



Town of Erin Corporate Report

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| Department: Corporate Services | Report Number: C2024-10 |
| Business Unit: Legislative Services | Meeting Date: 9/12/2024 |
| Presented/ Prepared By: Justin Grainger, Deputy Clerk | |

Subject

CVC Funding Proposals to the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) for Growing Canada's Community Canopies

Recommendation

That report number C2024-10 "CVC Funding Proposals to the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) for Growing Canada's Community Canopies" be received for information;

And that Council acknowledges that Credit Valley Conservation is applying for a funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative for Forestry Rural Tree Planting, Community Stewardship Tree Planting Project and Credit River Watershed Home Tree Planting Project, in partnership with the Town of Erin.

And that Council recognizes that the lifetime contribution from the Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative will not exceed \$10 million for tree planting within the Town of Erin, inclusive of a maximum contribution of \$1 million for infrastructure activity costs, and that if approved this project will be counted towards that limit.

Background

On August 12, 2024, staff were notified by Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) of their intention to submit applications to the GMF's Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) stream and their desire to establish a partnership with the Town. The initiative is administered by FCM and will provide \$291 million in funding to support tree planting projects across Canada. Such projects will support the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and realize numerous other social and environmental benefits.

As a non-municipal applicant, the CVC must partner with municipalities to be eligible for funding. Therefore, CVC has requested resolutions of support from the Town of Erin, Town of Halton Hills and Town of Caledon to fulfill this requirement.

Discussion

CVC is submitting proposals for three separate projects which are detailed below:

1. Community Stewardship Tree Planting Project: This project will increase tree planting across the Credit River Watershed and connect communities with nature to strengthen their ability to offset the effects of climate change. It will involve a series of community tree plantings on municipal land to naturalize parks and open spaces and establish urban woodlands. Priority areas for enhancement include riparian zones, buffers, turf conversion, and open spaces. Planting sites are based on their significance in the Natural Heritage System (NHS) and their alignment with municipal climate action plans.
2. Urban Home Tree Planting Project: This project will grow the urban tree canopy, cool our communities and create healthier, more livable towns and cities by planting trees on home properties with willing homeowners. Participants will learn the role trees play in mitigating the effects of climate change and gain skills to care for their new trees.
3. Forestry Rural Tree Planting Project: This project will increase tree planting efforts on private lands within the countryside greenbelt areas of the credit river watershed. CVC's goal is to plant 3,000 additional trees (on top of the planned 5,000 trees) by 2026. The objectives of the project are to increase and connect forest cover and native species diversity through the planting of container stock. These plantings will help to improve human wellbeing and resilience to climate change, sequester carbon, protect and improve water quality and quantity, and create and enhance watershed forest habitat and biodiversity. These are restoration and management-based projects designed and implemented by CVC Forestry staff. Sites are prioritized based on CVC's Natural Heritage System and include former, marginal agricultural fields, riparian buffers, forest expansion and diversification, windbreaks, and restoration within existing forest impacted by pest and disease.

Regarding the Community Stewardship Tree Planting Project, volunteers will be able to participate in tree-planting events and the Town will promote such opportunities. CVC has identified planting opportunities on their property for the above projects. However, CVC is also open to planting on municipally owned lands and the Town may recommend suitable locations.

Strategic Pillar

Healthy Lifestyle & Vibrant Community

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with the proposed recommendation. If the GCCC applications are successful, the funds would be awarded to CVC who is responsible for completing the projects.

Conclusion

Staff are supportive of this opportunity and are confident it will advance the Town's strategic priority of preserving and fostering the natural environment through partnerships and volunteerism.

Attachments

None.

[Nina Lecic](#)

Director of Legislative Services & Town
Clerk

[Rob Adams](#)

Chief Administrative Officer