



REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: October 28, 2024

Edible Trees – Bark Park Board Letter of Support

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

The recently formed Bark Park Board have requesting a letter of support from The Town of Claresholm, to apply for an Edible Tree Grant through Tree Canada. The Grant would be used to purchase edible trees, shrubs, planting materials and tree water bags for the fenced Bark Park on Patterson Heights Blvd.

“Since 2012, Tree Canada has completed over 279 Edible Trees projects and planted over 21,900 fruit and nut trees in communities across Canada. Eligible projects receive up to \$10,000 in funding to cover the cost of purchasing and planting edible trees and shrubs, site preparation, tree maintenance, planting materials and developing education materials.”

The Bark Park will be concentrating on trees and shrubs that are drought resistant, fruit bearing, and hearty for our zone. Planting a variety of trees will help reduce the risk of losing an entire area due to different stresses, such as air pollutants, drought, and invasive pests. Additionally, the diversity of tree species can increase the variety of habitats for different plants and animals and promote mental and physical well-being among users of the park.

Examples of planting include the following but will be dependent on availability, if their application is approved:

- Apples
- Plums
- Saskatoons
- Chokecherry
- Apricot
- Black Currant/Golden Current
- Elderberry
- Caragana

Within the Grant application the Bark Park Board will be requesting funds for water bags for the trees.

The group is not asking the Town for funds for this project, *Tree Canada states ‘Wherein the grant recipient cannot pre-pay project expenses, Tree Canada will provide payment directly to suppliers.’* They will be organizing a planting day for trees and shrubs to be planted by volunteers. The Town would not be responsible for planting or watering.

They have requested a 1000 L water tote be made available on site for watering requirements for spring and summer. The Town purchased 6 of these in July 2024 that will work as water collection, and portable water stations in the event of water restrictions.

Applications are accepted from October 7 to December 9, 2024.

Proposed Resolution:

Moved by Councillor _____ to write a letter of support to the Bark Park Board for the Edible Tree Grant through Tree Canada.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1.) none

PREPARED BY: Denise Spencer, Recreation Manager

APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney, CAO

DATE: October 18, 2024
