



Agenda Green Committee

March 24, 2021

5:30 pm

Video Conference

Click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEl8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**
3. **AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the March 24, 2021 Green Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

None.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

4

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the February 24, 2021 Green Committee minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and Committee Secretary.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1. Canadian Union of Postal Workers re: Support Delivering Community Power

9

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the correspondence from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers regarding a request to the Government of Canada to implement the recommendations in *Delivering Community Power* be received; and

THAT the Green Committee recommend to Council:

THAT Council support the resolution from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers regarding the request to implement the recommendations in *Delivering Community Power*.

7. STRATEGIC ITEMS - PROGRESS UPDATE

11

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the March Green Committee Strategic Priorities Table be received for information.

8. REPORTS

8.1. PW 27-2021 Considerations for a Green Initiative Recognition Program

15

RECOMMENDATION

THAT PW 27-2021 Considerations for a Green Initiative Recognition Program report be received; and

THAT the Green Committee direct staff to draft a Green Initiative Recognition Program framework for Option ____; and

THAT the draft Green Initiative Recognition Program framework include the following features:

8.2. PW 28-2021 Establish a Naturalized Area Adjacent to Meadowridge Park

19

RECOMMENDATION

THAT PW 28-2021 Establish a Naturalized Area Adjacent to Meadowridge Park report be received; and

THAT the Committee recommends to Council:

THAT Council approve the Meadowridge Park Naturalization Plan as outlined in the report.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 28, 2021 at 5:30 P.M (Virtual)

May 26, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. (Virtual)

11. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this meeting of the Green Committee adjourn at p.m.



Minutes

Green Committee

February 24, 2021

5:30 pm

Video Conference

Click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEI8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Member Present	Lynette Geddes, Chair Councillor Pridham Fred Stam John Stevens David Vermeire
Staff Present	Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works Morgan Dykstra, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None declared.

3. AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution: GC-2021-01-01

Moved By John Stevens

Seconded By Fred Stam

THAT the February 24, 2021 Green Committee Agenda be accepted as presented.

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Town of St. Marys Community Services Department re: Canada Healthy Communities Initiative

The Town's Cultural Services Supervisor, Amy Cubberley advised the Committee that the Town wishes to apply to the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative. The Town is encouraged to collect letters of support from local organisations when submitting the grant application.

Town Staff responded to questions from the Committee related to the projects being applied for. The Committee was of the consensus that it supports the projects, and that staff should draft a letter indicating the Committee's support.

Resolution: GC-2021-02-02

Moved By John Stevens

Seconded By Fred Stam

THAT the delegation from the Town of St. Marys Community Services Department regarding the Canada Healthy Communities initiative be received;

THAT the Green Committee supports the projects being proposed by the Town of St. Marys Community Services Department for Canada Healthy Communities Initiative; and

THAT the Green Committee directs staff to draft a letter of support for the funding application on behalf of the Green Committee.

Carried

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Resolution: GC-2021-02-03

Moved By Fred Stam

Seconded By David Vermeire

THAT the January 27 Green Committee minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and Committee Secretary.

Carried

6. STRATEGIC ITEMS - PROGRESS UPDATE

Resolution: GC-2021-02-04

Moved By Councillor Pridham

Seconded By David Vermeire

THAT the February Green Committee Strategic Priorities Status Table be received for information.

Carried

7. REPORTS

7.1 PW 15-2021 Forestry and Naturalization Projects for 2021

Morgan Dykstra welcomed Vanni Azzano of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and Ron Aitken, a member of the St. Marys Rotary Club to the meeting. The Committee, staff, Mr. Azzano and Mr. Aitken discussed the various projects outlined within the report.

Town staff acknowledged that they may require assistance from Committee Members when executing some of the projects and will reach out directly to the Committee to determine availability.

Resolution: GC-2021-02-05

Moved By John Stevens

Seconded By Fred Stam

THAT PW 15-2021 Forestry and Naturalization Projects for 2021 be received for information.

Carried

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Scope of Work for the Green Committee

John Stevens asked the Committee if the Committee would consider asking Council to expend their scope of work to include more projects directly related to climate change. John Stevens provided the following examples:

- Videos regarding businesses how have taken green initiatives;

- Create contact lists for businesses where they can procure green items;
- Interview environmental champions within St. Marys and demonstrate what they do and how they do it;
- Quarterly report on environmental tips;
- Exploratory review regarding what other municipalities are doing.

Mr. Stevens reiterated that overall intent of the projects are to reduce pollution in St. Marys.

Chair Geddes asked Town Staff what the next steps are. Staff responded that a number of the examples John Stevens presented fit within the Committee's terms of reference, however, staff recommend that if there are specific projects that the Committee wishes to pursue, then the Committee should seek Council approval since they are not the strategic projects that Council requested the Committee investigate.

Councillor Pridham advised the Committee that a Climate Change Plan is being developed by the Town's Climate Change Coordinator.

Fred Stam reminded the Committee that at the beginning of its term the Committee had discussed creating a green initiative recognition program.

Morgan Dykstra advised the Committee that there is a motion from the Committee to investigate the feasibility of adopting a Green Initiative Recognition Program, a report has been drafted and can be brought forward to the Committee.

The Committee was of the consensus that the Green Initiative Recognition Program project should be revisited.

Resolution: GC-2021-02-06

Moved By John Stevens

Seconded By David Vermeire

THAT staff bring forth the report on the Green Initiative Program to its next meeting.

Carried

10. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution: GC-2021-02-07

Moved By Fred Stam

Seconded By John Stevens

THAT this meeting of the Green Committee adjourns at 6:28 p.m.

Carried

Lynette Geddes, Chair

Morgan Dykstra, Committee Secretary

SUPPORT DELIVERING COMMUNITY POWER

Whereas there is an urgent need for banking services among the unbanked or underbanked, given that thousands of villages and rural municipalities do not have a bank branch and more than 900 municipalities have expressed their support for postal banking;

Whereas thousands of Canadians do not have access to affordable high-speed Internet, and the federal government has long promised to bridge the rural broadband gap;

Whereas urgent action is needed to establish a robust network of electric vehicle charging stations;

Whereas to achieve carbon-neutral targets by 2050, Canada Post must greatly accelerate the electrification of its fleet;

Whereas the extensive network of post offices in our communities can provide a wide range of services as community hubs;

Whereas Canada Post's letter carriers and RSMCs can check-in on vulnerable residents to help keep us in our homes longer as we age;

Whereas Canada Post must play its part for a more equitable post-pandemic recovery;

Whereas “The Way Forward for Canada Post,” the report of the 2016 federal public review of the postal service, recommended that Canada Post expand services and adapt its services to the changing needs of the public;

Whereas the Canadian Union of Postal Workers has advanced *Delivering Community Power*, a vision of the post-carbon digital-age postal service that address the above needs and more;

Be it resolved that _____ endorse *Delivering Community Power*, and write to the Honourable Anita Anand, Minister for Public Services and Procurement, with its rationale and a copy of this resolution.

MAILING INFORMATION

Please send your resolution to: Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, Rm 18A1, 11 Laurier Street Phase III, Place du Portage, Gatineau, QC, K1A 0S5

Please send copies of your resolution to:

Jan Simpson, President, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, 377 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1Y3

Your Member of Parliament. You can get your MP's name, phone number and address by calling 1-800 463-6868 (at no charge) or going to the Parliament of Canada website: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en>

Please save this document using the name of your organization or municipality in the document's name.

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Green Committee Strategic Priorities Status (February 2021)

Priority	Item	Status	
Forestry Management	Revise tree species list		Complete
	Engagement and education opportunities	Ongoing Website updated to be completed in first quarter of 2021.	Implementing
	Tree donation policy	Council Approved – Staff need to begin implementation phase	Implementing
	Seedlings transplant area	Council approved the Committee's recommendation. The Town will not establish a seedlings transplant area.	Complete
	Gypsy Moth Infestation	Committee recommended that an education program be implemented. Information campaign to begin in first quarter of 2021 As per the report below, the Town will be requesting Green Committee assistance for this project.	Implementing
Naturalization	Public Engagement re: naturalization	The Town is implementing the Sparling Bush Management Plan. Sparling Bush Management Plan items for 2021 have been incorporated into the 2021 Capital Budget. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removal of encroachments• Tarping northwest corner• Planting native species to encourage more undergrowth Meadowridge Park tree line naturalization project.	Implementing
	Recommend areas for naturalization		
	Recommend policies to establish natural areas and how to maintain areas		
	Investigate the feasibility of creating a wildflower meadow	Council approved the Committee's recommendation to create a wildflower meadow. Flowers ordered. Grant application to TD FEF has been submitted.	Implementing
Active Transportation Master Plan	Review existing active transportation network	Staff are continuing to complete an inventory of the existing network and working on the recommendations provided by the Committee at its June meeting.	Implementing

		Town Operators have collected several data points that have been uploaded to Geographic Information System. The intent is to show the Committee at a future meeting. Grant application submitted for Grand Trunk Trail Staircase replacement.	
	Seek public feedback re: active transportation network	Public Survey	Complete
	Investigate mural painting on CN Railway Bridge	Email sent to CN inquiring if painting is allowed, and if there are any permissions or rules. There has been no response to the Town's emails to CN. Will be trying another approach to get in contact.	Research
	Recommend an Active Transportation Master Plan	Due to delays as a result of COVID-19 and the re-prioritization of staff's task, a draft plan is anticipated in 2021.	Research
Waste Reduction & Diversion (Following the Waste Reduction and Diversion Assessment)	Review Solid Waste Management By-law		Complete
	Textile recycling program	RFP in spring 2019 deemed incomplete. This project has been deferred until the Environmental Assessment Process for the landfill site.	Pause
	Mattress and box spring diversion	Green Committee recommended (June 2019) Incorporated in Solid Waste Management By-law (Fall 2019) Develop policy and review other municipal programs. Might be a component of the Environmental Assessment Process once the Town has received approval for expansion.	Pause
	All other recommendations from WRDA	Awaiting approvals from the Ministry of Environment for the Town of St. Marys Landfill Site. Once approvals have been completed the review of existing program at the site can be reviewed.	Pause
	Green Initiative Recognition Program	Report drafted with program outlines for the Green Committee's review	Pause
	Waste Reduction Week		Complete
	Municipal Hazardous Waste Program	Depot event service delivery approved by Council on February 9, 2021. Dates to be released to the public with the leaf and yard waste calendar.	Complete

Town of St. Marys 2021 Leaf and Yard Waste Collection



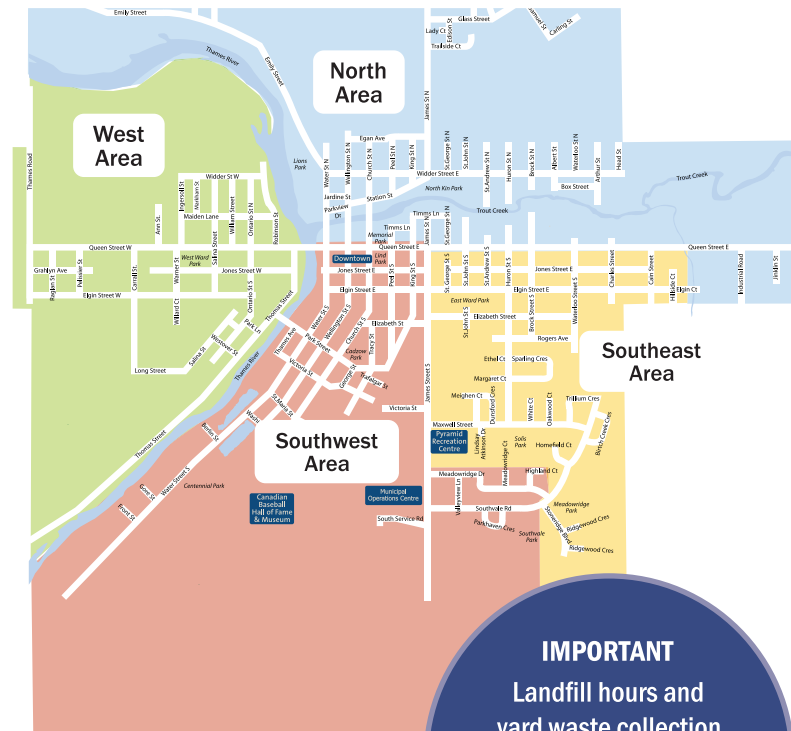
Leaf and Yard Waste collection dates have changed to better accommodate material collection through the seasons. Check the dates for your area.

Southeast and Southwest Areas

Mon, May 3	Mon, Jul 26	Mon, Nov 1
Mon, May 17	Mon, Aug 23	Mon, Nov 15
Mon, May 31	Mon, Sept 20	
Mon, Jun 28	Mon, Oct 18	

North and West Areas

Mon, April 26	Mon, July 19	Mon, Nov 8
Mon, May 10	Mon, Aug 30	Mon, Nov 22
Mon, May 24	Mon, Sept 27	
Mon, June 21	Mon, Oct 25	



IMPORTANT
Landfill hours and yard waste collection requirements have changed due to COVID-19. Please read this flyer carefully for details!

Leaf and Yard Waste Drop-off Locations

Leaf and yard waste can be dropped off at the following locations year-round, free of charge.

St. Marys Landfill

1221 Water Street South

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Monday, Thursday, Sunday: Closed

Landfill hours are subject to change.

Visit www.townofstmarys.com/landfill or call 519-284-2340, ext. 221 for details.

Municipal Operations Centre

Drop-off Depot

408 James Street South

Open seven days a week from dawn to dusk.

Enter off South Service Road.

Collection Requirements

Leaf and yard waste must be placed in biodegradable kraft-style brown paper bags and set at the curb by 7:00 am.

Leaf and yard waste that is set out in rigid, re-usable containers, plastic bags or raked into piles on the boulevard or street will not be collected.

Acceptable Materials

- ✓ Grass clippings
- ✓ Leaves, plants & weeds
- ✓ Branches
- ✓ Hedge & tree trimmings*
- ✓ Fruits & vegetables

*Hedge and tree trimmings must be no longer than 3 ft. with a diameter of 3 in. or less and must weigh less than 44 lbs.

Unacceptable Materials

- ✗ Top soil, sod and rocks
- ✗ Christmas trees
- ✗ Lumber/treated wood
- ✗ Plastic plant pots/trays
- ✗ Stumps and large branches
- ✗ Household/food waste
- ✗ Plastic bags

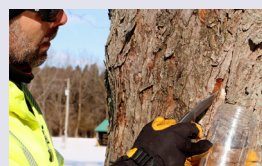
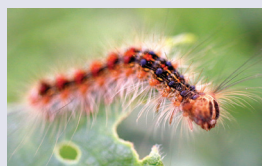
Gypsy Moth

Gypsy Moths are a non-native invasive species. The Town of St. Marys is seeking residents' assistance to help reduce the proliferation of the Gypsy Moth within the Town's urban forest.



Actions You Can Take

- ⇒ Monitor trees on and abutting your property. Look for egg masses in winter, caterpillars in spring, and moths in July and August.
- ⇒ Destroy egg masses by gently scraping them off the bark into soapy water or placing them in a paper bag and burning the bag.
- ⇒ May through August, band trees with burlap to trap caterpillars as they move up and down the tree trunk.



Images: © Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Parking Reminders

- Overnight on-street parking is permitted from May 1 through October 31 of each year (unless otherwise signed).
- On-street parking in the Downtown Core is limited to three hours.
- Parking on boulevards is not permitted at any time.
- Overnight parking in public parking lots without a parking permit is not permitted.

Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste Program 2021

The Town of St. Marys has enhanced the Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste (MHSW) program starting in 2021. Convenient, accessible disposal days will be held throughout the year at the Municipal Operations Centre (MOC) located at 408 James Street South (enter off South Service Road) on the following dates and times:

Saturday, April 10 8:00am to 12:00pm
Saturday, July 24 8:00am to 12:00pm
Saturday, October 23 8:00am to 12:00pm

Please note that the MHSW depot that was located at the St. Marys Landfill has now been closed, and MHSW material will no longer be received at the landfill.

Acceptable Materials

Be advised that MHSW materials must be properly contained, sealed and identified in order to be accepted. Materials must be in their original containers. Leaking, damaged, corroded and unlabeled containers will not be accepted.



Acids	Bleach	Garden chemicals	Pool chemicals
Aerosol cans (full)	Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)	Household cleaners	Propane tanks/cylinders
Antifreeze	Fertilizers	Motor oil	Solvents
Bases	Fluorescent tubes	Paints	Stains
Batteries	Fuels	Pesticides	Varsol

Need sod or streetlights repaired? Contact 519-284-2340 ext. 221.

FORMAL REPORT

To:	Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee
Prepared by:	Morgan Dykstra, Public Works Coordinator
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2021
Subject:	PW 27-2021 Considerations for a Green Initiative Recognition Program

PURPOSE

To have a pre-liminary discussion regarding the development of a Green Initiatives Recognition Program and seek direction from the Committee with respect to key features of a program.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT PW 27-2021 Considerations for a Green Initiative Recognition Program report be received; and

THAT the Green Committee direct staff to draft a Green Initiative Recognition Program framework for Option ____; and

THAT the draft Green Initiative Recognition Program framework include the following features:

BACKGROUND

At various meetings of the Green Committee there have been discussions with respect to understanding what green initiatives are taking place in St. Marys by businesses and individuals, and how can those actions be recognized and promoted.

At the Committee's June 19, 2019 meeting the Green Committee made the following resolution:

Resolution: GC-2019-06-05

Moved By Fred Stam

Seconded By David Vermeire

THAT the Green Committee request that staff investigate the feasibility of adopting an organizations' recognition program for organizations who exhibit environmental stewardship excellence.

CARRIED.

Staff completed a cursory review of municipal led green initiative recognition programs in Canada it appears that the Town can imitate existing programs and fine-tune them for St. Marys.

The development of a recognition program is not explicitly stated in the Green Committee's Terms of Reference or the Committee's strategic priorities set out by Council, therefore the Committee required Council's authority to investigate creating a recognition program.

At the Committee's February 26, 2020 meeting the Green Committee made the following resolution:

Resolution: GC-2020-02-04

Moved By John Stevens

Seconded By Lynette Geddes

THAT PW 15-2020 Green Initiative Recognition Program report be received; and

THAT the Committee recommend to Council:

THAT Council authorize the Committee to investigate creating a Green Initiative Recognition Program; and

THAT Council task the Green Committee to create a Green Initiative Recognition Program framework for Council to consider.

On March 10, 2020, staff presented the Committee's resolution to Council, and approved the Committee's request. Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution 2020-03-10-19

Moved By Councillor Luna

Seconded By Councillor Craigmile

THAT PW 18-2020 Develop a Green Initiative Recognition Program report be perceived; and

THAT Council authorize the Green Committee to investigate creating a Green Initiative Recognition Program; and

THAT Council task the Green Committee with the creation of a Green Recognition Program framework for Council's consideration.

CARRIED

The Green Committee has been tasked to create a framework for a Green Initiative Recognition Program, upon creating a program framework it will be presented to Council for their approval.

REPORT

Many municipal recognition programs exist in Ontario and across Canada. Each program is administered differently. Staff have gathered various formats for the Committee to consider. The intent of this report is to have a discussion about possible program formats and determine which formats the Committee likes and dislikes. The intent is not to create a program at this meeting but begin to flush out key components of the program.

Once the Committee determines what formats it prefers staff can prepare draft program frameworks for the Committee to consider at a future Committee meeting.

Before reviewing municipal programs, the Committee should consider the following items:

1. Is the purpose of the program to purely recognize green initiatives or to also promote the adoption of green initiatives and provide awareness?
2. How will the program educate the public?
3. Who administers the program, Town staff? The Green Committee? or Council?
4. What program structure will generate the most response from the public?
5. What is the cost to administer the recognition program?

Option 1: Public Acknowledgement Campaign

The Committee can proceed with a simple and organic program to demonstrate how businesses or organizations within St. Marys are being green and publicizing those green initiatives.

The program may be comprised of videos and acknowledgement on the Town's website. There has been significant growth with respect to the reach of the Town's social media and this may be an opportunity to leverage the reach.

Groups that wish to feature their green initiatives can submit those to the Town, and the Town can proceed with promoting those initiatives.

This option is driven by the Public and

Option 2: Build your Own Awards Program

The Town may consider implementing a more robust awards program. A robust program will include a variety of considerations during the development phase. Staff have tried to create a step by step process to review those considerations. Staff and Committee will review each step.

Step 1: Recipient Type v. Activity Type
<p>The first task to develop an awards program is to determine what is being recognized. Is the Town recognizing a type of recipient or the achievement of an action?</p> <p>Is the award given based on the business, individual resident and community organization who provides the "best" green initiative within their group? This type of award program may declare themes for each year, and whichever nomination within each group achieves the theme best could be given the award.</p> <p>Or, is the award given based on meeting a certain objective within a specific activity category such as business stewardship, communications, community stewardship, green choices, planning & development and youth?</p> <p>For each type, the Town will need to have pre-determined criteria to judge the green initiatives to ensure that the award process is transparent and fair.</p>
Step 2: One Time Award v. Rated Award
<p>Per type is there one award designation or many award designations?</p> <p>For example, the City of Burnaby program includes two award designations. Environmental Awards recognize individuals and groups for outstanding environmental achievements. Environmental Stars recognize accomplishments carried out on a smaller scale.</p>
Step 3: Review Process
<p>Step 1 and Step 2 need to be determined before a review process can be created, as Step 1 and Step 2 will inform the criteria for reviewing giving out an award. However, some pre-liminary discussions can occur.</p> <p>Is the intent that those seeking the recognition apply and/or is nominated for a specific category (whether it be recipient type or activity type)?</p> <p>Who reviews the applications and determines the award? What is the involvement of staff, the Green Committee and Council?</p>
Step 4: Award Acknowledgment
<p>How does the Town provide the award to the recipient?</p>

How does the Town publicly acknowledge the awards? Does the Town provide a presentation at Council? Does the Town issue a media release and is posted on the Town website and provided to local media?

Is there a tangible component to the award? Does the Town provide a plaque to the recipient? For a business category is there a logo or sticker that they are given to promote their achievement?

Option 3: Defer Program to 2022

Each Town Department has a Departmental Plan for the year of 2021. At this time, the creation and implementation of a Green Initiative Recognition Program have not been incorporated into the Plan.

Staff time has been allocated to projects such as developing the Active Transportation Master Plan, furthering naturalization projects like the wildflower meadow, sparling bush rehabilitation, and Southvale tree planting along with projects outside the scope of the Green Committee's mandate.

Staff would seek to incorporate the project into the 2022 Department Plan and bring forward more information at the end of 2021 or beginning of 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The discussion has been theoretical, once options have been more fine-tuned the financial implications and staff time required can be investigated.

SUMMARY

The Committee has requested that the Town consider implementing a Green Initiative Recognition Program in St. Marys. The report has presented various program options for the Committee's consideration.

STRATEGIC PLAN

☒ Not applicable to this report.

OTHERS CONSULTED

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

REVIEWED BY

Recommended by the Department

Morgan Dykstra
Public Works and Planning Coordinator

Jed Kelly
Director of Public Works

FORMAL REPORT

To:	Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee
Prepared by:	Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2021
Subject:	PW 28-2021 Establish a Naturalized Area Adjacent to Meadowridge Park

PURPOSE

To seek a recommendation to Council to establish a multi-year project to create a naturalized area along the perimeter of Meadowridge Park and install an extension of the trail around the East perimeter of the Park to better direct those using the trail.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT PW 28-2021 Establish a Naturalized Area Adjacent to Meadowridge Park report be received; and

THAT the Committee recommends to Council:

THAT Council approve the Meadowridge Park Naturalization Plan as outlined in the report.

BACKGROUND

Meadowridge Park “the Park”, as a requirement of the Meadowridge Development. Today, the Park is 7.8ha in size, and includes a storm water management pond, youth play structure, soccer fields and the Town’s official toboggan hill. There is a Hydro One easement for high voltage power lines that run through the property from North to South. Consequently, the easement limits the use of the lands beneath and adjacent to the power lines, therefore, there is open space acting as a buffer to residential housing. The recreational facilities are located East of the easement. The east side of the Park abuts a drainage area and has been graded so turf can be maintained to a finished cut level.

The large majority of the Park is maintained as finished turf with little to no large-scale naturalization contained within the park. However, to the eastern most limit of the Park, there are is an existing forested area surrounding a small cluster of mature trees.

The Town’s trail system leads to the Park, and then connects to the sidewalk network. At this time, trail users who are unfamiliar with the trail network experience some navigation problems when trying to determine how to connect with the trail from the Park. This is an issue identified during the Trail Network Survey issued in April of 2019.

For a better understanding of the location, please see **Attachment A – Meadowridge Park Naturalization Plan**.

REPORT

Receipt of Donation

In 2020, the Town of St. Marys received a sizeable donation in the amount of \$10,000. The donor earmarked the donation to improve the Park's forested areas, as to improve tree cover and reduce the size of the finished grass areas.

As per the Tree Donation Policy endorsed by the Committee in 2020, the donation has been placed in the Forestry Reserve.

Utilizing the Donation – Creating a Meadowridge Naturalization Plan

After considering the use of the donation, staff have created a multi-year naturalization project. The project is multi-year since the intended project area is too large complete in a single year and the costs associated would exceed the donation and any supplemental budget funds.

Walking the site with UTRCA representatives, staff identified the existing cluster of trees isolated in the middle of the finished turf area near the Eastern limit of the park and determined it would serve as a good starting point to expand the tree grove. In conjunction with UTRCA, staff have developed an initial concept sketch of the proposed works, which upon completion would see the planting of 520 trees and shrubs over the 30,000 sq ft area.

The project would also seek to address the trail navigation issues identified above and install a connecting link trail from the existing trail to the sidewalk network. The Town proposes extending the trail via installation of gravel surface which would be groomed and maintained to existing service levels.

Plan Details

The plan as been developed in a way that the naturalization project and trail connecting link will not impact any existing amenities within the Park.

- Phase 1 – Year 2021 - Trail Extension – Yellow Area – Attachment 1
 - Full length installation for 2021
 - 227M, 1.5m width
 - 12' removal of topsoil, replaced with recycled A gravel from Town's recycled concrete stock piles.
 - Finished grass 1m adjacent to running edge of trails
 - Total width of 3.5m provides maintenance access to storm facilities if required.
- Phase 2 – Year 2021 – Planting Area – Red Area – Attachment 1
 - 956m² or 10288sq ft
 - plant at 675 stems/acre = 159 trees/shrubs
- Phase 3 – Year 2022-2023 - Planting Area – Green Area – Attachment 1
 - 1128m² or 12133sq ft
 - plant at 675 stems/acre = 202 trees/shrubs
- Phase 4 – Year 2024 and Beyond - Planting Area – Purple – Attachment 1
 - 787m² or 8461sq ft
 - plant at 675 stems/acre = 159 trees/shrubs

The proposed naturalizing area is 30,000 sq ft, or 0.3 ha, therefore, the proposed timelines may be subject to changed as some of the phases may take several years to complete. The schedule will be subject to available budget funds and donations received, annual nursery inventories and available labour resources consisting of either staff or volunteers. Staff are anticipating providing maintenance and care to the new areas as there brought online until plantings have been established.

Creation of a Donation Forest

In 2020, the Town of St. Marys adopted a tree donation policy that directs all donations to a forestry reserve for mass planting. After several conversations with possible donors, Town Staff believe those donations may need to be directed to a specific location. Town staff believe that this location may be the appropriate location. Donation support would assist with the growth of the naturalized area, including increasing the available funds to purchase trees, and inviting those in the community to participate in the planting process.

Climate Change

Once established, these areas would assist to reduce the Town's carbon footprint by reduction of mower emissions and increased tree cover CO2 absorption. A single mature tree can absorb 48lbs of CO2 per year, the proposed project, when completed, could add hundreds of trees to the Town's urban canopy. Further the finished grass areas in the park would be reduced by almost 4% without affecting the overall service level of the park. Staff are hopeful similar naturalization techniques could be applied to other town lands which consist of approx. 40ha.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2021 Works – See Attachment 1 – Yellow and Red Areas

Trail installation will be completed primarily using internal resources, installing a gravel base from the Town's concrete recycling program. An external contracted excavator & additional dump truck will be required for one day for efficient sod removals. These costs will be absorbed by existing operational budgets and donation to be completed during regular working hours. Staff expect no unbudgeted operational variances to be incurred.

UTRCA representative will be sourcing and aligning volunteers for planting as COVID restrictions allow. If current restrictions are such that volunteers can not be utilized, public works operational staff will be used to fill the labour gap.

2022 and Beyond – See Attachment 1 – Green and Purple Areas

Volunteer and Labour restrictions, nursery inventory availability as well as fiscal constraints will more than likely cause a multi year implementation schedule. Staff are planning on utilizing future donations and grant funding applications to complete the naturalization of the remaining areas. Effectively dividing the project into smaller phases similar to Sparling Bush initiatives in past years.

SUMMARY

Staff are proposing a multiyear plan to create a new 30,000 sq ft or 0.3ha naturalized along the east side of Meadowridge Park and installing a new trail extension on the East perimeter. The project would be a shovel ready project for future donations and Grant funding opportunities. Areas selected for naturalization or trail extension would not affect existing features or uses of the park. Finish grass reduction of 4% in the park would be achieved and would assist to offset the town's CO2 footprint.

STRATEGIC PLAN

☒ This initiative is supported by the following priorities, outcomes, and tactics in the Plan.

- Pillar #4 4. Culture and recreation
 - Outcome: St. Marys' parks are not only a prized asset; they are also a natural gathering place that can be optimized and incorporated into enhancing the cultural profile of St. Marys.
 - Tactic(s): Continue to seek opportunities to add to its profile.

OTHERS CONSULTED

Vanni Azzano, Community Education Specialist – *Upper Thames River Conservation Authority*

John Hahn, Park Operator A - *Town of St. Marys*

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Meadowridge Park Naturalization Map

REVIEWED BY

Recommended by the Department

Jed Kelly
Director of Public

Morgan Dykstra
Public Works & Panning Coordinator



- Trail 60" Mowing Zone
- Trail Length 227m
- Red Phase Area 787m² / 8461sq ft
- Green Phase Area 1128m² / 12133sq ft
- Purple Phase Area 956m² / 10288sq ft

