



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

TITLE:

FCM GREEN CANADA'S COMMUNITY CANOPIES FUND APPLICATION- TREE INVENTORY

PRESENTER:

Lindsay Hargreaves

DEPARTMENT:

Environmental Initiatives

ATTACHMENTS:

DATE:

11/19/2025

CLEARANCE / APPROVALS:

Bryce Wilson	Manager of Parks
Troy Tripp	Director of Finance
Todd Burton	GM of Operations
Ryan Nickel	General Manager
Dave Wardrop	City Manager

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That city council support an application for funding to the Growing Canada's Community Canopies- Urban Forestry Plans and Studies submitted under the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund.

BACKGROUND:

Brandon has a unique tree canopy made up of privately owned trees, crownland trees (along the Assiniboine River), and an estimate of 35,000 city owned trees.

The City is seeking to hire a tree company to update our tree inventory. A basic tree inventory was done in 2009 and partially updated in 2018. The tree inventory would include data of diameter breast height, species, location and condition for trees located on city property only (green spaces, woodlands, street trees). Privately owned trees or trees located on crownland would not be included.

An updated tree inventory is necessary as the city continues to grow and severe weather and threat of invasive species continue to impact our tree canopy.

ANALYSIS:

The City's Urban Forestry and Horticulture section would be responsible for leading the tree inventory initiative working with an external tree company. Staff would look after procurement procedures and manage the project from start to finish. Once the inventory is complete the city arborists will be able to maintain the inventory in real time in the course of normal job duties using tablets to perform updates.

Having an updated tree inventory completed by an external tree company will allow data to be collected in a timely fashion and will not risk internal staff being assigned to other duties. Over the past couple of years,

the City of Brandon including council have prioritized asset management. The tree inventory will be extremely instrumental in creating an asset management plan for our natural and green infrastructure assets. In addition, the tree inventory will help keep better track of maintenance, hazards, identify future tree plantings and opportunities to increase biodiversity.

The proposed timeline is to start and complete the inventory in 2027 as City administration has already submitted the 2026 budget to council. Having the inventory start in 2027 will allow enough time to ensure funds are available and in place for 2027.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

The tree inventory is supported by action items in the Climate Change Action Plan and the Green Space Master Plan. The collected data will also support council's goal to improve asset management for the corporation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The estimated cost for a tree inventory is \$245,000. FCM will cover 80% of eligible costs up to maximum of \$175,000. If the grant is approved, the City's cost would be an estimated \$70,000.

The city's portion would come out of the 2027 capital budget.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Not having an updated tree inventory can increase safety hazards, increase the spread of disease, and result in missed opportunities for future grants.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

The City will acknowledge any funding contributions to media outlets and announcements through social media platforms.

CONCLUSION:

That City Council support an application for funding to the Growing Canada's Community Canopies- Urban Forestry Plans and Studies submitted under the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund.