



REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: October 28, 2024

Tremendous Communities - Tree Canada Grant, Letter of Support

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

The Town of Claresholm embarked on tree planting education in fall 2023 to support increased tree planting initiatives within Claresholm. Tree planting is required to ensure our urban forest keeps pace with park areas that have seen a lot of development in recent years and enable the Town to replace trees and add more to existing park spaces. It's important to have trees of different ages to ensure forest succession and ongoing benefits. With the growing impacts of climate change, trees and urban forests can help municipalities adapt to changing weather patterns which include heat waves and flooding. Tree planting and urban forest management are effective nature-based climate solutions that work to mitigate multiple climate risks facing communities.

Tremendous Communities is a Grant through Tree Canada that "encourages and supports community tree planting projects that create long-lasting benefits where people live, work or play." The Grant is available to Canadian municipalities, Indigenous communities, business improvement associations, non-profit organizations and community groups.

Administration has determined that the following areas are priorities, with site specific information:

- Frog Creek Wetlands: Diverse group of trees that thrive in wet, moist planting conditions with alkaline soil, and plantings that are also drought resistant. For this area to thrive as an ecological wetland shade trees and bushes are required. These will reduce evaporation, play host to wildlife, and create diversity within the area. In 2018 the Storm ponds were planted with over 100,000 live staked trees and shrubs. The plantings were not as successful due to widespread drought. Focus on grouping with previous planted areas, and adding more trees and shrubs along the east side of the roadway system to buffer sound from the highway.
- Millennium Ball Park: Replacement of columnar poplars on 8th street, addition of shrubs near the Millennium Sign at entry, shade trees for between the diamonds
- Moffat Park: Addition of more shade trees along 8 street & 54 Ave.
- Disc Golf Course: Full sun, drought resistant, deer resistant varieties with large shade canopy will be ideal. This prairie landscape has had a significant number of trees planted in 2021 & 2022 by a volunteer. Drought conditions, soil compaction, and roaming deer have hindered these plantings and many have been removed.
- Kin Trail: Low rooting trees/ bushes due to underground infrastructure. Concentrate on the entrance of the park, and along the path, and near benches to provide shade shelter. Full sun mixes that are drought tolerant.
- Willow Dog Park: Caragana's along 8th Street west, shade canopy trees in park.

- Centennial Park

Trembling Aspen, Willows, Pussy Willows, Crabapples, Dogwoods, Mountain Ash, Hackberry trees, Mayday Trees, Lilacs, Choke Cherry, Poplars, Silver Buffalo berry, Aspen, Maple, Spruce/Fir trees, Saskatoon bushes, Cotoneasters

Trees that are planted when smaller have a better success rate than trees that are larger. Planting larger trees can stunt their growth, taking longer for them to grow

Trees chosen will be dependent on a number of factors which include soil PH, underground infrastructure, and the area/region chosen for planting. Additionally the availability of different varieties will be considered when purchasing, plantings may not be identical. Plantings will be grouped together and mulched to aid in moisture retention and protect against wind.

Grant amount: Up to \$10,000

Grant intake October 7, 2024 – December 9, 2024

Tree Canada will reimburse eligible project costs up to the full Grant amount once planting is complete.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by Councillor _____ to write a letter of support for the Recreation Department to apply for the Tremendous Communities Tree Canada Grant for the Town of Claresholm.

PREPARED BY: Denise Spencer, Recreation Manager

APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney, CAO

DATE: October 25, 2024
