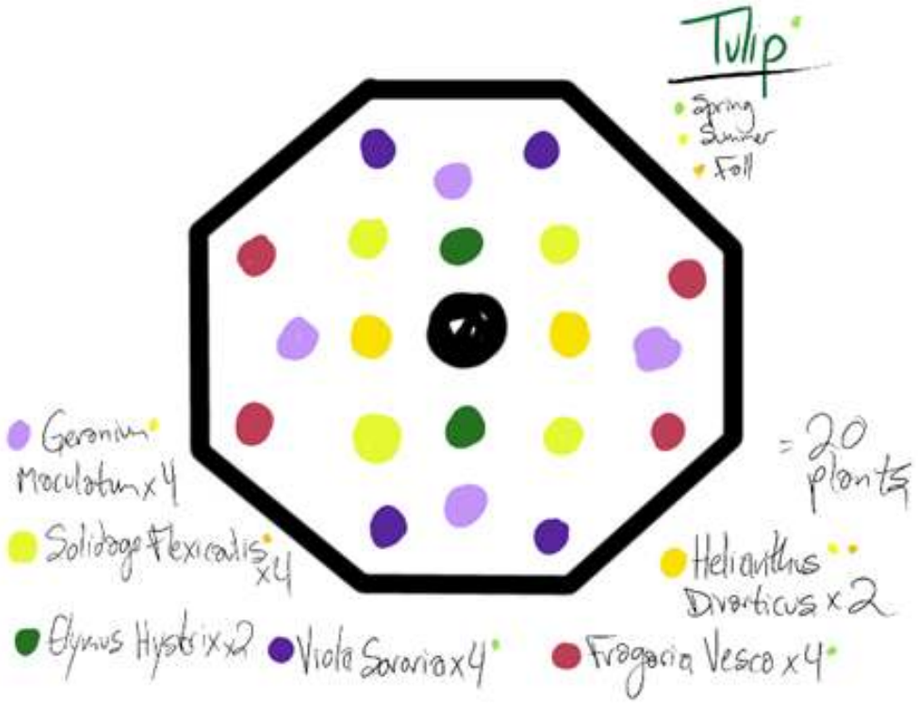
GreenWell PLASTICS

Greenwell plastics is a Barrie-based company whose focus has been to displace as much plastic waste from the landfill as possible.

They have diverted 2.5 million pounds of difficult-to-recycle material and have converted it into an extremely attractive and durable material.

Where are the pods located?

The first 3 pods were installed at Grzegorz “Greg” Pierzchala Park (formerly Batteaux Park) by the Barrie-Huronia Rotary Club in 2023. Pollinator plants were selected and supplied by Pollinate Barrie.









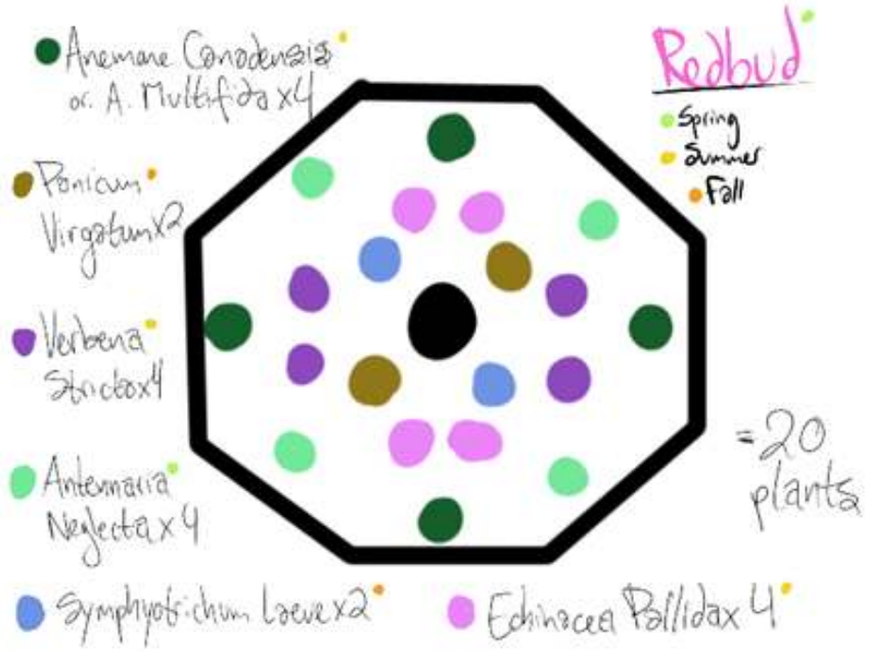
TREE: Tulip Tree *(Liriodendron tulipifera)*

PLANTS:
Wild geranium (*geranium maculatum)*
Zig-zag goldenrod (*solidago flexicaulis)*
Bottlebrush grass (*elymus hystrix)*
Blue violet *v(iola sororia)*
Woodland sunflower (*helianthus divaricatus)*
Wild strawberry (*fragaria vesca)*



TREE: Eastern Redbud *(Cercis canadensis)*

PLANTS:
Canada Anenome (*anemone canadensis)*
Switchgrass (p*anicum virgatum)*
Hoary vervain (*verbena stricta)*
field Pussytoes (a*ntennaria neglecta)*
smooth aster (s*ymphyotrichum laeve)*
Purple coneflower (*echinacea pallida)*





POLLINATE BARRIE

Pollinate Barrie is a community-led group that wants to help create and sustain native pollinator habitat in our City.

They are volunteer driven by people passionate about plants, pollinators and planet.

2025 Trees for Bees Projects

2 installed at Georgian College with the support of the Rotary Club of Barrie

Rotary Club of Barrie

2 larger Pods installed at Heritage Park Fishing platform by the Rotary Club of Barrie Huronia

Rotary Barrie-Huronia







