



Report: P-14-015/CR-FM-14-002

Region of Waterloo

Planning, Housing, and Community Services

Community Planning

Corporate Resources

Facilities Management

To: Chair Tom Galloway and Members of the Administration and Finance Committee

Date: February 11, 2014 **File Code:** D03-80/CEF

Subject: **2014 Community Environmental Fund Allocation**

Recommendation:

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve project funding allocations of \$113,205 for the Environmental Stewardship Grant stream, as described in Attachment 1 of Report P-13-015/CR-FM-14-002, dated February 11, 2014.

Summary:

The Community Environmental Fund was established by Regional Council in October 2011 (See report CR-FM-11-022/P-11-085). The Fund consists of a Stewardship Grant stream (formerly the Environmental Stewardship Fund which operated in 2010 and 2011) administered by Planning, Housing and Community Services and a Sustainability Grant stream administered by Corporate Resources during 2012 and 2013.

The Community Environmental Fund was widely advertised for proposal submissions in the fall of 2013, and the application package was made available on the Regional website. By the December 9, 2013 deadline, 35 diverse proposals were received from a wide variety of local applicants. In accordance with eligibility criteria previously established by Regional Council, staff is recommending that the 21 projects listed in Attachment 1 be funded from the Stewardship Grant stream. The 2014 Regional Budget did not include financial support for the Sustainability Grant stream. All applicants to the Sustainability stream, as listed in Attachment 2, will be notified accordingly. In addition, two stewardship stream project proposals were evaluated as not eligible for funding at this time.

The recommended projects would involve a wide variety of community stakeholders and cover a range of environmental activities. Nine schoolyard greening projects would further the Region's skin cancer prevention program and enhance the tree canopy in urban centres. In addition, the tree canopy along the Trans Canada Trail in Woolwich would be renewed in the light of ash tree die-off; a pollinator garden would be established at GRCA headquarters; an Earth day celebration would be held; citizens from three communities would engage in the creation and stewardship of gardens and a park; a strategy to control invasive Common Reed (*Phragmites*) in the Laurel Creek Headwaters Environmentally Sensitive Landscape would be developed, and invasive species would be controlled within an important natural feature at the rare Charitable Research Reserve.

Based on the project submissions, the recommended allocation of \$113,205 from the Community Environmental Fund would be matched by investments in cash or in-kind by the applicants for an estimated total of \$417,874, or an additional \$2.69 for every dollar invested by the Region.

Report:

The Community Environmental Fund was established by Regional Council on October 26, 2011 (See report CR-FM-11-022/P-11-085). The Fund fulfills an action under the Environmental Sustainability Focus Area of the Region's 2011-2014 Strategic Plan to "Develop and implement an integrated funding program to support community-based environmental initiatives". The Community Environmental Fund welcomes applications for environmental projects falling within the following eight categories:

Stewardship projects:

1. Enhancement and restoration of natural areas
2. Naturalization projects
3. Acquisition of ecologically significant natural areas
4. Public education and awareness initiatives on some aspect of environmental stewardship
5. Research related to stewardship of natural areas

Sustainability projects:

6. Demonstration projects focused on reduction of GHG and air emissions, energy conservation and waste reduction/diversion
7. Public education/awareness initiatives which promote long term behavioural change on aspects of environmental sustainability (e.g. climate change)
8. Environmental sustainability-based research (focused on GHG and air emissions, energy conservation or waste reduction/diversion)

The Community Environmental Fund was widely advertised for proposal submissions in the fall of 2013, and the application package was made available on the Regional website. By the December 9, 2013 deadline, 35 diverse proposals were received from a wide variety of local applicants. Staff has reviewed the applications based on their fit with the eligibility criteria for the Fund, and where necessary, followed up with applicants

to clarify that component cost items are appropriate and consistent with criteria approved by Council for applicants in general, and schoolyard greening projects in particular.

The recommended projects would involve a wide variety of community stakeholders and cover a range of environmental activities such as nine schoolyard greening projects which would further the Region's skin cancer prevention program and enhance the tree canopy in urban centres, renewing the tree canopy along the Trans Canada Trail in Woolwich, creating a pollinator garden at GRCA headquarters, contributing to an Earth Day celebration, engaging citizens from three communities in the creation and stewardship of gardens and a park, and developing a strategy to control invasive Common Reed (Phragmites) in the Laurel Creek Headwaters Environmentally Sensitive Landscape, and invasive species would be controlled within an important natural feature at the rare Charitable Research Reserve. Together, the proposed projects would involve hundreds of the Region's citizens of all ages and backgrounds in implementing the projects which would not only foster a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship, but also nurture new skills and develop community capacity.

Funding Allocation

Stewardship Grants

Twenty applications under the Stewardship Grant stream are recommended for approval at this time as follows:

Applicant	Project	Amount
St. John Catholic School	Greening Project	\$2,550
James P. Wellheiser	Private Land Stewardship project	\$1,800
Stanley Park Public School	Schoolground Greening Project	\$3,000
St. Clement School	Schoolyard Greening Project	\$2,100
Grand River Conservation Authority	Pollinator Garden	\$13,000
City of Cambridge	Cambridge Stewardship	\$8,051
Coronation Public School	Coronation Community Garden	\$2,000
Steward Avenue Public School	Stewart Avenue Public School – Outdoor Renewal	\$3,000
City of Waterloo	City of Waterloo – Waterloo Earth Day	\$8,525
Winston Churchill Public School	Winston Churchill Public School – Early Years Natural Playspace Project	\$3,000

Forest Hill Public School	Forest Hill's TreeGeneration – Creating Shade for the Primary Playground (Forest Hill Public School)	\$3,000
Wilson Avenue Public School	Wilson Wildlife Greening Project (Wilson Avenue Public School)	\$3,000
House of Friendship	House of Friendship Gardens	\$14,152
CLIPPED outdoors	Take-a-Hike	\$3,920
Sir Adam Beck Public School	Sir Adam Beck Public School Footprints No-Mow Area Naturalization Project	\$2,000
Brigadoon Public School	Brigadoon Public School Greening Project	\$3,000
Township of Woolwich	TWEEC Ash Tree Removal and Replanting Along Trans Canada Trail in Woolwich Township	\$17,750
City of Kitchener	Windale Park Rejuvenation	\$2,800
Public Health Shade Working Group	Waterloo Region Shade Forum, 2014	\$1,200
Laurel Creek Headwaters Environmentally Sensitive Landscape Public Liaison Committee	Phragmites Management Strategy	\$1,910
rare Charitable Research Reserve	Invasive Species Control in "Hogsback" Woodland	\$ 13,447
	TOTAL	\$113,205

The recommended funding levels for the 21 stewardship projects range from \$1,200 to \$17,750. They have been grouped by size category in Table 2. It will be seen that all but four of the projects were for \$10,000 or under. There is a concentration of projects in the \$1,000 to \$5,000 category due to nine schoolyard greening projects, where the maximum allowable request is \$3,000.

Recommended Environmental Stewardship Grants by Dollar Amount

Amount Requested	No.
≤ \$1,000	0
\$1,001 - \$2,500	6

\$2,501 - \$5,000	9
\$5,001 - \$10,000	2
\$10,001 - \$20,000	4
\$20,001 - \$35,000	0
\$35,001 - \$50,000	0
Total	21

The four largest recommended grants are for \$17,750 to the Township of Woolwich Environmental Enhancement Committee (TWEEC) for renewing the tree canopy along the section of the Trans Canada Trail between St. Jacobs and The Farmers' Market; \$14,152 to the House of Friendship for the second phase of the gardens being planted by and for the residents at their Kitchener residences; \$13,447 for the invasive species control at the rare Charitable Research Reserve Hogsback Woodland, and \$13,000 to the GRCA for the Pollinator garden project at Shade Mills. Fifteen of the 21 recommended stewardship stream projects comprising 72.6% of the recommended dollar allocations are intended to fund in whole or in part the planting of native trees in the rural and urban areas of the Region.

The recommended allocations would significantly assist with a variety of environmental projects some of which might not have been considered or which would have been initiated at a smaller scale without the assistance of the Community Environmental Fund. The recommended Regional grants totalling \$113,205 would be leveraged by financial and/or in-kind contributions from the applicants. Based on the project applications, staff has calculated that for every dollar of the recommended Regional stewardship stream grants, an additional \$2.69 would be invested in the projects by the proponents. Therefore the recommended grants of \$113,205 from the Region's Community Environmental Fund are calculated to yield an additional investment of approximately \$304,669 in cash or in-kind by the applicants.

Sustainability Grants

A total of 12 applications were received under the Sustainability Grant stream plus one more that overlapped with the fund criteria for the Stewardship Grant stream with a total grant request value of approximately \$109,000. The 2014 Regional Budget did not include financial support for the Sustainability Grant stream and therefore all applicants will be notified accordingly. The applicants to the Sustainability Stream are listed in Attachment 2.

