Minutes – Council – February 22, 2024

Minute No. 170
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – February 6, 2024

Item No. 2 Home Grown Grant Community Tree Planting Projects for 2024

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and adopted the following:

1. That a grant in the amount of $19,032.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

2. That a grant in the amount of $3,623.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Winnipeg Condominium Corporation No. 61 for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

3. That a grant in the amount of $19,751.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Valley Gardens Community Centre Inc. for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

4. That a grant in the amount of $5,277.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Winnipeg Condominium Corporation No. 187 for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

5. That a grant in the amount of $18,113.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Disc Golf Manitoba Inc. for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

6. That a grant in the amount of $19,688.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Trees Riverview for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

7. That a grant in the amount of $19,793.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to South Valour Residents Association for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

8. That a grant in the amount of $7,403.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Norwood Flats Residents' Association for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – February 6, 2024

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

9. That a grant in the amount of $19,898.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Seine River School Division on behalf of Parc La Salle School for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

10. That a grant in the amount of $19,163.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Wolseley Residents Association Inc. for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

11. That a grant in the amount of $10,553.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Kingston Crescent Residents' Association for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

12. That a grant in the amount of $9,041.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to First Lutheran Church for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

13. That a grant in the amount of $8,532.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Whyte Ridge Community Centre Inc. for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

14. That the City enter into, execute and deliver Home Grown Grant Agreements with the grant recipients and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (the "Ancillary Agreements"), and that authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreements and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

15. 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 Community Services – February 6, 2024

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services be adopted by consent.

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication in opposition to the matter.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 13, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and submitted the matter to Council.

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 6, 2024, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Home Grown Grant Community Tree Planting Projects for 2024

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Service is requesting Council approve tree planting grants under the Home Grown Grant Program (cost sharing agreement between the Government of Canada and the City) to 13 successful applicants for a total of $179,867.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable). These projects will plant approximately 220 trees on publicly-owned land by these community organizations. Costs include the purchase of trees, installation, and a two-year maintenance cycle including watering for successful establishment.

The call for applications was reopened for Year 2 of the program on September 26, 2023 during a media launch hosted by the Mayor and other delegates at Transcona Cemetery. The deadline for 2024 applications was November 10, 2023 and 16 grant applications were received.

Successful projects were determined based on an established set of evaluation criteria, including prioritization of projects in higher-needs areas. Successful applicants will receive further mentorship and technical support from the Public Service to ensure project completion and long-term success.

The maximum total available budget for the Home Grown Grant Program tree planting projects for 2024 is $180,000.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) and the total amount recommended for award is $179,867.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable). Grants will be funded by the approved 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital project, and are eligible expenses under the Federal program for which the City is reimbursed at a rate of 42.5 percent by the Government of Canada upon meeting necessary reporting requirements outlined in the cost-sharing agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a grant in the amount of $19,032.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

2. That a grant in the amount of $3,623.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Winnipeg Condominium Corporation No. 61 for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

3. That a grant in the amount of $19,751.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Valley Gardens Community Centre Inc. for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

4. That a grant in the amount of $5,277.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Winnipeg Condominium Corporation No. 187 for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

5. That a grant in the amount of $18,113.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Disc Golf Manitoba Inc. for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

6. That a grant in the amount of $19,688.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Trees Riverview for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

7. That a grant in the amount of $19,793.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to South Valour Residents Association for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

8. That a grant in the amount of $7,403.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Norwood Flats Residents' Association for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

9. That a grant in the amount of $19,898.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Seine River School Division on behalf of Parc La Salle School for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

10. That a grant in the amount of $19,163.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Wolseley Residents Association Inc. for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

11. That a grant in the amount of $10,553.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Kingston Crescent Residents' Association for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

12. That a grant in the amount of $9,041.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to First Lutheran Church for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

13. That a grant in the amount of $8,532.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) from the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital budget to Whyte Ridge Community Centre Inc. for the Home Grown Grant Program be approved.

14. That the City enter into, execute and deliver Home Grown Grant Agreements with the grant recipients and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (the "Ancillary Agreements"), and that authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreements and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed

necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

15. 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

Council has the authority to approve grants to external parties.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Total grant funding in the amount of $179,867.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable) will be funded by the approved 2023 Forest Renewal Capital Project 003-181000-180605-1850000323.

This grant program is part of the Home Grown Winnipeg Tree Planting Program outlined in the cost-sharing agreement with the Government of Canada. The City is expected to be reimbursed at a rate of 42.5 percent for these grants upon meeting the necessary reporting requirements identified in the cost-sharing agreement.

The Home Grown Grant Program allows the Public Service to increase capacity to plant approximately 70,000 additional trees on public property from 2022 to 2026. This grant program enhances direct community participation to increase equitable access to trees with technical support of the Public Service by enabling community groups, businesses, and non- profit organizations to plant trees in their often under-treed communities.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Natural Resources Canada’s Two Billion Trees Program (2BT) is a financial assistance program available to municipalities, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and Indigenous organizations. The program is offered as part of the Government of Canada’s commitment to planting two billion new trees over the next ten years as part of a broader approach to nature-based climate solutions, with the goal of achieving significant carbon sequestration in addition to other environmental and social benefits.

In 2019, Mayor Brian Bowman, issued the Million Tree Challenge as a call to action for Winnipeg residents, non-profit organizations and private businesses to help plant one million trees by the time the city's population grows to one million people by 2040. With support from the non-profit sector and corporate partners, the challenge increased public interest in planting trees on private and public property.

The Urban/Suburban stream of the 2BT Program is designed to support planting in and around population centers with an objective of planting a minimum of 10,000 trees per year on average. Funding received from the 2BT Program is twofold. First, it allows the Public Service to increase capacity to plant approximately 70,000 additional trees on public property from 2022 to 2026. These additional plantings include replacement trees and net-new trees along boulevards and active transportation pathways, in parks, and in native woodlands and riverbank forests. Second, it funds a community-based program to increase equitable access to trees and hands-

on support as a means of enabling community groups, businesses, and non- profit organizations to plant in their often under-treed communities. Distribution of funds to community groups and other organizations is determined by a grant application process.

On June 20, 2022, the Public Service received notification from Natural Resources Canada that the City's application to the Two Billion Trees Program ("2BT") was approved for a five-year enhanced planting program branded *Home Grown*. A cost-sharing agreement between the Government of Canada and the City of Winnipeg was signed on December 2, 2022. The total cost of the program from 2022 to 2026 inclusive is $17.2 million. The City's total projected contribution under approved and forecasted operating and capital budgets is approximately $9.9 million and the Government of Canada's total contribution is $7.3 million.

The approved budget for the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal capital project includes additional funds for the additional incremental expenditures and associated funding from the Government of Canada in the amount of $549,000.00 of which $180,000.00 is estimated to be allocated to the Home Grown grants.

On January 25, 2023, the Home Grown Grant Program was launched for the first time whereby community organizations were invited to apply for a grant to support tree planting projects in their neighbourhoods. In the first year of the program, $180,000 was awarded to 13 community groups and 270 trees were planted in 2023. The call for applications was reopened for Year 2 of the program on September 26, 2023 during a media launch hosted by the Mayor and other delegates at Transcona Cemetery. The deadline for 2024 applications was November 10, 2023 and 16 grant applications were received.

Successful projects were determined based on an established set of evaluation criteria, (Appendix A) including prioritization of projects in higher-needs areas. Successful applicants will receive further mentorship and technical support from the Public Service to ensure project completion and long- term success.

The grant applications were reviewed by an evaluation committee comprised of staff from the Public Service. Applications for projects to be undertaken on private property, or that did not include sufficient quotes for the proposed services or maintenance from pre-qualified contractors were considered ineligible. Applications in which the proposed project was in or adjacent to an area of higher needs, with community tree planting goals, suitable priority locations, and tree maintenance responsibilities clearly defined ranked higher than those that lacked clarity in these areas.

The evaluation criteria for the applications are listed below and described in more detail in Appendix A:

(a)	Project location (including proximity to an area of higher need) and planting suitability	/50
(b)	Technical soundness, planning, and maintenance plan	/60
(c)	Application completeness and quality of information	/30
(d)	Compliance by the Applicant with the requirements of the application or acceptable deviation there from:	pass/fail
(e)	Project sustainability and overall likelihood of long-term success	high/medium/low

The Public Service is requesting Council approve tree planting grants under the Home Grown Grant Program to the successful applicants for a total of $179,867.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable). These projects will plant approximately 220 trees on publicly-owned land by these

community organizations. Costs include the purchase of trees, installation, and a two-year maintenance cycle including watering for successful establishment.

Where the recommended grant amounts were lower than what the Applicant had originally requested, these recommendations were based on a preliminary review of site constraints and space limitations; adjusting the grant amount and approximate number of trees to be planted as required.

The successful applicants and their projects are listed below:

APPLICANT	**GRANT AMOUNT (plus GST and MRST)**	**APPROXIMATE NO OF TREES**
Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation - to contribute to species diversity and enhance the urban canopy, particularly along Brazier St, which is the main commuter route through the neighbourhood	$19,032.00	29
Winnipeg Condominium Corporation No. 61 - to restore canopy lost on nearby boulevards from Dutch elm disease	$3,623.00	3
Valley Gardens Community Centre Inc. - to create shade around the splash pad and other high-use areas within Civic Park	$19,751.00	22
Winnipeg Condominium Corporation No. 187 - to replace mature boulevard trees lost to Dutch elm disease in the McMillian neighbourhood	$5,277.00	5
Disc Golf Manitoba Inc - for all users to enjoy and to enhance canopy surrounding the disc golf course in Happyland Park.	$18,113.00	15
Trees Riverview - to replace canopy lost due to Dutch elm disease on boulevards in the Riverview neighbourhood	$19,688.00	30
South Valour Residents Association - to replace canopy lost to Dutch elm disease in the Minto neighbourhood	$19,793.00	29
Norwood Flats Residents' Association - to increase canopy cover and shade for in Gauvin Park for all park users.	$7,403.00	10
Seine River School Division on behalf of Parc La Salle School - to increase canopy cover for students and general public in La Salle Park and Houde Park which border the school grounds	$19,898.00	23
Wolseley Residents Association Inc. - to increase shade and biodiversity in Vimy Ridge Park and Omand Park	$19,163.00	25
Kingston Crescent Residents' Association - to replace trees lost to Dutch elm disease in park spaces and on boulevards, and to enhance	$10,553.00	10

existing the new interpretive display at the foot of Elm Park Bridge		
First Lutheran Church - to replace trees on the boulevard along Victor Street where mature trees have been lost to Dutch elm disease	$9,041.00	7
Whyte Ridge Community Centre - to enhance a naturalized area on the community centre grounds	$8,532.00	13

Home Grown Grant Eligibility Criteria for Community Groups

- Registered non-profit, non-government organizations are eligible including community, neighbourhood, cultural, heritage, youth, environmental, and conservation groups. Schools adjacent to public lands and publicly owned cemeteries are also eligible.
- Planting locations must be on publicly owned land within the City of Winnipeg (parks, greenspaces, boulevards, and naturalized areas).
- Private land is NOT eligible for this program.
- Projects valued up to $20,000 maximum.
- Potential for successful implementation of the project and the applicant's commitment to making the project sustainable is taken into consideration.
- Sites in underserved areas or geographic areas of higher poverty are prioritized.
- Projects can fall into one of three streams:
    - Restoring habitat and natural areas;
    - Enhancing parks and greenspaces;
    - Revitalizing our communities with street trees.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: January 16, 2024

Project Name:

Home Grown Grant Community Tree Planting Projects for 2024

First Year of Program **2024**

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ 186,663	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	186,663	-	-	-	-
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	$ 137	$ 274	$ 274	$ 274	$ 274
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	6,796	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ (6,659)	$ 274	$ 274	$ 274	$ 274
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	(6,659)	274	274	274	274
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Total Estimated Cost of $186,663 is comprised of $179,867 in grants plus overhead charges of $6,796 and will be funded by the 2023 Urban Forest Renewal Capital Project 1850000323. Recoveries represent the department overhead charges and corporate interest charges. Direct costs represent Debt and Finance charges on external debt financing.

J. Ruby, 2024-01-16

J. Ruby, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with: Legal Services.

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The report is in accordance with the OurWinnipeg:
- 2.1 Climate Action Targets
- 2.19, 2.20 and 2.21 Leverage Green Infrastructure
- 3.3 Economic Research and Innovation

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Report is in accordance with Strategic Opportunity #7:
- 7.2 Increase and Preserve Tree Canopy.
- 7.3 Preserve and Manage Parks and Natural Areas to Support Climate Change Mitigation.

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
- Goal 6: All City Services are Equitable, Inclusive and Accessible

Related 10-year Objectives:
- D. The City advocates for and pursues partnerships to implement the Strategy.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Public Works
Division: Parks and Open Space
Prepared by: Kerienne La France, Supervisor of Urban Forestry Technical Services
Suzanne Dyck, Forestry Technician 2
Martha Barwinsky, City Forester
Date: January 8, 2024
Attachments: Home Grown Grant Evaluation Matrix