Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – July 13, 2022

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 29, 2022

Item No. 2 Winnipeg One Million Tree Challenge Annual Report

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and submitted the following to Council:

1. That a grant of $70,000 for Trees Winnipeg be referred to the 2023 Budget Review Process and that funds be identified from the 2023 Urban Forest Enhancement Program.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 29, 2022

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Yea:	Bowman, Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins	7
Nay:		0

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 29, 2022, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Winnipeg One Million Tree Challenge Annual Report

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
D. Domke	J. Berezowsky	C. Kloepfer	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2019, Mayor Brian Bowman shared a vision to protect and expand our City's immense tree canopy and named it the One Million Tree Challenge (Million Tree Challenge). The Challenge aims to promote tree planting and make it so Winnipeggers collectively plant one million trees by the time our City's population reaches one million people. During its 2022 budget deliberations, City Council approved a grant of $140,000 to Trees Winnipeg to lead and coordinate the challenge. Additionally, City Council approved $59,000 to support an internal seasonal position (0.75 FTE) to coordinate tree planting efforts towards the Million Tree Challenge on public property.

In 2021, approximately 20,324 trees were registered toward the Million Tree Challenge. Of this, 10,965 were located on City property and 9,359 were planted on private property. Since 2020, 29,474 trees have been registered to the Million Tree Challenge.

In 2022, Trees Winnipeg will continue with similar programming as last year, including maintenance of the Million Tree Challenge website and public education and outreach programs. Tree Canada will continue to be the lead on the corporate sponsorship program. The Million Tree Challenge goal will again be 20,000 trees planted in 2022. Additional sponsorship has not increased to allow more trees on public property.

Trees Winnipeg has advised that going forward they would prefer to focus on an education and awareness role, with specific attention to the promotion and maintenance of the Million Tree Challenge website. In addition, the City would like Trees Winnipeg to consider the development of a private tree planting program. As they move toward self-sufficiency, program funding for 2023 will be $70,000.

The Public Service will continue to work with groups like Tree Canada, Trees Winnipeg and other third-party organizations in support of the Million Tree Challenge. The Public Service has previously communicated to Council their interest and corresponding application for funding from Natural Resources Canada's 2 Billion Trees Program. Should the City of Winnipeg be successful in securing federal funds, the Public Service will be in a position to align the City of Winnipeg Million Tree Challenge with the Federal Government's 2 Billion Tree Program for an even stronger foundation for the success of rejuvenating the City of Winnipeg tree canopy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a grant of $70,000 for Trees Winnipeg be referred to the 2023 Budget Review Process and that funds be identified from the 2023 Urban Forest Enhancement Program.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On February 27, 2020, City Council approved that subject to the approval of Recommendation 1, the Public Service submit an annual report on the One Million Tree Challenge to Council in the second quarter of each year, beginning in 2021.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

A final year of public investment is required to fund Trees Winnipeg and the Million Tree Challenge. Trees Winnipeg has been given the ability to develop this program over three years.

The number of trees planted and the success of this program depends on funding provided by private sponsors and the public education and outreach programs developed by Trees Winnipeg.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

In September 2019, Mayor Brian Bowman shared a vision to protect and expand our City's immense tree canopy and named it the One Million Tree Challenge (Million Tree Challenge). The Challenge aims to promote tree planting and make it so Winnipeggers collectively plant one million trees by the time our City's population reaches one million people. This will result in a net expansion and growth in our tree canopy beyond replacing existing trees lost to age or disease. The program challenges individual residents, not-for-profit agencies, as well as private businesses to help plant the new trees.

On February 27, 2020, City Council approved a report to grant $140,000 to Trees Winnipeg to lead and coordinate the challenge. In a subsequent recommendation, Council approved that the Public Service generate an annual report on the challenge in the second quarter of each year.

On June 24, 2021, City Council considered a report to grant another $140,000 to Trees Winnipeg from the 2022 Urban Forest Enhancement Program subject to Council approval. In addition, another $59,000 be approved from the same capital budget subject to Council approval for a City representative to help coordinate projects on public property. Subsequently, City Council approved both of these motions in its 2022 budget deliberations.

In 2021, approximately 20,324 trees were registered toward the Million Tree Challenge. Of this, 10,965 were located on City property and 9,359 were planted on private property. In 2020, over 9,150 trees were planted toward the Million Tree Challenge. In total, 29,474 trees have been registered since the inception of the program.

All trees are net new trees added to Winnipeg's tree canopy. In other words, these counts do not reflect trees replaced on public property from Dutch Elm Disease, Cottony Ash Psyllid, Emerald Ash Borer and natural mortality.

The following provides updates on the Million Tree Challenge from Trees Winnipeg, Tree Canada and other financial support, and future development.

Trees Winnipeg

The Trees Winnipeg 2020-2021 final report for the Million Tree Challenge is attached. The report includes details on the program launch and public education campaign, their new website including a tree counter, "I Pledge to Plant" video and multi-media campaign, school outreach program, and Million Tree Challenge related events and promotions. The combined goal of the program was to plant 20,000 trees in 2021 and combined efforts slightly exceeded that goal.

In 2022, Trees Winnipeg will continue with the similar programming as last year:

- Website: Maintain the existing Million Tree Challenge website.
- Public Education and Outreach programs: Develop and deliver education and outreach programs that will assist other organizations being involved including a "train the trainer" course with the intent to build internal capacity within the groups to lead their own tree planting initiatives. The education component should include development of a toolkit to support community groups in delivering their own tree planting initiatives.
- Progress Reports: Provide the City with milestone reports and a year end report for the 2022 program.

Tree Canada

Tree Canada continues to work with Economic Development Winnipeg on developing new corporate donations toward the Million Tree Challenge. Canadian National Rail continues to support the Million Tree Challenge and has committed $1 million to Tree Canada to support planting efforts in Winnipeg over the next few years. Telpay has been purchased and the new management has decided to end their $250,000 commitment to the Tree Challenge, however, the Loewen family continues to support the effort.

Private donations continue to be collected on Tree Canada's website. Recently, the Winnipeg Foundation committed $1 million to support tree planting for the Million Tree Challenge and planning is being done to have trees planted in underserved areas of the community.

Tree Canada is actively encouraging their national sponsors to participate in the Million Tree Challenge through their Partners in Planting Program as well as their Community Tree Grants.

Future Direction

Trees Winnipeg has made progress from 2020 to 2022, and they continue to be the lead organization for the Million Tree Challenge. Although Trees Winnipeg had hoped to increase planting to 40,000 trees for 2022 (see attached report), Trees Winnipeg is now suggesting that 20,000 trees become their goal (10,000 each on private and public property).

The number of trees planted on public property is primarily related to the amount of funds raised through the Tree Canada corporate sponsorship program. Since no additional corporate sponsors

have been identified to date, the goal of 10,000 trees on public property will remain the same. On the other hand, the number of trees planted on private property are primarily related to the success of the education and awareness program provided by Trees Winnipeg.

Trees Winnipeg has advised that going forward they would prefer to remain in an education and awareness role only.

As a result, the Public Service is recommending that the grant to Trees Winnipeg be reduced to $70,000 in 2023 and funding will cease in 2024. This funding reduction is also reflected in the future decrease in the Urban Forest Enhancement Capital Program. The $70,000 in funding will be directed to Trees Winnipeg to maintain the website and create an in-house planting program for trees on private property. The $70,000 in funding for the Trees Winnipeg grant is proposed to come from the 2023 Urban Forest Enhancement Capital Program, subject to budget approval.

Finally, the Public Service has previously communicated to Council their interest and corresponding application for funding from Natural Resources Canada’s 2 Billion Trees Program. Should the City of Winnipeg be successful in securing federal funds, the Public Service will be in a position to align the City of Winnipeg Million Tree Challenge with the Federal Government's 2 Billion Tree Program for an even stronger foundation for the success of rejuvenating the City of Winnipeg tree canopy.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** April 4, 2022

Project Name: **First Year of Program** **2023**

Winnipeg One Million Tree Challenge Annual Report

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ 74,375	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	74,375	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 734	$ 1,468	$ 1,468	$ 1,468	$ 1,468
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	2,275	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ (1,541)	$ 1,468	$ 1,468	$ 1,468	$ 1,468
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	(1,541)	1,468	1,468	1,468	1,468
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: The capital expenditures required represent the proposed grant ($70,000) to Trees Winnipeg for leading and coordinating the One Million Tree Challenge (MTC) in 2022. Recoveries represent the Department Parks Administration, Corporate Interest and Administrative overheads. Direct costs represent Debt and Finance charges on Internal and External Financing.

The payment of this grant is subject to the approval of the grant, and associated budget through the 2023 Capital budget process. The Existing Budget Cost represent the required budget for the above costs which were included in the 2023 Preliminary Urban Forest Enhancement Capital Budget in the 2022 Adopted Capital Budget.

"signed by J. Ruby, CPA, CA"
J. Ruby, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

This report has been prepared in consultation with: N/A

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The report is in accordance with the OurWinnipeg Policy, 02-2 Environment:

- Recognize and preserve Winnipeg's parks, green spaces and riverbanks as green oases in our urban setting.
- Enable the protection of ecologically significant lands.
- Protect and Enhance the Urban Forest.

Direction strategies of 'A Sustainable Winnipeg':

- 09 Continue to respect and value our natural and built environment.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

The report is in accordance with Strategic Opportunity #7:

- 7.2 Increase and Preserve Tree Canopy (Primary Responsibility: Public Works Department).
- 7.3 Preserve and Manage Parks and Natural Areas to Support Climate Change Mitigation (Primary Responsibility: Public Works - Parks).

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

The information and recommendations presented in this report align with and advance the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (2021 – 2031) as follows:

They embody the following Guiding Principles:

- We will Uphold Human Rights
- We will Honour Relationships and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
- We will Address Systemic Oppression, Trauma and Social Inequity
- We will Promote and Maintain the Welfare of All Residents
- We will Develop Trust and Meaningful Partnerships to find solutions and drive change.

They align with the following Goals and Objectives:

- Goal 1: Equity and a Culture of Caring are Demonstrated through Strategy Implementation and Systems Change

Related 10-year Objectives:

- D. The City advocates for and pursues partnerships to implement the Strategy.

The information and recommendations presented in this report also advance the following Actions, as listed in the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan (2021 - 2023):

Action 1.3 Grants – Alignment and equity

- When grant allocations are presented to Council and committees for consideration, prioritization and approval, include information to on how each grant application aligns or does not align with OurWinnipeg, the Indigenous Accord, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and any forthcoming equity-based strategies Council may adopt."

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Public Works
Division: Parks and Open Space
Prepared by: David A. Domke, Manager, Parks and Open Space
Date: April 4, 2022
File No: N/A

Attachments: