Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 18, 2025

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – March 5, 2025

Item No. 2 Home Grown Grant Community Tree Planting Projects for 2025

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. That grant amounts (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) be approved from the 2024 Urban Forest Renewal Capital Budget for the Home Grown Grant Program as follows:

    A. South Valour Residents Association - $9,844.00
    B. Windsor Park Residents Association - $19,987.00
    C. South Osborne Residents Group Inc. - $6,563.00
    D. South Osborne BIZ - $19,688.00
    E. École Taché - $14,207.00
    F. Fairlane Children's Centre Inc. - $3,623.00
    G. The Roman Catholic Parish of Christ The King - $10,500.00
    H. Glenwood Community Centre - $11,813.00
    I. Louis Riel School Division – Nordale School - $4,830.00
    J. Parc La Salle School - $12,495.00
    K. Whyte Ridge Community Centre Inc. - $12,585.00
    L. Trees Riverview - $11,813.00
    M. Wolseley Residents' Association - $11,813.00
    N. Island Lakes Residents Association - $19,688.00
    O. Luxton Residents' Association - $11,813.00
    P. Awasisak Meskanow Greenway Inc. - $9,704.00

2. 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.

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

Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 18, 2025

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Santos,

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

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 5, 2025, 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 2025

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

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
D Domke	M. Cantor, acting for J. Berezowsky	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Service is requesting the approval of 16 community-led tree planting grants. The grants are part of the Home Grown Grant Program (the Program). These projects will plant approximately 340 trees on publicly-owned land. Costs include the purchase of trees, installation, and a two-year maintenance cycle.

The Government of Canada and the City of Winnipeg share the costs of the Program. The Federal government will pay back 42.5 percent of the costs to the City once reporting requirements are met.

The Program improves public access to trees. It helps community groups, businesses, and non-profit organizations plant trees in their communities.

The total available budget for the Program in 2025 is $191,000.00 (plus GST and MRST as applicable). The total amount recommended for award is $190,966.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable). Grants will be funded by the approved 2024 Urban Forest Renewal capital project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That grant amounts (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) be approved from the 2024 Urban Forest Renewal Capital Budget for the Home Grown Grant Program as follows:

    A. South Valour Residents Association - $9,844.00
    B. Windsor Park Residents Association - $19,987.00
    C. South Osborne Residents Group Inc. - $6,563.00
    D. South Osborne BIZ - $19,688.00
    E. École Taché - $14,207.00
    F. Fairlane Children’s Centre Inc. - $3,623.00
    G. The Roman Catholic Parish of Christ The King - $10,500.00
    H. Glenwood Community Centre - $11,813.00
    I. Louis Riel School Division – Nordale School - $4,830.00
    J. Parc La Salle School - $12,495.00

K. Whyte Ridge Community Centre Inc. - $12,585.00
L. Trees Riverview - $11,813.00
M. Wolseley Residents' Association - $11,813.00
N. Island Lakes Residents Association - $19,688.00
O. Luxton Residents' Association - $11,813.00
P. Awasisak Meskanow Greenway Inc. - $9,704.00

2. 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.

3. 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

No new money is required for the recommendations of this report as the funding is available in the approved 2024 capital budget – Urban Forest Renewal.

The Home Grown 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

Background

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.

2025 Grants

On August 30, 2024, the Home Grown Grant Program was reopened to accept applications from community organizations for funds to support tree planting projects in their neighbourhoods. The deadline for applications was November 12, 2024. Twenty 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 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

Note that “Project sustainability and overall likelihood of long-term success” was removed from the list of criteria this year as experience found it to be redundant and not helpful in ranking projects.
Community interest in the Home Grown Grant Program continues to grow since its initial launch in 2022. The Public Service is requesting Council approve tree planting grants under the Home Grown Grant Program to the successful applicants for a total of $190,966.00 (plus GST, and MRST as applicable). These projects will plant approximately 340 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.

