

**STAFF REPORT: Engineering & Public Works Department**



**REPORT TO:** Council  
**MEETING DATE:** March 22, 2010  
**REPORT NO.:** EPW.10.037  
**SUBJECT:** TD Green Streets Grant Application  
**PREPARED BY:** Adam McMullin, Environmental Initiatives Coordinator

**A. Recommendation**

THAT Council receive Report EPW.10.037 entitled "TD Green Streets Grant Application", and  
THAT Council support the Town's TD Green Streets Grant Application, and  
THAT Council, should the grant application succeed, authorize the CAO and Clerk to execute an Agreement with Tree Canada.

**B. Background**

Tree Canada, a not-for-profit charitable organization, offers annual grants under the TD Green Streets program to enhance urban forestry.

The grant is open to Canadian Municipalities and is awarded based on an urban forest initiative that demonstrates innovation, community involvement, community partnerships, technical expertise, event publicity and evaluation.

**Grant Proposal Details**

*Program Elements*

Town Staff proposes an urban tree improvement initiative comprising of the following elements:

1) Street Greening

Planting trees along the Highway #26 corridor will enhance the street aesthetic and provide environmental benefit. The following locations have been identified:

- Thornbury Home Hardware (along the fence line)
- Thornbury Foodland (adjacent to the parking lot)
- Thornbury Village Cidery (southeast corner of parking lot)
- Thornbury Family Health Centre (adjacent to the sidewalk)

Trees will be planted on private property. Preliminary discussions with the businesses have been initiated. Businesses will take responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the trees after planting.

2) The Beaver River Trail Lions Park Arboretum

To compliment the newly constructed Beaver River trail system, a linear arboretum, straddling the trail, comprised of native tree species and interpretative signage will be established. The arboretum will be located at the Clarksburg Lions Park.

The arboretum will be planted with the assistance of volunteers. The Beaver Valley Kinsmen have been contacted to participate in the tree planting activities.

3) Beaver Valley Community Schoolyard Greening

The schoolyard of the Beaver Valley Community School has limited tree coverage. Shade trees will be planted to provide coverage for students. Temperature and shade measurements will be conducted to assess the impact of the trees. Students will be involved in this exercise as part of a lesson to promote youth engagement and environmental stewardship.

4) Resident Tree-lottery

The Town will implement a tree-lottery program in which residents register to win a tree. Trees will be delivered in pots, with planting instructions, a rodent guard and a small bag of compost and mulch. The residents will be responsible for planting and upkeep of the tree.

The tree-lottery will increase the urban tree cover and will enhance community engagement between the residents and the Municipality.

*Plan Implementation*

The initiative will commence with a launch event, the planting of the arboretum in September 2010. At the launch, the tree-lottery winners will be randomly selected. The tree-lottery registration will be open to resident starting in the summer of 2010. The Highway #26 and schoolyard planting activities will take place in the weeks following the launch.

*Roles & Responsibilities*

The Town will be taking a lead role in the project, coordinating the logistics of the planting events and will pay for the expenses related to planting, materials (trees, mulch, soil, etc), delivery, advertising and promotion. The participating community partners will contribute through in-kind service, assisting in planting activities, providing equipment and expertise.

The following organizations have been contacted and have expressed interest in partnering for the initiative.

- The Environment Network
- The Beaver Valley Community School
- The Beaver Valley Kinsmen Club
- Thornbury Foodland
- Thornbury Home Hardware
- Thornbury Village Cidery

**C. The Blue Mountains’ Strategic Plan**

Enhancing the urban tree canopy furthers the Town’s Strategic Goal #3 “Undertake a GREEN strategy to proactively protect air, water and land features and sites.”

**D. Environmental Impacts**

Enhancing the urban canopy reduces the urban heat island effect and when planted effectively can reduce cooling cost for buildings. Trees help improve water quality and reduce storm water runoff. Trees improve air quality by mitigating air pollution and greenhouse gases.

**E. Budget Impact**

*Funding Mechanism*

The TD Tree Canada grant offers up to \$15,000 per project and requires that a minimum of 50% matching funding from the applicant. Up to 50% of the matching funding can be in-kind services.

Project Budget Sources	Cost
TD Grant	\$15,000
Municipal	\$7,500
In-Kind Services (Town/volunteers)	\$7,500
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

The total cost of the project is \$30,000. The project budget is summarized as follows:

Project Budget Summary		
In-Kind Services	Hours	Cost
Volunteer Hours (\$15/hour)	85	\$1,275
Town administrative hours (\$30/hour)	80	\$2,400
Subtotal:		\$3,675
Material & Equipment In-Kind Services		
Backhoe (\$45/hour)	15	\$675
Material Transportation (\$40/hour)	10	\$400
Mulch		\$1,250
Launch Event Equipment (chairs, tables, tent, BBQ)		\$1,500
Subtotal:		\$3,825
Total In-Kind Services:		\$7,500
Project Expenses		
Items	Cost	
Materials (trees, stakes, rodent guard, arboretum signage)	\$19,400	
Marketing, Promotion (printing advertisement)	\$1,500	
Event Launch (food, signage, advertisement)	\$1,250	
Arborist	\$350	
Total:		\$22,500
Grand Total:		\$30,000

The required \$7,500.00 Municipal cash contribution will be funded using the stimulus funding for the development of the Beaver River Trail System.

**F. Attached**

None.

Respectfully submitted,

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Adam McMullin  
Environmental Initiatives Coordinator

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Reg Russwurm  
Director of Engineering & Public Works

For more information, please contact:  
Adam McMullin  
[amcmullin@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:amcmullin@thebluemountains.ca)  
(519) 599-3131 x264