

Date: 2021-07-22

Subject: **Budget Amendment – Billion Trees Funding**

Contact: Ed Fagan, Acting Director, Parks Maintenance and Forestry
(905) 874-2913

Report Number: Community Services-2021-900

Recommendations:

1. That the report titled: **Budget Amendment – Billion Trees Funding**, to the Committee of Council Meeting of September 8, 2021, be received; and
2. That a budget amendment be approved to the 2021 Capital Budget and a new capital project be established in the amount of \$2,565,000 named the Urban Forest Canopy Program that will support the Brampton One Million Trees Program, with up to \$1,280,000 of funding allocated from the Federal Government Growing Canada's Forest Program grant, \$550,000 to be transferred from capital project #206600-002 – Emerald Ash Borer and \$735,000 to be transferred from capital project #216600-002 – Emerald Ash Borer; and
3. That Council approve funding for the stated project to have claimed expenditures reimbursed by Natural Resources Canada.

Overview:

- **The City of Brampton is committed to adapting a greener approach to combat climate change which also aligns with the overall 2040 vision. As such, the City has collaborated with the Government of Canada Growing Canada's Forest Program to receive funding.**
- **On April 16, 2021, staff applied for a grant under the Government of Canada's Growing Canada's Forests: Early Start Projects for 2021. The City of Brampton has qualified to participate in the Federal 2 Billion Trees Commitment through the Government of Canada's Growing Canada's Forest Program by being granted up to \$1,280,000 for 2021 tree planting activities under the Brampton One Million Trees Program.**

- **This report recommends a budget amendment in the amount of \$2,565,000 with up to \$1,280,000 of funding coming from the Government of Canada to help fund efforts in achieving the City's target of planting one million trees by 2040.**

Background:

The Government of Canada is committed to planting an additional 2 billion trees over the next 10 years as part of a broader approach to nature-based climate solutions. There has been up to \$3.2 billion in funds allocated to achieve this mission within the next ten years. The City of Brampton is in alignment with this initiative through the Brampton One Million Trees Program that has set to achieve one million trees planted in Brampton by 2040.

In April 2021, the City applied for a grant under the Government of Canada's Growing Canada's Forest Program: Early Start Projects for 2021 to propel tree planting activities under the Brampton One Million Trees Program. The grant program is set to be completed March 2022. During this time period, the following tasks will commence: prioritization of planting sites, design of plantings, hiring of contractors, planting of trees that will maximize growth success and maintenance monitoring of planted trees. Tree planting efforts as a result of this grant, will focus primarily on supplementing tree plantings within the city's existing parks, street and road networks, boulevards, and the Parks and Valleylands

Current Situation:

On April 16, 2021, City staff were informed that the City was selected as a recipient of receiving up to \$1,280,000 grant under the Government of Canada's Growing Canada Forests Program: Early Start Projects for 2021.

To undertake this initiative, staff is requesting approval of a budget amendment of \$2,565,000 and the establishment of a new capital project, for claimed expenditures with up to \$1,280,000 to be reimbursed by Natural Canada Resources.

Next Steps

With the approval of this project, staff start the process of site preparation and planning for the tree planting initiative to secure inventory of trees and resources needed to administer the planting process.

Corporate Implications:Financial Implications:

A budget amendment to the 2021 Capital Budget is required to establish a new capital project in the amount of \$2,565,000 named the Urban Forest Canopy Program to

support the Brampton One Million Trees Program. Funding in the amount of \$1,280,000 is being allocated from Federal Government Growing Canada's Forest Program grant.

The City's contribution of \$1,285,000 will be funded from existing capital projects as follows, subject to Council approval:

- \$550,000 from capital project #206600-002 – Emerald Ash Borer
- \$735,000 from capital project #216600-002 – Emerald Ash Borer

Sufficient funding is available to proceed with this initiative.

Other Implications:

N/A

Term of Council Priorities:

This report supports the following Term of Council Priorities:

- Brampton is a Green City
 - Implement a Green Framework by coordinating with Regional and Provincial Governments on efforts to address climate change
 - Promote community events and outreach programs such as Adopt-a-Park, Community Gardens, Community Tree Planting, and Environmental Stewardship Education programs to give residents opportunities for hands-on community improvement
 - Establish on-going monitoring of intensification and greenfield density in Brampton
- Brampton is a Well-Run City
 - Continue to build the City's Government Relations and Advocacy Capacity and Impact

Conclusion:

Through the Federal Growing Canada's Forest Program, the City has been granted up to \$1,280,000 to propel the City's tree planting process. By collaborating with the Federal Government in promoting the initiative of 2 billion trees to be planted in the next 10 years, the City of Brampton will be able to complete its mission of having 1 million trees planted by 2040. By planting trees and enhancing the City's urban forest, this project will improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity, increase climate resiliency, reduce climate change impacts, and reduce negative impacts of urbanization to the city's natural assets and resources. Furthermore, improving the urban forest will build more attractive public spaces and neighbourhoods, encouraging residents to be more active and healthy and stimulating mental health, as well as, increase community aesthetics, which has shown to attract business and talent and increase property values.

Reviewed by:

Ed Fagan, Acting Director
Parks Maintenance & Forestry

Approved by:

Marion Nader,
Commissioner, Community
Services

Submitted by:

Marion Nader
Commissioner, Community Services, and
Acting Chief Administrative Officer