

**1. REAFFIRMATION OF SCHOOLYARD TREE PROGRAM**

**RECONDUCTION DU PROGRAMME DE SUBVENTIONS POUR LA  
PLANTATION D'ARBRES DANS LES COURS D'ÉCOLE**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council reaffirm the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program for the remaining term of Council as per the Corporate Grant and Contribution Policy.**

**RECOMMANDATION DU COMITÉ**

**Que le Conseil reconduise le Programme de subventions pour la plantation d'arbres dans les cours d'école pour le reste du mandat du Conseil conformément à la Politique municipale sur les subventions et les contributions.**

**DOCUMENTATION / DOCUMENTATION**

1. Director's Report, Parks, Forestry and Storm Water Services, Public Works and Environmental Services Department dated 6 September 2019 (ACS2019-PWE-PFS-0020 ).

Rapport du Directeur, Services parcs, forêts & eaux pluviales, Direction générale des travaux publics et de l'environnement, daté le 6 septembre 2019 (ACS2019-PWE-PFS-0020 ).

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,  
WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

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**COMITÉ PERMANENT DE LA  
PROTECTION DE  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE L'EAU ET  
DE LA GESTION DES DÉCHETS  
RAPPORT 5  
LE 25 SEPTEMBRE 2019**

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**Report to  
Rapport au:**

**Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management  
Comité permanent de la protection de l'environnement, de l'eau et de la gestion  
des déchets**

**17 September 2019 / 17 septembre 2019**

**and Council  
et au Conseil**

**25 September 2019 / 25 septembre 2019**

**Submitted on September 6, 2019  
Soumis le 6 septembre 2019**

**Submitted by  
Soumis par:**

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**Ward: CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE      File Number: ACS2019-PWE-PFS-0020**

**SUBJECT: Reaffirmation of Schoolyard Tree Program**

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**OBJET:       Reconduction du Programme de subventions pour la plantation  
              d'arbres dans les cours d'école**

## **REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management recommend Council reaffirm the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program for the remaining term of Council as per the Corporate Grant and Contribution Policy.**

## **RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que le Comité permanent de la protection de l'environnement, de l'eau et de la gestion des déchets recommande au Conseil de reconduire le Programme de subventions pour la plantation d'arbres dans les cours d'école pour le reste du mandat du Conseil conformément à la Politique municipale sur les subventions et les contributions.**

## **BACKGROUND**

This report provides an overview of the successes of the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program during the 2015-2018 Term of Council.

The mandate of the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program (formerly the Community Partnership Tree Planting Grant Program and the Community Tree, Reforestation and Environmental Enhancement (TREE) Planting Grant Program) is to improve and enhance Ottawa's existing urban and rural forest cover by creating partnerships with the community for tree planting initiatives in schoolyards.

The Community Partnership Tree Planting Grant Program was established by the former Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (RMOC) in 1999 after the North American Ice Storm of 1998. In 2006, the Program was included in the Council approved "Trees and Forests Maintenance Program, Quality Standards and Improvement Implementation Strategy" ([ACS2006-PWS-SOP-0005](#)) which outlined specific goals for its urban and rural forests and the proactive approach towards the maintenance and protection of these green assets.

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In 2007, the City of Ottawa Environmental Strategy's goal to be a green and environmentally sensitive city was supported by the Community TREE Planting Grant Program. The Program was a four-year initiative that aimed to enhance the City of Ottawa's urban and rural forests through the planting of 100,000 trees between 2007 and 2010. The Program played a crucial role in achieving this initiative's target to plant 100,000 trees. The Program had several initiatives that relied on community groups, schools and individual residents to plant trees for the betterment of their local neighbourhoods.

At the May 11, 2010 Planning and Environment Committee Meeting, the Chair requested that the Public Works Department prepare a report outlining the next steps in the tree program, in light of the fact that the City's current tree planting program was coming to an end. In response, the Council approved "Growing a Healthy Forest for the Nation's Capital" report ([ACS2010-COS-PWS-0009](#)) proposed a multi-faceted program that would plan, protect, plant and maintain a healthy forest for future generations in the City of Ottawa. In order to continue the positive steps, the City had taken through the Community TREE Planting Grant Program, a new Community Based Tree Planting Program was recommended. This report outlined the importance of engaging communities in the improvement of their neighbourhoods and was integral to increasing the quality of life in Ottawa. The report proposed the continuation of the Tree Planting Grant Program. This Program provides funding for schools, local interest groups and other not-for-profit organizations for tree planting projects.

