Take Pride Winnipeg!

Clean up, green up.

**Green Wave Funding Application for 2018**

**Presentation to Executive Policy Committee December 5, 2017**

Green Wave began in 2006, with 20 summer staff hired for 4 weeks as a pilot project, with funding provided by the Mayor's Office. The program originally started in response to the Provincial Urban Green Team program reducing funding to BIZ zones each year for seasonal staff, and the Mayor's office wanting to assist them while providing first jobs to youth in Winnipeg. *Take Pride Winnipeg!* was asked to organize and administer the program, augmenting beautification efforts already in place across Winnipeg.

It has continued since then, with between 12 and 16 staff hired for seven to eight weeks each summer, depending on the funding secured. Funds secured for Green Wave also support the wages of 0.3 FTE office staff time for administration and supervision.

Since 2008, BFI Canada (now Waste Connections of Canada) has provided the majority of the funding for Green Wave, with the City of Winnipeg funding between $10,000 and $15,000 per year (except for 2017) and some business improvement zones donating $200 to $600 each per year. The organization also applies for Canada Summer Jobs funding each year in hopes of adding to the staffing complement.

All staff hired for this program are 16 to 19 years old, and for many, it is their first employment experience. They pick up a variety of skills, such as time management, teamwork and organizational skills, plant maintenance, litter cleanup and graffiti removal. At the same time, they learn more about the city they live in and act as a goodwill ambassador for Winnipeg.

The Green Wave program assists business improvement zones (BIZ) and other community organizations, including City parks, with flower planting and maintenance, litter cleanup and graffiti removal, as well as other beautification projects. In some years, the Green Wave staff have also painted wading pool buildings and park benches as special group projects.

The City of Winnipeg's preliminary budget for 2018 does not include funding for Green Wave. As the budget currently stands, without City of Winnipeg funding, *Take Pride Winnipeg!* will be able to hire only **eight** Green Wave for 7 weeks. This will greatly impact the ten business improvement zones (and some other community organizations) we assist each year with staff from this program.

If we receive the $15,000 from the City that we applied for, we will be able to hire **thirteen** Green Wave. Any further donations or grants we receive will help hire even more.









**Testimonials from BIZ members**

*"I cannot express what an enormous asset the Green Wave students were to our organization this summer. There is absolutely no question that we would not have been able to complete any number of projects without their help-- it really was that invaluable. Without fail, I found this group of students to be highly motivated and hard-working people, both self-directed and extremely competent. They arrived on time, prepared, and eager to work, and did so with positive attitudes regardless of what tasks they were to face throughout the day. It was an honor and a privilege to work with this group-- they are wonderful individuals and it is so apparent that they have bright futures ahead. We at West Broadway Community Organization are so grateful for their support throughout the busy summer season. Thank you, Green Wave!"* **West Broadway BIZ**

"We are extremely grateful to get two summer students assigned to the Corydon Avenue BIZ each summer. Without their help, we could never get all the work done that is needed in order to keep this very active BIZ area clean, neat and landscaped." **Corydon Avenue BIZ**

*"As a non-profit agency, the Old St. Vital BIZ appreciates the extra help we receive through the Green Wave program. We sincerely hope to be able to continue our relationship with Take Pride Winnipeg for years to come. We had the pleasure of working with a number of wonderful young adults this season. The kids were pleasant and hard working, willingly doing every task assigned to them. A couple of the students told me how much they enjoyed working as part of our crew. We would welcome them back next season without hesitation."* **Old St. Vital Biz**

"I'm writing to show my support for Take Pride Winnipeg's Green Wave program. Without this program the West End BIZ would not have been able to complete many maintenance projects in the West End.

Our organization's goal is to make the West End an attractive clean and safe place for people to visit, live, start and run a business. To help accomplish that goal we have several programs. One of our programs and the program that has been voted as the most important to the area is our street maintenance program. Staff in this program remove litter, clean sidewalks, water flowers, remove graffiti and various other tasks that beautify the area - Without this program, our area would be a disaster.

The West End BIZ is the largest geographical BIZ in the city and we have a population that is greater than the population of Portage La Prairie, Selkirk, and Steinbach combined. With our size and population, one might think that we have a large budget and have a large army of seasonal staff to keep our area clean; this is not the case. Our budget only allows us to hire 5 seasonal employees to clean and maintain the west end area. Our staff resources are stretched very thin and the Green Wave is a resource we rely on to complement to the rest of our seasonal staff.

Over the years we have had the Green Wave working with us, we have been able to complete many projects that we wouldn't have been able to do without them. Many of the projects they have worked on are simple projects such as painting, litter removal and weeding but these projects have a huge impact on the look of the area. In summary, the Green Wave program is an excellent resource for the West End BIZ and it provides excellent job experience to young workers." **West End BIZ**

**Comments by Green Wave Employees**

**Lauren Sitarek**

For the past two summers, I've had the privilege of being a Green wave employee. Working for Green wave didn't feel like work. I woke up and looked forward to my day. My partner was also my best friend. The work we did were things I would often do as volunteer (litter pick, painting etc.). I got to spend my day outside enjoying the weather and doing tasks I liked. Of course, what separates Green wave from other jobs are the people in charge. Tom and Tanya were fun bosses. By having people like them in charge it made the experience exceptional and I really couldn't have asked for a better boss. Another thing that is great about green wave is that you don't need a long list of past experiences to get the job. It can be hard trying to find a job as a high school student if you don't have an extensive resume. It was my first job and it was a great way to build my resume for the future. Overall, working for Green wave provided me a productive, fun summer and I would love to work there again.

**Karlie Gislason**

My 7-week employment as a member of the Green Wave team was quite enjoyable. Litter picking was a large part of my job in the BIZ I worked in. Although keeping up with all the litter that constantly flooded the streets (especially in the North End) was a job in itself, the results felt rewarding smiling people thanking us for the work that we did. Another enjoyable think about working with green Wave was working in Transcona to help with the Farmers Marker. It was fun to do and was a very friendly environment. Finally, I really enjoyed getting outside every day. While working outdoors, cleaning up the city I was also rewarded with a nice tan. Overall, green Wave was an excellent opportunity for summer employment and made summer enjoyable.

Sean Ramos

When looking for summer employment, my main goal was to find a job that would provide enough hours to fund a substantial amount of my university tuition in the fall. However, the Green Wave program provided more than just a paycheck every two weeks. Throughout the Green program I have been able to work in all areas of the city that I have not spent a lot of time in before, whether that be in the lively environment of the North End, or the calm nature in Bridgewater. Thanks to the Green Wave UI have developed and strengthened my soft skills. Most of the time I would be problem solving, thinking about how to increase our efficiency with weeding r wood chipping by manipulating different tools for our advantage. Another skill I strengthened was my ability to work in a group, especially with people with varying personality types. The best part of Green Wace, were the people I have been able to meet and some of whom I now call friends. Not only this, bur I have been able to network with the staff at Take Pride and even City Councilors. Reflecting back on my summer with Green Wave, it feels good to know about the difference I have made with beautification efforts in different communities throughout the city while having fun, being surrounded with great people.