

Title: Biodiversity Strategy

Overview

The Waste & Environment Department is not only responsible for waste, recycling, and organics management in the City of Lethbridge, but is also dedicated to advancing sustainability and environmental stewardship in the organization and community more broadly.

The Waste & Environment Department is seeking to learn more about the value of ecosystems and biodiversity in municipal planning and decision-making through the development of a Biodiversity Strategy. The Biodiversity Strategy will align with the following guiding documents:

- Municipal Development Plan policy 156: "Ensure biodiversity and ecosystem functions are sustained with shared stewardship by requiring the development of a Biodiversity Strategy that includes support for biodiversity within parks, streets, and other City-owned lands and support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity during development."
- Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan action 8-1: "Develop a Biodiversity Strategy and policy in alignment with climate risks and integrate within planning and policies."

It is hoped that the data and analysis of this applied study will help Waste & Environment explore the benefits of possible future policy and/or strategic planning-focused work around biodiversity in Lethbridge. For example, what actions are considered in other municipal biodiversity strategies that would be effective in Lethbridge? How can the City work with other community organizations to protect and promote biodiversity in Lethbridge? What actions are needed by the City to protect and promote biodiversity in Lethbridge?

This position is made possible through the City of Lethbridge's **City Scholars** Program which provides students with hands-on experience structured around both professional and academic outcomes. At the City of Lethbridge, students have the unique opportunity to work on projects that directly impact quality of life in their community, while also benefiting from the mentorship of City and faculty supervisors. The skills and experiences gained through City Scholars opportunities supports students as they enter the workforce or pursue further studies.

To learn more about the City of Lethbridge, visit [Lethbridge.ca](https://lethbridge.ca)

To learn more about the City Scholars program, visit [Lethbridge.ca/careers](https://lethbridge.ca/careers)

The City is proud to continue partnering with the University of Lethbridge and the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy (Prentice Institute) to offer Work Integrated Learning opportunities to students from all disciplines, connecting them to real world initiatives that impact their local government and community.

To learn more about the Prentice Institute, visit: ulethbridge.ca/prentice-institute

What will you be working on?

Students will be responsible for:

- Developing a research plan including defining research parameters, methodologies, and scope delineation.
- Using the research plan to compile data and assess best practices for municipal biodiversity strategies and develop recommendations for Lethbridge.
- Report-writing to summarize research and findings to City of Lethbridge staff.
- Public speaking and presentation of research outcomes to City of Lethbridge staff.

Over the course of the semester the student will prepare multiple reports and/or presentations. The audience for these will be primarily City staff. Students will also be invited to provide a presentation at the year-end Work Integrated Learning Symposium (date to be determined). More information on the proposed work plan and deliverables will be provided during interviews and at the beginning of the semester.

Who are we looking for?

To apply for this position, you must:

- Be an undergraduate student of any academic discipline / major.
- Be interested in one or more aspects of this project including: environmental science, biodiversity, ecosystem services, public policy
- Have strong written and oral communications skills.

Preference will be given to students:

- Who self-identify as members of an equity-deserving community.
- Have third year standing or higher.
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

What's in it for you?

Through this position, students will gain experience and skills in the following areas:

- Carrying out applied research and analysis, including the identification and assessment of various frameworks and models.
- Presenting information in both written and oral formats.
- Understanding how complex projects take shape, are managed, and get delivered.
- Gain experience working within the public sector.
- Create connections and learn from industry experts.

Students will be paid a modest amount (\$1,000.00) to help cover the costs of tuition and incidental expenses, at the successful completion of the applied study.

This opportunity is designed to support students who wish to pursue an applied study for **disciplinary credit** with academic supervision coordinated through the Career Bridge.

While students may apply for multiple City Scholars applied study projects in a given academic term, generally, they can only participate in one per term.

Other Important Information

- Start Date: September 9, 2024 (can be flexible based on student availability)
- Time Commitment: Approx. 10 hours per week
- Location: Flexible, however space can be provided at City Hall.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in this opportunity, apply directly to the contact below with your resume, a cover letter, and unofficial transcripts by **11:59 PM August 23, 2024**. In two pages or less, your cover letter should help the selection committee understand your academic background and goals, and any relevant course work, volunteer or employment experience, and why you are interested in this applied study.

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