



THE CORPORATION OF DELTA
COUNCIL REPORT
REGULAR MEETING

To: Mayor and Council

File No.: 69000-1

From: Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

Date: December 31, 2008

Trees for Tomorrow Grant Application

The following report has been reviewed and endorsed by the Chief Administrative Officer.

■ **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A. THAT staff submit a Trees for Tomorrow Grant Application, as outlined in the form attached;
- B. THAT subject to approval of matching funds by the Province, an amount of \$50,000 be included in the 2009 Financial Plan; and
- C. THAT a Boulevard Tree Planting Incentive Program be established.

■ **PURPOSE:**

To seek Council's approval for a grant application to plant boulevard trees.

■ **BACKGROUND:**

On December 15, 2008, Council received an invitation to submit an application for grant funding to plant trees from the Ministry of Community Development. The deadline for this application is January 16, 2009.

Council Policy:

Council has adopted several policies with respect to promoting planting of trees, including:

- Urban Forest Management Strategy
- Delta's Climate Change Initiative
- Signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter
- Set a goal of achieving a 40% tree canopy cover in urban area
- Planting of 20,100 trees by the year 2010
- Various bylaws that include the requirement for protection and planting of trees

DISCUSSION:

The Trees for Tomorrow grant program requires matching funding of up to \$50,000 per project, which is to be used specifically to plant trees. The program has multiple objectives, which leverages the effect of other provincial programs, such as Act Now, Climate Action Charter promotion, BC150 etc.; however, the main goal is planting trees for carbon sequestration. The program also is looking to promote local community partnerships that further leverage the benefits of the program.

Applicants to the grant can apply under one of three categories:

- BC150 Groves
- CommuniTree
- Urban Mountain Pine Beetle Affected Area Renewal

Delta has annually included an amount of \$50,000 in its Financial Plan to plant trees. The application envisions similar funding in the 2009 Financial Plan and is proposing to use Delta's annual allocation as the matching portion, with the goal of achieving a \$100,000 fund for tree planting.

The proposed grant application (Attachment A) is provided under the "CommuniTree" category. What makes Delta's proposal unique is that it promotes planting of trees by landowners on the municipal boulevards, adjacent to their property (subject to approvals) through financial incentives. If approved, this would be a formalized program that staff would administer on a first come first served basis until the program is fully expended. The following excerpt from the application is provided for a fuller description of how the program would work.

"The program would involve having interested owners apply to the municipality for funds to plant up to two trees in the municipal boulevard adjacent to their property. An application form would be filled out whereby the owner must indicate in their application the preferred location and select trees from a list of suitable species, provided by the municipality. The municipality would confirm the suitability for the proposed planting by insuring conflicts with utilities and site-lines are addressed. Upon approval of the application by the municipality, the property owner will arrange to purchase the tree from a local nursery and plant the tree in the approved location. A specification on how to plant and care for the tree will be provided by the municipality. Once complete, the homeowner will send the municipality proof of tree planting, along with proof of expenditure. The municipality will reimburse the homeowner up to \$250.00, per tree. The application will include a commitment of maintenance, to ensure the tree is suitably cared for until establishment."

Such a program could result in up to 400 boulevard trees planted annually. It involves the citizens of the community at the most fundamental level, creating an opportunity to improve

their property value, taking ownership for the outcome and success, while establishing an urban canopy with carbon sequestration. Such a program leverages the value significantly, in that a typical tree planted by the municipality costs \$500.00 each. By involving the property owner into taking on some responsibility for the tree, there is a significant value provided to the program. The program also compliments the objectives of other initiatives, such as Act Now's healthy living and social engagement.

Financial Implications:

The 2009 draft Financial Plan includes \$50,000 for tree planting. The money to fund this amount is collected from development and is used for planting boulevard trees. Using this money as matching funds for this grant is in keeping with the intended use of the money.

CONCLUSION:

A grant application for the Trees for Tomorrow program can be beneficial to promoting boulevard tree planting. An application for this program as outlined in the attached form is recommended.

Ken Kuntz
Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture

This report has been prepared in consultation with the following listed departments.

Concurring Departments		
Department	Name	Signature
Engineering	Ian Radnidge	
Community Planning & Development	Kip Gaudry	
Finance	Karl Preuss	

ATTACHMENT: (Available for viewing at the clerk's department)

A. Trees for Tomorrow Application Form