

Staff Report 2019-68

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Subject: 2019 Community Green Fund Recommendations

Submitted By: Katelyn McFadyen, Manager, Energy & Environment, Finance & Infrastructure Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2019 Community Green Fund recipients listed in Table 2 of Staff Report 2019-68 be approved;

That \$14,750.00 of Community Green Fund grants be disbursed to the recipients in the amounts outlined in Table 2 of Staff Report 2019-68; and

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute funding agreements and all other necessary documents for the Community Green Fund.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2006, the Community Green Fund has been supporting community environmental projects throughout the Town. Town staff received four Community Green Fund applications from the following community groups and organizations:

- Caledon Community Services;
- Ontario Streams;
- Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust; and
- Bolton United Church (fast track funding).

Town staff are recommending that the organizations outlined in Table 2 receive funding from the 2019 Community Green Fund for their projects outlined in this report/their application.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this Report is to seek Council approval for the staff Environment Committee's 2019 Community Green Fund recommendations.

In 2006, Council approved the Green Fund Framework and authorized the Town's Energy and Environment Section to initiate and proceed with the Community Green Fund Program.

Community Green Fund Program Procedure

Energy and Environment staff accept and pre-screen project applications to ensure that the minimum funding criteria are met, which include:

- Applicants must be a not for profit or volunteer based organization that serves Caledon residents;
- Applicants must operate under a formal organizational structure (i.e. Board of Directors);
- Applicants must present a plan for utilizing the funding within one (1) year of receiving the award;
- Applicants cannot apply for the Town's Municipal Agricultural and Community Organization Grants Program for the same project.

Applications are then provided to the Town's Staff Environment Committee, comprised of staff from across the Town, for review and to create Council recommendations on projects to support within the approved annual budget of \$17,000. It is important to note that Energy and Environment staff do not participate in this detailed review and recommendation process. Outlined in Table 1 below is the review process for both Fast Track and Funding Stream projects:

Table 1: Community Green Fund Review Process		
Funding Track	Funding Amount	Score Mechanism
Fast Track	\$1,000 Maximum Request	An application checklist is used to evaluate the application against the Green Fund program criteria. Results are discussed by the Committee to reach consensus on a funding decision.
Project Stream	\$5,000 Maximum Request	Environment Committee relies on an evaluation matrix with 20 available points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applications that score between 16 and 20 points are recommended for full funding;• Applications that score between 12 and 15 points are recommended for partial (75%) funding;• Projects that receive below 12 points are not recommended for funding.• The evaluation matrix includes the following criteria:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <u>Community Engagement</u>: how does the project engage the community;○ <u>Project outcomes and outputs</u>: Clear description of how the funds will be used, and whether project outcomes are achievable?○ <u>Monitoring and Evaluation Plan</u>: How will the project monitor and evaluate the projects successes and challenges;○ <u>Meaningful and measurable results</u>: What is the project impact, and are the project results quantifiable and measurable?○ <u>Support of the Town's Strategic Environmental Plans</u>: Does the applicant specify which actions or focus areas of the Town's environmental plans or strategies that will be supported

Staff Report 2019-68

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">through this project?○ <u>Project Timeline</u>: Is there a clear and reasonable project timeline for the project?
--	--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

2019 Projects and Evaluation Results

The Town received four (4) applications; one (1) for Fast Track funding and three (3) for Project Stream Funding. A summary of the staff Environment Committee's funding recommendations are provided in Table 2 below:

Table 2: 2019 Recommended Community Green Fund Recipients			
Recipient	Grant Request	Full, Partial or No Funding	Recommended Funding (Grant)
Bolton United Church	\$1,000.00	Full	\$1,000.00
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust	\$5,000.00	Full	\$5,000.00
Ontario Streams	\$5,000.00	Full	\$5,000.00
Caledon Community Services	\$5,000.00	Partial Funding	\$3,750.00
Total Recommended Funding			\$14,750.00

Bolton United Church –“Community Garden Project” (Fast track Funding Applicant)

The Bolton United Church has served the Caledon community for 143 years providing services of worship, fellowship and healing. A description of the Church's 'Community Garden Project' is described in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Bolton United Church 2019 Community Green Fund Project Summary	
Project Description	This project builds upon the Church's existing community garden space, which was developed on a repurposed unused playground space on Church property.
Project Deliverables	The Church, in collaboration with community volunteers, nearby senior groups, scouts and the Seventh Day Adventist Church, will undertake repairs to an existing community garden, and plant and maintain the garden. The produce generated by the garden will be provided to the Exchange, a program of Caledon Community Services. Success of the program is monitored based on the weight of produce generated by the garden.
Environment Committee Comments and Decision	Recommend Full Funding, \$1,000.00

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) – “BioBlitzing Project” (Project Funding Applicant)

Established in 2000 as a not-for-profit charitable, volunteer-board governed organization, the ORMLT ensures permanent protection of natural lands in Caledon and beyond through its Land Securement program. A description of the ORMLT's 'BioBlitzing' project is provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4: ORMLT 2019 Community Green Fund Project Summary	
Project Description	This project is a community-based citizen science program that involves working with community volunteers and taxonomic experts to identify living organisms on protected properties within a 24-hour period. The properties involved are protected through Environment Canada's "Ecological Gifts Program" (a program of the Federal Government to provide 'tax benefits' to landowners who donate land to a qualified recipient who assumes responsibility for the land conservation, biodiversity and environmental heritage). The goal is to educate participants on species identification, species at risk and invasive species, to foster broader stewardship and learn about the carbon sequestration value of the protected lands. Once completed, recommendations are made to the landowner to enhance the habitat for identified species at risk and recommend management plans, in addition to beneficial partnerships and resources for controlling invasive species.
Project Deliverables	The program will involve three community workshops, with a target of 120 Caledon participants (including youth groups, high schools, girl guides and scouts). Environmental professionals will work directly with workshop participants to gather a comprehensive inventory of local biodiversity and teach participants about local diversity, species at risk and the impact of invasive species. Surveys will be distributed to workshop participants to evaluate how individual connection to the environment has changed resulting from the event (using a "Nature Relatedness Scale") and inform the development of future events. A second deliverable is a comprehensive inventory report that contains all species recorded, including GIS location, and quantity of species recorded, and the development of a management plan to control the spread of invasive species.
Environment Committee Comments and Decision	The Committee recommends full project funding of \$5,000.00, with an overall application score of 17 out of a possible 20 points.

Ontario Streams – 2019 Caledon Headwaters Rehabilitation Initiative (Project Funding Applicant)

Ontario Streams is a non-profit organization with a mission to protect and rehabilitate streams and wetlands in Ontario and has been involved in habitat restoration work within the Town since 1998. A description of the 'Caledon Headwaters Rehabilitation Initiative' is provided in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Ontario Streams 2019 Community Green Fund Project Summary	
Project Description	The project is centred on enhancing Brook Trout fish population, which Ontario Streams states is declining due to urbanization and habitat degradation. Second, the project seeks to foster the reintroduction of Atlantic Salmon, which Ontario Streams state was extirpated in the late 1800's. The proposed project will focus on Atlantic salmon incubation and release, and in-stream rehabilitation and enhancement to improve habitat quality for Brook Trout, Atlantic Salmon in addition to other aquatic species within the Humber River Watershed.
Project Deliverables	This project will include the installation of two habitat enhancement structures, removal of instream waste, invasive plant removal and

	planting of approximately 200 trees along Boyces and Centreville Creek. The project will engage the Caledon East Wetland Team for the in-stream habitat replacements and removal of invasive species; up to 10 community volunteers will be engaged to support in stream waste removal, and five classrooms in addition to the Islington Sportsmen's Club of Palgrave will support the Atlantic salmon hatchery. To measure project outcomes, Ontario Streams will use visual observations and electrofishing surveys to measure the success of the Atlantic Salmon programs and quantity of students involved in the salmon release, and waste and invasive species removal will be measured through quantity of bags removed and size of area covered.
Environment Committee Comments and Decision	Environment Committee recommends full project funding of \$5,000.00 with an overall application score of 18 out of a possible 20 points.

Caledon Community Services – “Evolve This!” (Project Funding Applicant)

Founded in 1971, Caledon Community Services (CCS) is a multi-service community impact organization that addresses the health, employment, training, business development, specialized transportation, newcomer, and social service needs of residents and businesses in Caledon and surrounding communities. A description of the ‘Evolve This!’ project is provided in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Caledon Community Services 2019 Community Green Fund Project Summary	
Project Description	In 2017, CCS launched an Evolve second hand store with a key objective of funding multiple community services to meet the needs of children, seniors and families. The proposed project focuses on creating a series of workshops to demonstrate the value of donating and shopping second hand and contribute to landfill diversion. The workshops will also be complemented by a social media campaign to encourage others to demonstrate personal effort with textile diversion.
Project Deliverables	The workshops will aim to include 200 Caledon residents and will focus on raising awareness amongst residents to participate in activities to highlight the impact that their personal ‘dress patterns’ have on the environment. Specifically, all workshops will focus on textile donation, processing and a take home textile re-purposing project (i.e. repurposing a t-shirt to be used as a shopping bag). The project plans to measure the following metrics: number of residents involved, kg of textile diverted from landfill, number of people reporting to understand the environmental benefits of textile diversion and quality of changed behavior in disposing of property. The monitoring plan includes the distribution of a pre and post survey to measure behavior change.
Environment Committee Comments and Decision	Environment Committee recommends partial project funding of \$3,750.00 with an overall application score of 15 out of a possible 20 points. As noted in Table 1 above, applications scoring between 12 and 15 are eligible for partial or 75% funding. The Environment Committee provided this score because the application did not link the proposed project to a specific Town Environmental Strategic Plan or action (i.e. Environmental Progress Action Plan or the Community Climate Change Action Plan) and was unclear on the monitoring and evaluation plan, specifically the details associated with the project monitoring plan to measure overall landfill diversion.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Annual funding of \$17,000 for Community Green Fund grants (account 01-09-255-44040-365-62224) is included in the Finance and Infrastructure Services department, Energy and Environment division's 2019 operating budget. The recommendations in this report will allocate the \$14,750 to various Community Green Fund recipients noted in Table 2 of staff report 2019-68. The remaining \$2,250 ($=\$17,000 - \$14,750$) will be used to 'top up' the School Green Fund program, which will begin in September 2019.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Sustainable Growth-Ensure that Caledon grows in a balanced and sustainable manner.

ATTACHMENTS

None.