Grants are to be funded by the approved 2024 Urban Forest Renewal capital project and the City is to be reimbursed by the Government of Canada upon meeting necessary reporting requirements outlined in the cost-sharing agreement.

The successful applicants and their projects are listed below:

1. South Valour Residents Association for $9,844.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant trees in a public greenspace with the intent to create a community orchard and increase canopy cover.

2. Windsor Park Residents Association for $19,987.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant trees in two public parks to offer shade to pathways, playgrounds and seating areas.

3. South Osborne Residents Group Inc. for $6,563.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant trees in a public park to add tree canopy and native trees for wildlife habitat.

4. South Osborne BIZ for $19,688.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant boulevard trees adjacent to Osborne Street to increase canopy cover and for aesthetic purposes.

5. École Taché for $14,207.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant trees adjacent to the school for canopy cover, increased biodiversity, and to aid in drainage.

6. Fairlane Children’s Centre Inc. for $3,623.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant trees in a public park adjacent to a school and daycare to help shade the play structure and nearby areas.

7. The Roman Catholic Parish of Christ The King for $10,500.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant boulevard trees adjacent to the church and school to provide shade.

8. Glenwood Community Centre for $11,813.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant boulevard and park trees in vacant suitable spaces in the Glenwood neighborhood to increase canopy cover.

9. Louis Riel School Division – Nordale School for $4,830.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant boulevard trees adjacent to the school to provide shade, traffic calming affects in a school zone, aesthetics to the neighborhood, and wildlife habitat.

10. Parc La Salle School for $12,495.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant trees at two public parks adjacent to the school to enhance the greenspaces, restore habitat, and increase canopy cover.

11. Whyte Ridge Community Centre Inc. for $12,585.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant at a public park adjacent to a school to add a border between the neighboring rail line and park, provide shade to a field area, and add trees around a playground.

12. Trees Riverview for $11,813.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plant boulevard trees on residential and commuter streets in the Riverview neighborhood to increase canopy cover and species diversity.

13. Wolseley Residents' Association for $11,813.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) for boulevard tree planting along commuter routes in the Wolseley neighborhood.

14. Island Lakes Residents Association for $19,688.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) tree planting in a public park to add a green screen from a regional street and increase tree cover along a multi-use pathway which connects two neighborhoods.

15. Luxton Residents' Association for $11,813.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) boulevard planting to replace trees lost to Dutch Elm Disease (DED) focusing on main commuter routes in the Luxton neighborhood.

16. Awasisak Meskanow Greenway Inc. for $9,704.00 (Plus GST, and MRST as applicable) to plan trees at St. Vital Cemetery to replace trees lost to DED, increase canopy cover, and enhance the adjacent Awasisak Meskanow Greenway.

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.

Home Grown Grant Eligibility Criteria for Community Groups

- Registered non-profit, non-government organizations are eligible including community, neighborhood, 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 22, 2025

Project Name:

Home Grown Grant Community Tree Planting Projects for 2025

First Year of Program **2025**

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ 202,901	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	202,901	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants					
		-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	11,935	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ (11,935)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	(11,935)	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Total estimated cost of $202,901 is comprised of $190,966 in grants plus overhead charges of $11,935 and will be funded by the 2024 Urban Forest Renewal Program capital project 1850000324. Recoveries represent the department overhead charges and corporate admin charges.

J. Ruby, 2025-01-24

J. Ruby CPA, CA
Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services (as to legal issues)

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 (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
• 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.

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.

Action 6.9 Community Benefits in City Funded Spaces
• Require, at every opportunity, that privately-owned spaces receiving public funding, and City-owned spaces managed by a private operator, are inclusive and accessible to all residents year-round through community benefit, grant, or legal agreements.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Public Works
Division: Parks and Open Space
Prepared by: Kerienne La France, Supervisor of Urban Forestry Technical Services
Suzie Dyck, Forestry Technician 2
Martha Barwinsky, City Forester
Rodney Penner, City Naturalist
Date: January 27, 2024

Attachments:
Appendix A: