



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MEMORANDUM

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Pending #:

TO: MAYOR A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: S. WIDEMAN, PARKS PROGRAM COORDINATOR, EXT.4938

WARD: 6

NOTED: K. BRADLEY, BA, MLA, MANAGER OF PARKS PLANNING

M. BANFIELD, RPP, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P. ENG., PMP, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: TREES CANADA EDIBLE TREES GRANT- BATTEAUX PARK

DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2023

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update regarding the partnership with Tree Canada to create the City's newest Food Forest in Batteaux Park.

Parks Planning staff applied for, and were awarded in the fall of 2023, a \$3,500 grant from Tree Canada as part of a broader climate change adaption and food literacy initiative within City parks. Parks Planning and Urban Forestry have previously partnered with Tree Canada and local not-for-profit groups such as Fruitshare Barrie and The Urban Pantry to plant fruit trees on City lands where Barrie residents can freely collect edible fruits and nuts. In response to the Council approved Climate Change Adaption Strategy action item 7.6 that recommends the City create edible landscapes on City lands and offer community education events related to food literacy, Development Services staff are focusing more effort on expanding the City's Food Forest program and related outreach activities.

The purpose of Tree Canada's Edible Trees Program is to reconnect people with local food sources and to build community. The program guidelines require that grant recipients include fruit tree planting, community education, and local partnerships in their projects. Staff selected Batteaux Park as it is home to an active community garden and it is central to several schools within walking distance of the park that staff have engaged with to offer students nature-based learning opportunities.

This Food Forest is a diverse planting comprised of edible plants that mimic the ecosystems found in nature and includes an understory of native pollinator species. As a part of the Liquor Control Board's (LCBO) *Spirit of Sustainability* social-impact platform, the LCBO and staff from the LCBO District 15 donated to the project and volunteered their time on October 20, 2023 to plant over fifty apple trees, fruiting shrubs, and nut-producing shrubs that were purchased with the grant funding. Ward 6 Councillor Nigussie Nigussie was in attendance and members of the community garden and representatives for Living Green Barrie were also on hand to assist.

Parks Planning staff will continue to support the Food Forest project and the local community by providing on-site learning opportunities to assist with the ongoing care of the Food Forest including preparing instructions as to how to complete tree monitoring and health assessments on the young fruit trees, food harvesting and production, and pollinator habitat restoration.

Please see a few photos of the volunteer planting event in Appendix "A" (Figure 1) below.

APPENDIX "A"



Figure 1- Volunteers and donors working together to plant the Food Forest at Batteaux Park