

HALIFAX

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Item No. 11.1.2
Halifax Regional Council
March 23, 2021

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by 
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Federation of Canadian Municipalities Forestry Grant

ORIGIN

Staff initiated, pursuant to a grant application requiring Halifax Regional Council support as a condition.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipal Charter

58 (1) The Council shall make decisions in the exercise of its powers and duties by resolution, by policy or by by-law.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council adopt the following resolution:

“Be it resolved that Halifax Regional Council directs staff to apply for a grant opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Municipal Asset Management Program for the Street Tree Inventory Project Phase 2. In doing so, Halifax Regional Municipality commits \$47,000 from its budget toward the costs of this initiative and further commits to conducting the following activities in its proposed project submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Municipal Asset Management Program:

- Collection of location and attribute data all street trees defined within Phase 2 of the Street Tree Inventory Project; and,
- Migration of this data to the municipal Asset Registry”.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, Urban Forestry began Phase 1 of the Street Tree Inventory Project, beginning with Districts 7 and 8. This inventory data has since been migrated to the Municipal Asset Registry and is awaiting subsequent phases of the project to improve its usefulness.

This data is being collected to support the maintenance of the street tree inventory from a tactical perspective, to aid in projecting budgets and financial reporting within the Urban Forestry portfolio, as well as with an intension of being used for future strategic asset management planning.

DISCUSSION

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) supports projects such as the Street Tree Inventory Project through its Municipal Asset Management Grant Program. As the Halifax Street Tree Inventory Project matches the criteria for matched funding, it is the desire of Urban Forestry to apply for grant funding to support acceleration of this project.

A requirement for application to the FCM program is Council's approval of the grant application for the purposes of continuing with Phase 2 of the Urban Forestry Street Tree Inventory Project. It is also a condition of funding that the Municipality commit to:

- Collection of location and attribute data for all street trees defined within Phase 2 of the Street Tree Inventory Project;
- Migration of this data to the Municipal Asset Registry; and
- Contribution of \$47,000 from the Municipality's budget toward the costs of this initiative.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As identified in TPW's 2021/22 budget under R845/6310 (Urban Forestry), \$47,000 is committed toward completing Phase 2 of the Street Tree Inventory Project. The grant from FCM, a fund matching program with a \$50,000 cap, would enable Urban Forestry to inventory an additional district in 2021/22.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this Report

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There was no community engagement undertaken.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Approval of the recommendation in this report will permit application for additional funding to support and improve the management of the Urban Forest of Halifax.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council could opt not to support this application and direct staff to continue with the Council approved funding only.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Crispin Wood, Superintendent - Urban Forestry 902.225.2774
