



Treetrust TBM Local Native Tree Seedling Project: Final report November 7, 2022

Project Description:

With 2022 funding support from the TBM Environmental Sustainability Fund, Treetrust TBM launched a Community Tree Planting Program in response to a Council motion ((July 14, 20221) to work with staff to administer a town-wide canopy expansion program on private and public lands. The original intent was to hire a dedicated tree planting coordinator to develop, delivery and collect data on different programming approaches. Due to timing issues related to accessing Federal job-creation related funding, the program was amended and the following activities (see below) were implemented all with volunteer labour and with 100% of the funding being spent on tree nursery stock and supplies.

- **Seedling Trail Planting:** A community tree planting event along the Georgian Trail. Over 100 volunteers helped to plant approximately 600 small saplings (pine, spruce, cedar and red oak and some shrubs) along two sections of the Georgian Trail (10 am – Northwinds Beach and 2 pm – 10th Line) on May 7th.
- **Backyard Tree Program:** Over 50, three-gallon potted sugar maple trees were purchased, advertised for sale and then sold/distributed to TBM residents during a distribution event held on June 24 (but some follow up individual deliveries were also arranged).
- **Park Tree Planting Program:** Part 1: On April 14, volunteers potted up thirty seven 8 foot + bare root trees into 19 gallon pots and placed in a sheltered location at Tomahawk. These potted trees were watered regularly (often twice per week) by an exceptionally dedicated Treetrust volunteer. These trees were then planted out into two TBM parks (See below).
- **Park Tree Planting Program: Part 2:** Treetrust arranged for the potted 19 gallon trees to be planted into Heritage Park and Delphi Point Park including site/soil amendments as much as was possible. (The soil conditions at Heritage Park contained a lot of construction debris and proved very difficult for the planting crew). A public event was then held on September 24th for residents to apply compost, mulch and water and to generally celebrate the planting of this new canopy. The Heritage Park event was held in the morning and included sponsorship of the Blue Mountain Village Association. The Delphi Point Park event was held in the afternoon and included an optional/additional shore line clean up, organized by Georgian Bay Forever.

Goals and Impacts

The overarching objective of this project was to take a tangible first step through volunteerism and citizen engagement to build the tree canopy in TBM as a key climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy while also building the resilience and beauty of our local natural environment. The project aimed to achieve the following specific goals:

- Two to four sites, public/community accessible spaces planted with trees- **COMPLETED**
- > 100 trees planted – **COMPLETED**
- > 100 Volunteers recruited /engaged in public planting days - **COMPLETED**

- Articles, announcements and postings in local media (print and social media): *Blue Mountain Review* announcements and articles published on: March 12, March 22, April 5, April 12, April 19, April 26, May 24, June 7, June 15, June 22, June 28, July 1, Sept 6, Sept 13, Sept 20, October 4, November 1st – **COMPLETED**
- Successful testing and data collection of two to four residential tree planting ideas – **AMENDED – COMPLETED ONE APPROACH, NO DATA COLLECTION** (sold 50+ back yard trees)
- Development of recommendations for community wide residential tree planting program abased on lessons learned including identification of sustainable funding for a 2023 roll out – **COMPLETED - OCTOBER 24 Presentation to SMT and TBD possible presentation to Council**

Some photos reflecting the key project activities shown on the next page and links to some selected media articles are provided below.



April small potted sugar maple delivery and bare root trees pre and post potting up by volunteers



Small potted backyard sugar maples ready for pick up on June 24





19 gallon trees ready for transplanting in the fall



September 24 Heritage Park
Community Tree Day





September 24 Delphi Point Park
Community Tree Day



May 7 Community Planting Day at Northwinds and 10th line sections of Georgian Trail

