

Report to Council



Date: July 22, 2024
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Growing Canada’s Community Canopies Grant
Department: Partnerships Office

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Partnerships Office dated July 22, 2024 with respect to the Growing Canada’s Community Canopies Grant;

AND THAT Council directs staff to apply for grant funding to the Growing Canada’s Community Canopies Grant program, administered through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities;

AND THAT Council authorizes staff to execute all documents necessary to complete and manage the grant;

AND FURTHER THAT if that grant application is successful, the Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt of funds.

Purpose:

To inform Council of the Growing Canada’s Community Canopies Grant, and to receive support to apply for the grant funding.

Council Priority Alignment:

Climate & Environment

Background:

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Green Municipal Fund (GMF) is a \$2.4B investment from the Government of Canada in a bundle of funding programs that delivers environmental, economic and social impact.

Under the GMF, the Growing Canada’s Community Canopies (GCCC) funding program is a \$291M initiative that will support planting at least 1.2 million trees across the country. The initiative is a part of GMF’s broader approach to nature-based climate solutions, which will achieve significant carbon sequestration and increase forest and community resilience to climate change. Tree planting funding is for new tree planting projects, supporting communities to grow, manage and protect their tree canopies.

Discussion:

The City is applying to the GCCC tree planting fund for two projects aimed at increasing tree canopy coverage throughout our community:

1. Glenmore Recreation Park: Brandts Creek Tree Project
2. Canopy Corridors: Resilient Trees within Medians

Glenmore Recreation Park: Brandts Creek Tree Project

From historical air photos and agrology reports, the northern half of the Glenmore Recreation Park site has been devoid of vegetation since the 1950's. In the last twenty years, it has been filled with mineral soil, further disrupting the natural system. The site's southern half was historically used for farming, with hay being the primary crop. This project includes planting over 300 trees and associated under storey shrubs along Brandts Creek in Glenmore Recreation Park.

Canopy Corridors: Resilient Trees within Medians

Many medians in Kelowna lack trees altogether, while those that do exist often suffer from poor conditions due to proximity to asphalt surfaces, pollutants, and inadequate irrigation infrastructure. This project aims to increase tree plantings and implementing sustainable landscape beds for canopy trees within medians along Highway 97, replacing approximately 50 trees in poor health and planting approximately 41 new trees.

Planting activities for both projects are targeted in areas that have low tree equity to improve overall coverage throughout our community. Each project includes a variety of environmental and social benefits; providing shade, boosting the local ecology, and beautifying our community.

Conclusion:

The City actively pursues grants to reduce municipal taxation and to leverage City funding for infrastructure, services, and programs to support Council, corporate and community priorities.

Funding from the Growing Canada's Community Canopies fund will support two important projects to increase tree canopy throughout Kelowna.

Internal Circulation:

Parks Operations
Parks and Buildings Planning
Finance

Considerations applicable to this report:**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Consultation and Engagement:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by: N. Cantley, Partnerships Coordinator

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cc:

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