

City of Mississauga

Corporate Report



Date: October 23, 2024 To: Chair and Members of General Committee	Originator's files:
From: Sam Rogers, MBA, Acting Commissioner of Transportation and Works	Meeting date: November 20, 2024

Subject

Funding Agreement for Credit Valley Conservation Authority's Greening Corporate Grounds Program in Mississauga

Recommendation

1. That the Commissioner of Transportation and Works be authorized to execute a funding agreement between The Corporation of the City of Mississauga and Credit Valley Conservation Authority, including amendments, extensions or renewals and any ancillary documents for the City to provide funding in support of Credit Valley Conservation's Greening Corporate Grounds Program in Mississauga, in a form satisfactory to Legal Services; and
2. That all necessary by-laws be enacted.

Background

Credit Valley Conservation Authority's (CVC) Greening Corporate Grounds (GCG) Program was launched in 2009 and has assisted businesses, institutions, and places of worship throughout its watersheds to adopt sustainable landscaping practices, enhancing the natural beauty and health of their grounds and build resiliency to climate change.

The GCG Program complements the City's Stormwater Program through efforts to mitigate flood risk, manage stormwater on-site and improve water quality, as well as support other City goals such as increasing biodiversity and tree canopy cover, enhancing urban habitat and reducing heat island effect. Moreover, it contributes significantly to the Stormwater Credit Program and engages in outreach and education with Mississauga businesses.

In support of the GCG Program and contribution to the City's objectives, Council approved funding in 2018 and 2021 with subsequent funding agreements executed for a three-year and

two-year term (with an option to extend) respectively. The current agreement is set to expire at the end of 2024.

Comments

The funding support from the City over the past seven years has enabled the GCG Program to customize a comprehensive outreach program for businesses in Mississauga. Despite the constraints and financial challenges experienced through the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts have led to numerous accomplishments, including:

- 85 landscaping consultations to 44 new participants;
- 44 green infrastructure projects on private properties;
- 19 employee engagement projects involving over 400 employees;
- 32 sustainable landscaping assessments and action plans and
- Over 3,800 trees and shrubs and nearly 3,100 herbaceous plants established with support from GCG on corporate properties in Mississauga

With GCG building its portfolio of satisfied participants and promoting its benefits through marketing efforts, the GCG Program has built trust and a positive reputation within the business community. It is the GCG Program's goal to continually increase knowledge and change attitudes of landowners and increase the adoption of sustainable landscaping practices. However, it must be understood that behavioural change is a long-term commitment given that it takes time to build awareness and motivate action.

Based on the groundwork and connections established by the GCG Program with local businesses since its inception, continued financial support from the City would allow GCG staff to continue with its efforts. This support will also enable the GCG Program to further collaborate with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) Partners in Project Green (PPG) to expand the program and deliver tailored services throughout more of the City.

In addition, projects installed through the GCG Program may also allow non-residential property owners to apply for the stormwater charge credit program, potentially reducing their stormwater charges, leading to a mutually beneficial outcome.

As the current agreement will expire at the end of 2024, staff requests authorization to enter into a new two-year (2025-2026) funding agreement with CVC at the same annual cost of \$90,000. The terms of the new agreement would be similar to the last agreement, with the option to renew or extend.

Strategic Plan

Supporting CVC's GCG Program aligns with the *Connect: Completing our Neighbourhoods*, *Prosper: Cultivating Creative and Innovative Businesses* and *Green: Living Green* pillars.

Financial Impact

The City's contribution to the GCG program is \$90,000 per year for two years, with the option to renew or extend for an additional two years. The program will continue to be funded from the Stormwater Service Area operating budget based on yearly budget approval under cost centre 23733 and account 715601.

Conclusion

City funding has supported the GCG Program for Mississauga businesses over the past seven years. Continued funding facilitates further collaboration with PPG to promote behaviour changes among business communities across the City. Further, this support complements the City's enhanced Credit Program by offering cross-promotion, education and consultation services and ultimately helps the City and CVC achieve mutual goals and objectives.

As such, in order to maintain and enhance the current services of the GCG Program, staff recommends that an agreement be entered into with CVC for two years (2025-2026), on similar terms as the 2021-2022 agreement (with the option to renew or extend) at an annual cost of \$90,000.



Sam Rogers, MBA, Acting Commissioner of Transportation and Works

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