The evolution of the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program has made a direct impact on the various tree planting targets set by Council and allowed schools to receive hundreds of trees for their schoolyard. Since its creation in 2001, the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program has worked with more than 250 partners city-wide. On average, the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program awards approximately \$50,000 per year in funds and/or in-kind services to 14 - 16 different tree planting projects throughout the city. This funding and in-kind support has resulted in over 175 new trees planted annually in the various communities across the city.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Council approved Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) has set specific goals in an effort to provide an environmentally sustainable Ottawa to its residents. The Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program directly contributes to the City's overall tree planting target in support of environmental sustainability and has the goal of improving and enhancing Ottawa's existing urban and rural forest cover by creating community partnerships for tree planting initiatives in schoolyards. The Program offers community groups and other not-for-profit interest groups associated with the school the opportunity to take a lead role in deciding where trees are needed the most in their neighbourhoods. The Program's approach ensures that benefits are not only achieved for student use of the outdoor space, but also for the neighbourhood as a whole.

This report directs Council to reaffirm the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program for the 2019-2022 Term of Council. Not reaffirming the Program would put an end to the partnerships established student or parent councils, environmental/garden clubs, or other groups/individuals that can demonstrate a commitment to the tree planting project in partnership with the school for tree planting opportunities and projects.

Groups or associations wishing to obtain further information on the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program can visit [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca), or one of the City's Client Service Centres to obtain Buckslips on the Program.

### Eligible Projects

Tree planting projects on school property within the city of Ottawa are eligible to apply for the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program. Applications are accepted from student or parent councils, environmental/garden clubs or other not-for-profit interest groups associated with the school. In addition to project coordination, applicants must demonstrate the ability to perform tree maintenance activities.

Funding will not be awarded for projects that have already been started or completed. Groups may receive funding in successive years however, priority will be given to those groups who have not received past funding. Furthermore, groups receiving funding will

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not be eligible for tree planting funding through other City of Ottawa grant programs within the same year.

Projects are eligible for funding to cover the purchase and installation of trees only.

Application Deadline

Applications (Document 1) must be received by the City on or before June 1 of each year. Applications that are approved will be planted, or have funding awarded, for the spring season in the following year. A minimum of one site visit with a City representative is required as part of the grant review process and must be completed between June 1 and December 1 of the application year.

To date, there are 14 projects completed this spring, three applications received and approved for fall 2019 and 15 applications pending for 2020.

Expenditures

Funding must be spent, and projects completed, within 18 months of grant approval. For projects that have received grant funding dollars submission of receipts is required within three months of expenditures.

Grants may be awarded in trees or funds. Non-eligible expenditures are listed on Ottawa.ca and on the application form (Document 1).

Reporting

A final project report (Document 2) is due by May 1 in the year following project installation, and must include the number of trees planted, an evaluation of the tree maintenance program and photographs of the new plantings. The City reserves the right to reduce or reject a previously approved funding application if the required documentation is not submitted within three months of project completion. Recipients must acknowledge the City's support from the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program in any news articles or related promotional material related to the project.

Follow-up inspections by the Forest Management Branch staff may be conducted to verify plant installation and use of appropriate maintenance techniques, as well as to

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suggest appropriate measures if issues arise. After the tree is planted, it is the recipient's responsibility to ensure that the trees are watered and maintained to facilitate healthy growth and establishment, and that the trees remain in their planted location.

Each spring and fall, Councillors receive an update on the total amount of trees planted by tree planting programs which includes detailed information related to the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program (number of trees planted and/or funding received through this program) within their Ward.

**Funding Levels**

The maximum grant funding level in any one year is \$10,000. Grants may be awarded in funds (up to \$500 per tree) or in trees supplied and planted by the City of Ottawa's Forest Management Branch. No fund matching is required on the part of the applicant. The number of projects awarded each year is subject to the availability of City funds for this program. A limited number of schoolyard projects each planting season will be awarded with trees. The selection of these projects is done by a panel made of Landscape Architects and Program Manager from the Forest Management Branch.

**RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program is a city-wide program, and therefore schoolyards in rural communities are eligible for inclusion in the Program.

**CONSULTATION**

No consultations were required as part of this report.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal impediments to approving the recommendation as outlined in this report.

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program directly contributes to the City's overall tree planting target with a goal of improving and enhancing Ottawa's existing urban and

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rural forest cover by creating community partnerships for tree planting initiatives in schoolyards. Not reaffirming the Program would put an end to very successful partnerships and directly impact the tree planting target.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

There are no direct accessibility impacts related to this report.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Council approved Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) has set specific goals in an effort to provide an environmentally sustainable Ottawa to its residents. The Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program directly contributes to the City's overall tree planting target in support of environmental sustainability and has the goal of improving and enhancing Ottawa's existing urban and rural forest cover by creating community partnerships for tree planting initiatives in schoolyards.

**TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

ES1 – Support an environmentally sustainable Ottawa

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Document 1 – Tree Grant Application

Document 2 – Tree Grant Report

**DISPOSITION**

Upon approval of this report, the Forest Management Branch will continue administering the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program in accordance with the City of Ottawa Grants and Contributions Policy.