

REPORT
1995 MAY 15

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: Tree Plan Canada/Green Streets, Grant Application

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information purposes.

R E P O R T

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting held on 1995 May 09, adopted the attached staff report advising of a grant application to the Federal Government for a tree planting program in Burnaby.

Respectfully submitted,

: - COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR REC. & CULT. SERV.
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BLDG.

Councillor Drummond
Chairman

Councillor D. Johnston
Member

Councillor D. Lawson
Member

TO: Chairperson and Members
Environment & Waste Management Committee

FROM: Director Recreation & Cultural Services

SUBJECT: TREE PLAN CANADA/GREEN STREETS GRANT APPLICATION

PURPOSE: To provide the Committee with details and schedule of the proposed grant application.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Environment and Waste Management Committee receive this report as information.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1994 August 03, the Parks and Recreation Commission adopted a report recommending that an application be made to Tree Plan Canada for a grant to assist forestry work in Central Park. The Commission also referred the report to Council and subsequently to the Environment and Waste Management Committee which adopted the following recommendation.

"THAT staff prepare a report for presentation to the Environment and Waste Management Committee outlining a coordinated tree planting program for initiation by the City as outlined in the State of the Environment Report. "

This report provides an update on the success of the Central Park Program and the details of the proposed city wide application. It is intended that this project will be a major display feature for Environment Week, allowing opportunities for suggestions for possible planting locations. Opportunities for private and corporate donations will also be advertized.

PARTNERS Program in Central Park

Staff submitted a proposal to Tree Plan Canada to plant conifer seedlings in Central Park in partnership with school children from Chaffey-Burke elementary school, the British Columbia Forestry Association, and the British Columbia Telephone Company. The proposal was accepted by Tree Plan Canada and resulted in a successful planting event in Central Park forest on 1995 March 09. Forty grade five students planted two hundred fir and cedar seedlings on a forest site prepared by City staff. The City received funding assistance from Tree Plan Canada and the British Columbia Telephone Company and technical assistance from the British Columbia

Forestry Association. Experience gained in the conduct of the PARTNERS project will assist in the preparation of a Tree Plan Canada GREEN STREETS tree planting proposal to be submitted to Tree Plan Canada before 1995 October 15.

GREEN STREETS Program Overview

Green Streets is a federal program dedicated to encouraging the planting of trees in communities nationwide by creating partnerships between federal and municipal governments and communities. The purpose of the program is to improve urban forests and elevate public awareness to the role that trees play toward improving quality of life. This program provides an opportunity for a municipality to be awarded additional funding of up to \$100,000 for tree planting in accordance with meeting minimum requirements and providing specific information as follows:

1. A description of past tree planting budgets and activities
2. Clear demonstration that Green Streets Canada's contribution (up to \$100,000) will increase an existing budget and the number of trees planted.
3. Agree to a 50:50 cost sharing with Green Streets Canada. A maximum of 50 % of the applicants share may be in-kind contributions.
4. Provide a tree planting plan that demonstrates a commitment to the ongoing care and maintenance of the trees planted within the program.
5. Provide the required technical expertise to undertake the program successfully.
6. Provide for the involvement of volunteers and the availability of educational events or materials.
7. Commit to the cost effective planting of trees of all sizes and
8. Provide a written endorsement and commitment to the proposal by Council and the Mayor and accompanied by a Council resolution.

Proposals are evaluated and funds awarded based on the following criteria:

1. The technical feasibility of the program.
2. The cost effective commitment to the planting of trees of all sizes that are an addition to existing programs

3. The commitment to the ongoing long-term care and maintenance of trees planted
4. The overall commitment by the Municipality (applicant) to the involvement of the community in the program and the enhancement of public education and awareness of tree planting within the community.

Proposals submitted by Municipalities of proportionate size within the Pacific - Yukon Region are evaluated against each other. The competitive nature of the award of funds encourages creative and unique proposals.

DISCUSSION

In accordance with Council direction of 1994 August 22 staff of the Parks, Planning and Engineering departments have initiated a Green Streets grant application proposal for a co-ordinated tree planting program as outlined in the State of the Environment Report (SOER) - 1993 September. The SOEReport is a policy framework to address environmental issues identified by the community as necessary for the preservation of forested areas and ecological diversity. An objective of the SOEReport is to involve community participation in environmental decision making. Recommendation 4 of the SOEReport provides the implementation strategy for environmental stewardship as follows:

"THAT the City develop a city-wide program for tree planting for boulevards, parks, conservation areas and other public lands and that the program include opportunities for participation by individuals, community groups and other agencies."

Selection of Planting Sites

Staff have selected a planting site philosophy felt to embody the spirit of the SOEReport and to fulfil the requirements of Green Streets Canada. One major site will provide the necessary focus for this event while several minor sites dispersed throughout the City of Burnaby, will bring the event and its message within reach of a maximum portion of the community.

Terminus Park is selected as the primary site. Major tree planting will occur as part of the environmental enhancement and park development currently in progress with Federal Fisheries. Native deciduous and coniferous tree species of various sizes will be planted.

Minor tree planting will occur on selected park sites, woodlands and street rights-of-way city wide. Appropriate locations will be selected after a review of suggestions offered by the public and corporate donors. Sites could include Central Park, Barnet Marine Park and various waterways and wildlife corridors. A variety of tree species of different sizes will be accommodated by the sites chosen.

Community Involvement and Education

Community participation is an important component of the program. The City of Burnaby will include the community both in the planning stage and the implementation phase. The Green Streets program will be a display feature within environment week in June. Displays will solicit suggestions from the public for planting locations, volunteers for planting and corporate sponsorship. The public, school children and corporate representatives will assist city employees to plant trees during implementation. Education and promotion will involve public display, newspaper inclusions and visits to schools, amongst others. The presentation within environment week and an article included in the June issue of INFOBURNABY have begun this process.

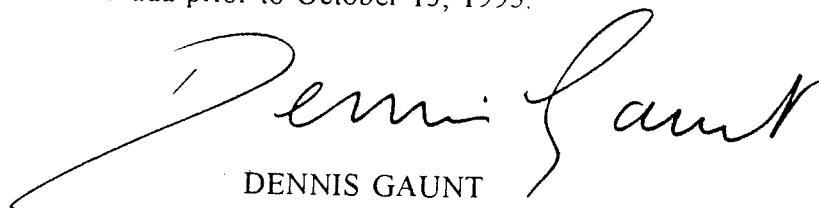
Green Streets Program Funding

A matching grant up to a maximum of \$100,000 may be awarded by Green Streets Canada to a successful proposal. In keeping with the 50:50 cost sharing arrangement agreed to by the applicant and Green Streets Canada, the City of Burnaby is preparing a \$200,000 program proposal in an attempt to receive the maximum award and thus maximum benefit to the community. Half of the applicants portion (\$50,000) may be provided through 'in-kind' contributions from community and corporate sponsors. The remaining portion (\$50,000) will derive from existing street and park tree planting budgets.

A successful proposal receiving less than the maximum award requested may be re-submitted the following year for receipt of remaining funds to a maximum of \$100,000 total award.

Current Program Status

Staff are preparing the foregoing Green Streets Program application proposal for implementation over two years (1996-1997). The finalized application will be submitted to the Environment and Waste Management Committee for approval on 1995 September 12. The approved application will be forwarded to Green Streets Canada prior to October 13, 1995.



DENNIS GAUNT

Director Recreation & Cultural Services

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cc: Director Engineering
Director Planning
Director Human Resources

