

Advocacy:

Native Plant Gardens and Belleville's New Land Maintenance Bylaw

On June 9, 2025 the Quinte Field Naturalists learned that they proposed Naturalized Lawn Bylaw that failed to pass council in 2023 had been revised to fall within the Land Maintenance Bylaw and was passed by council.

This new proposal changed the language of the original bylaw from allowing Naturalized Lawns to allowing Naturalized Gardens which must adhere to certain properties:

1. Must be Maintained
2. Setback of 1 Metre from the property lines (the 1 Metre setback can have plants no higher than 15 cm or lower, mowed areas, woodchips or gravel)
3. Must contain no noxious weeds
4. Sightlines: must not interfere with sightlines at intersections, driveways, sidewalks or walkways

The Quinte Field Naturalists did meet attend a meeting of the Green Task Force on June 27th to support the discussion around removing the 1 Metre setback of the gardens, in addition we wrote letters to Councillor Barb Enright-Miller chair of the Green Task Force and to all Belleville Council members as well as Mayor Ellis to ask for reconsideration of this part of the new bylaw. Naturalized Gardens are the only gardens subject to a 1 M setback at this time. We will continue to advocate for allowance of people within the municipality to have native plants on the landscape without prejudice.