In response to comments made by Sandra Hill at the budget input meeting on January 7, 2014 regarding her ineligibility for a Region Community Sustainability Grant (CSG), staff had further discussion with Waste Management and Social Services staff in an effort to determine whether there are any other options or funding sources relative to her Furnish the Future initiative. No viable funding options were identified in either of those program areas relative to their respective mandates. However, avenues exist

through local social enterprise organizations to assist Ms. Hill with distribution of furniture to those in need, and staff have responded to Ms. Hill outlining the options available to her.

Supplementary Comments

At the end of the application form, applicants were asked to provide feedback to help improve the Community Environmental Fund. The first question asked how applicants found out about the Community Environmental Fund. Of the total 34 applicants, 31 answered. The results are outlined below. Some applicants heard from multiple channels.

Source	Number of applicants
Dennis Wendland, Evergreen Consultant	7
Regional Staff	6
Emails	6
Website	4
Area Municipal Staff	3
Newspaper	2
Posters	2
Eco-School representative	1
Community Garden Network	1
REEP Green Solutions	1
Media Channels	1
Waste newsletter	1

The second question asked applicants to provide suggestions and comments. Of the total 34 applicants, 15 answered. The results are outlined below. Some applicants made multiple comments.

Comment/Suggestion	Number of applicants
Thank you; the fund is a great resource.	8
The application form is straight forward/easy to fill.	4

Applicant provided information pertaining to project details.	4
Applicant requested form be offered in Word format.	1

Conclusion

In reviewing the applications, staff has followed up with applicants to further clarify details of their proposals, and ensure they are in the appropriate granting stream and that individual component items in the proposed project budgets are appropriate and comply with the guidelines earlier approved by Council for applications in general and for schoolyard greening projects in particular. Staff is now recommending that the 21 projects listed in summary form in Attachment 1 be funded. Subject to approval by Regional Council, successful recipients would receive formal letters specifying the total amount of the grant and the items for which it may be used. Where appropriate, some of those letters would be accompanied by an agreement, prepared with the assistance of Legal Services, by which the recipients commit to abide by the terms and conditions of the grant. Before payments are authorized, staff would continue to verify that the agreed upon works have been accomplished by reviewing brief reports completed by the recipients, conducting a site inspection where necessary, or receiving copies of studies or research.

Staff is recommending that two stewardship applications described in Attachment 3 not be funded at this time. One does not adequately fulfill sufficient criteria, and the other, which has considerable merit, is considered premature at this time,

Area Municipal Consultation/Coordination

The application package was circulated to all Area Municipalities. The Cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo and Township of Woolwich have all submitted applications for 2014 funding. All four of those Area Municipalities have received funding for other projects in previous years.

Corporate Strategic Plan:

This initiative supports Focus Area 1 - Environmental Sustainability Actions: Develop and implement an integrated funding program to support community-based environmental initiatives and work in partnership with various stakeholders to develop policies and programs to provide shade (e.g. tree canopy) in our communities.

Financial Implications

The approved 2014 Planning, Housing and Community Services Capital program includes a budget of \$249,000 to support projects that enhance Environmental Stewardship (project 22027). This capital project is to be financed by Current Revenue. The recommended allocations in the Environmental Stewardship stream would be funded from this project. The 2014 Regional budget does not include financial support for the Community Sustainability initiatives at this time.

Other Department Consultations/Concurrence:

Legal Services and Finance are involved in the administration of this fund.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Summary of Stewardship Projects Recommended for Approval

Attachment 2 - Summary of Sustainability Grant Applicants

Attachment 3 – Community Environmental Fund Applications Not Recommended for Approval

Prepared By: **Chris Gosselin**, Manager of Environmental Planning

David Roewade, Sustainability Planner, Corporate Resources

Approved By: **Rob Horne**, Commissioner, Planning, Housing and Community Services

Gary Sosnoski, Commissioner, Corporate Resources

Attachment 1**Stewardship Grants Recommended For Approval – February 11, 2014****Project Number****2014-01 St. John Catholic School Greening Project – (Category 2) - \$2,550**

In 2010-12, St. John's school underwent extensive renovations, and in 2014 the school intends to initiate some outdoor improvements. Students have indicated that, while they would like places for active play, they also value places to sit and engage in passive play activities. The installation of trees and rocks will provide shade and seating for students who desire times of passive play. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions is \$3,000. It is recommended that up to \$2,550 be allocated to the St. John Catholic School Greening Project for the purchase of native trees and armourstone rocks.

2014-02 James P. Wellheiser – 4212/ 4218/ 4222 Trussler Road. (Category 1) - \$1,800

This project is part of an ongoing planting of Carolinian tree species on the proponent's property which is located in a designated Core Environmental Feature on the banks of the Nith River near Ayr. The tree plantings are intended to help improve water quality flowing into the Nith River from an on-site pond. The project would be initiated by the removal of dead and ice storm-damaged willow trees and silt from the pond area. New trees would be planted by Boy Scouts. The owner often allows community groups to access his property. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions is \$4,263.75. It is recommended that up to \$1,800 be allocated to the Project for the purchase of trees and to cover the cost of renting equipment to remove damaged trees and sediment from the pond areas.

2014-04 Stanley Park School Ground Greening project. (Category 2) - \$3,000

The Stanley Park School Ground Greening Project is being initiated as part of the school's 50th anniversary celebration. The project comprises three phases: (1) Increase school ground shade, establish an outdoor classroom space and provide passive play space, (2) Provide shade for a creative playground area, and (3) establish a grove of trees. The project is being monitored and reported on by the school's parent council and involves students and volunteers under the guidance of the Greening Project Committee. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions is \$4,048. It is recommended that up to \$3,000 be allocated to the Stanley Park School Ground Greening Project for the purchase of native trees and armourstone rocks for seating.

2014-06 St. Clement School Yard Greening Project. (Category 2) - \$2,100

St. Clement School's Greening Project is intended to provide increased shade areas with opportunities for passive recreation and learning. In addition, an existing Peace Garden will be improved with the addition of outdoor seating, and an outdoor classroom will be constructed using trees and seating rocks. Additional spaces will include a "Secret Place" and an "Intermediate Table Area" where trees and rocks will be used to

create seating and shade for students. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions is \$9,368. It is recommended that up to \$2,100 be allocated to the St. Clement School Yard Greening Project for the purchase and installation of native trees and shrubs.

2014-07 G.R.C.A. Pollinator Gardens at Shades Mills and Laurel Creek Nature Centre (Category 2): \$13,000

GRCA staff is proposing to create a wildflower/pollinator programme for the Shades Mill Nature Centre in Cambridge and the Laurel Creek Nature Centre in Waterloo. Pollinator gardens will be created at both sites which will serve as living classrooms to students who will be involved in seed collection, propagation, and tending of the gardens. When the gardens are established, students will be able to harvest seeds which can be planted back at their schools or at home. This will educate the public, and encourage them to use native plants in their gardens in order to conserve native pollinators. The project will educate students and adults as to the importance of our native pollinators. The total value of the project, including in-kind contributions is \$73,550. It is recommended that up to \$13,000 be allocated to the Grand River Conservation Authority for the purchase of supplies and to defray a portion of the wages of a contractor who can develop the gardens and interpret them to the public.

2014-08 Cambridge City Green Stewardship Projects (Category 1): \$ 8,051

Since 2007, the Cambridge City Green initiative has partnered with various private and voluntary sector organisations to carry out projects to enhance the natural environment in the City by planting thousands of native trees and plants. The projects are carried out by volunteers supported by City staff and other resources. This year, support is being sought for 11 of the 14 projects. These involve purchasing and planting native vegetation, installing a Kestrel and Wood Duck boxes, and creating educational and publicity materials. The total value of the 11 projects for which Community Environmental Fund support is requested is \$56,713. It is recommended that up to \$8,051 be allocated to the Cambridge City Green Stewardship Project for the purchase of native plants, the installation of kestrel and Wood Duck boxes and bird cam, and the production of educational and publicity materials.

2014-12 Coronation Community Garden (category 4): \$2,000

Staff at Coronation Public School is planning to initiate a community garden to engage residents of The Lang Farm community and strengthen relations between the school and the community. Its purpose is to engage and educate community members about environmental stewardship, food production, and to educate them to take an active role in promoting the general well being of the community. The proposed garden will feature “heritage” varieties of fruits and vegetables. It will teach community members about the stewardship of soil, composting, and sustainable food production. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions is \$9,560. It is recommended that up to \$2,000 be allocated to the Coronation Community Garden for the purchase of topsoil, construction of ten raised beds, planting materials, and outreach and publicity

2014-13 Stewart Avenue Public School – Outdoor Renewal. (Category 2) - \$3,000

The school council of Stewart Avenue Public School's has been fundraising in order to carry out renewal of the school grounds. The entire project comprises planting of native tree species, the installation of armourstone seating rocks and some play equipment. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions is \$.14,209. It is recommended that up to \$ 3,000 be allocated to the Project for the purchase and installation of native trees and armourstone seating rocks to be used to create a sheltered grove for quiet play and reflective activities.

