



Subject: Community Tree Planting Event – Partnership with Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Report to: Thorold City Council

Recommendations

1. That Council **APPROVE** the partnership with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to plant approximately 400 trees as part of Community-sponsored Events to be held on September 27th and October 28th, 2023, at the Lakeview Cemetery, and,
2. That the City of Thorold's costs for this project **BE ALLOCATED** from the 2023 Tree Planting Program.

Key Facts

- The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) has offered to supply approximately 400 trees and provide in-kind support for a Community-sponsored planting event.
- The City of Thorold Council has expressed interest to expand and enhance the annual tree-planting program.
- The Community-sponsored event will help the community connect with Council's initiatives to enhance the City's natural assets and mitigate the impact of climate change.

Budgetary Status

Funding for this specific project was not included in the 2023 Capital Budget. The cost associated with hosting these two (2) events is estimated to be \$2,500. Funding can be allocated from the 2023 Tree Planting Program.

Analysis

A volunteer planting project of this scale requires a rather large area to stage the temporary storage of plant material and coordinate resources. Staff have considered the

DeCew House Heritage Park and Mel Swart/Lake Gibson Conservation Area Areas potential sites for this project however both of these locations are currently being studied (DeCew Rd. EA) or have work in progress (new sidewalk and future trail extension at DeCew House) that will require a more strategic planting plan. Considering the window of opportunity, staff are recommending that the trees be planted in one location to facilitate the coordination of resources.

The north end of the new Lakeview Cemetery (Section X and Y) is currently unopened and can accommodate a planting project of this scale. Given this and the window of opportunity presented, staff are recommending that Council approve this location for the project. (See Appendix 1)

NPCA have sourced the material from Sassafra Farms and have developed a plant list (see Appendix 2) that will be an attractive and sustainable feature of the cemetery for years to come.

The event will be held on two (2) days, which will include Niagara College students on the morning of Wednesday, September 27th, 2023 and a Community volunteer event on Saturday, October 28th, 2023. More details will be provided to interested groups and individuals in the days leading up to these dates.

The project will involve some staff time to prepare the area for planting and coordinate the promotion and hosting arrangements for the event. These costs are not expected to exceed \$2,500.

Impact on the Environment, Climate Change

This project will contribute to environmental sustainability and help to mitigate the impacts of climate change in a meaningful way.

Alternatives Reviewed

None.

Relationship to Strategic Plan

The recommendation is consistent with Council's Strategic Priority;

- Service Modernization

Other Pertinent Reports

None.

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Recommended by: Geoff Holman
Director
Public Works and Community Services

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Chief Administrative Officer

Appendices

Appendix 1 Proposed Location Plan

Appendix 2 Proposed Plant List