NATURALIZED GARDEN PERMIT APPLICATION PRIVATE PROPERTY

About The Turfgrass Maintenance and Prohibited Plant Species Bylaw

For residents interested in creating a naturalized garden, the City has introduced a simple permit process that is intended to provide guidance and support throughout the planning process. Whether you are new to naturalized gardening or have experience establishing pollinator and native plant habitats, the permit process helps ensure that your garden meets the requirements of the By-law while supporting biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

The permit process also provides an opportunity to work with City staff to review proposed garden designs, plant selections, and site conditions before planting begins. This collaborative approach helps applicants better understand the By-law requirements and can assist in avoiding potential issues related to setbacks, sightlines, prohibited plant species, and public safety.

Once approved, a permit provides property owners with confidence that their naturalized garden has been reviewed by subject matter experts and endorsed by the City. This added certainty can help address concerns that may arise as a result of complaints or enforcement inquiries and demonstrates that the garden has been established in accordance with the City's approved standards for naturalized landscaping.

How to Apply

To apply for a Naturalized Garden permit, **complete the application below** by providing basic information about your proposed Naturalized Garden. You should support your application with landscape plans, surveys, site sketches, and photographs. Hand-drawn plans will be accepted provided they clearly describe the:

- The location of the proposed planting area on the property.
- The dimensions of the proposed planting area.
- The distances from the proposed planting area to all property lines.
- The plant species that will be used.

Once you have completed an application**, please send it via email to pbs@stcatharines.ca and include all attachments** for staff to review. Alternatively, you may submit an application **in person at the Planning and Building Services Counter** located on the first floor of City Hall.

Fees

- To encourage participation, **naturalized garden permits are FREE for the remainder of 2026 and throughout 2027**.

NATURALIZED GARDEN PERMIT APPLICATION
PRIVATE PROPERTY

A	APPLICANT INFORMATION (Please Print)

Name of Property Owner:					
Phone :		Email:			
Address:					
City:		Province:		Postal:	

Name of Applicant:					
Phone :		Email:			
Address:					
City:		Province:		Postal:	

NOTE: Unless otherwise requested, all communications will be sent to the owner (and agent, if applicable).

B	PROPOSED **SPECIES OF PLANT**

List all of the plant species proposed to be placed within the naturalized area. Please see attached Schedule “A” for a list of prohibited plant species.			
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5		6	
7		8	
9		10	
11		12	
13		14	
15		16	
17		18	
19		20	
21		22	
23		24	

C	LOCATION & SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Municipal Address of Proposed Naturalized Area
Proposed Naturalized Area Location
Directions: To help us review your application, please provide as much detail as possible about the proposed planting area. You may include landscape plans, surveys, site sketches, and photographs with your application. Please indicate: • The location of the proposed planting area on the property. • The dimensions of the proposed planting area. • The distances from the proposed planting area to all property lines. • The plant species that will be used, identified by the corresponding reference number from the *Species of Plant List*.

D	ATTESTATION

I certify that the information provided in this application, including all plans, sketches, photographs, and supporting documentation, is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge that the proposed Naturalized Garden must comply with all requirements of the City of St. Catharines Turfgrass and Prohibited Plant Species By-law, including setback, sightline, maintenance, and prohibited plant species requirements.

I further acknowledge that any changes to an approved Naturalized Garden may require a new permit application and that the City may inspect the property to verify compliance with the By-law and any conditions of approval.

By signing below, I certify that I am the property owner or an authorized agent of the property owner and that I have the authority to submit this application.

Signature of Applicant Date

E	OFFICE USE ONLY

AMANDA File No.					
	Approved:	Yes		No	
Reason:					

SCHEDULE “A” - Prohibited Plant Species List

Common Name	**Scientific Name**
Barberry, Common	Berberis vulgaris L.
Bedstraw, Smooth	Galium mollugo L.
Bittersweet, Oriental	Celastrus orbiculatus
Buckthorn, European	Rhamnus cathartica L.
Chervil, Wild	Anthriscus sylvestris (L.) Hoffmann
Coltsfoot	Tussilago farfara L.
Crupina, Common	Crupina vulgaris Cass.
Cupgrass, Woolly	Eriochloa villosa (Thunb.) Kunth
Dodder Spp.	Cuscuta spp.
Dog-strangling Vine	Vincetoxicum rossicum (Kleopow) Barbar.
Dog-strangling Vine, Black	Vincetoxicum nigrum (L.) Moench
Euonymus, Winged / Burning Bush	Euonymus alatus
Floating Heart, Yellow	Nymphoides peltata
Goatgrass, Jointed	Aegilops cylindrica Host
Goutweed	Aegopodium podagraria
Hogweed, Giant	Heracleum mantegazzianum Sommier & Levier
Ivy, English	Hedera helix
Knapweed, Spp.	Centaurea spp.
Knotweed, Japanese	Reynoutria japonica var. japonica
Kudzu	Pueraria montana (Lour.) Merr.
Loosestrife, Purple	Lythrum salicaria
Mustard, Garlic	Alliaria petiolata
Parsnip, Wild	Pastinaca sativa L.
Periwinkle	Vinca minor
Phragmites	Phragmites australis subsp. australis
Poison-hemlock	Conium maculatum L.
Poison-ivy	Toxicodendron radicans (L.) Kuntze
Ragweed Spp.	Ambrosia spp.
Ragwort, Tansy	Senecio jacobaea L.
Rose, Multiflora	Rosa multiflora
Sow-thistle Spp.	Sonchus spp.
Spurge, Cypress	Euphorbia cyparissias L.
Spurge, Leafy	Euphorbia esula L.
Sumac, Poison	Toxicodendron vernix
Thistle, Bull	Cirsium vulgare (Savi) Tenore
Thistle, Canada	Cirsium arvense (L.) Scopoli
Tree-of-Heaven	Ailanthus altissima
Tussock, Serrated	Nassella trichotoma Hackel ex Arech.