2014-14 City of Waterloo – Waterloo Earth Day. (Category 1) - \$8,525

The City of Waterloo and the Grand River Conservation Authority have been partners for over 10 years in offering Waterloo Earth Day as a free community event. Waterloo Earth Day serves to remind residents how important the environment is to the quality of life in Waterloo. The event seeks to promote awareness and understanding of the importance of natural resources, fostering sustainability and community stewardship through activities such as tree planting, stewardship activities and educational opportunities. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions \$22,400.00. It is recommended that up to \$8,525 be allocated to the Waterloo Earth Day Project for the purchase of native trees and shrubs as well as activities and promotional materials for the Earth day celebration.

2014-15 Winston Churchill Public School – Early Years Natural Playspace Project. (Category 2) - \$3,000

The Early Years Natural Playspace project is intended to create an outdoor kindergarten play and learning environment through planting native trees and installing seating places using armourstone rocks. The area will connect children with nature and enhance their knowledge and awareness of inquiry and play-based learning. Through community involvement in the project a sense of ownership for shared spaces both during and outside of school hours. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions is \$4,000. It is recommended that up to \$3,000 be allocated to the Winston Churchill Public School – Early Years Natural Playspace Project for the purchase of native trees, armourstone rocks, topsoil and mulch.

2014-17 Forest Hill's TreeGeneration – Creating Shade for the Primary Playground (Forest Hill Public School). (Category 2) - \$3,000

This project is part of an ongoing multi-phase greening initiative on the Forest Hill Public School's playground to provide shade to the primary playground area. Previous tree plantings have proven to be successful in terms of providing shade and serving as valued teaching resources. It is anticipated that several ash trees will succumb to Emerald Ash Borer, and trees of other species are now being planted to replace them. Previous phases of the project have been funded by the school community and from other funding sources. The total value of the current phase of the overall project including in-kind contributions is \$4,659.26. It is recommended that up to \$3,000 be allocated to the Forest Hill Public School TreeGeneration Project for the purchase and

installation of native trees, mulching materials, and protective fencing to be installed around the trees.

**2014-18 Wilson Wildlife Greening Project (Wilson Avenue Public School).
(Category 4) - \$3,000**

The three-phase Greening Project at Wilson Avenue Public School is being organized and led by the school administration and the school council. The purpose is to engage the school community in developing and implementing a plan to improve the school property by increasing the diversity of tree species and shade cover on the playground. This will provide students with opportunities for active and passive play and exploration of nature. The school grounds are also used and enjoyed by the wider neighbourhood community. Elements of the project include a stone dust path, armourstone seating, and tree and shrub plantings. The total value of the second phase of the project including in-kind contributions is \$ 33,116.50. It is recommended that up to \$ 3,000 be allocated to the second phase Wilson Avenue Public School Greening Project for the purchase of native trees, armourstone rocks, and soil amendments.

**2014-20 House of Friendship Supportive Housing Community Garden Project
(Category 4): \$14,152**

In 2013, Eby Village was granted funds from the Community Environmental Fund to develop a community garden for and by the residents. The project was a notable success. Not only has it improved the appearance of the site and transformed the rear of the building from a sterile area to an inviting and well-used gathering place, but it has also taught residents about the planning and care of gardens and more generally about collaboration to achieve larger objectives. Residents take obvious pride in the transformation. The House of Friendship is now proposing to create similar projects at its Charles Village and Cramer House properties. These will enhance the urban environment in this corner of Downtown Kitchener and also engage the residents. The Community Environmental Fund funded a part-time Project Leader in 2013 who proved to be essential to the success of the project. Significant in-kind donations of materials and expertise supplemented this position and ensured success. The total value of the 2014 Supportive Housing Community Garden Project is \$61,588. It is recommended that up to \$14,152 be allocated to Eby Village to hire a Part-time Project Leader for this project.

2014-21 CLIPPED Outdoors Take-a-Hike Project (Categories 4,7): \$3,920

CLIPPED Outdoors is devoted to encouraging women and their families to experience outdoor activities such as cycling and exploring publicly accessible natural areas. The proposed Take-a-Hike project will involve giving women and their families guided tours of local greenspaces and natural areas each Saturday during July and August. The event leaders and invited guest speakers will interpret the elements of the natural environment and “green infrastructure” at each site. The walks will not only inform participants, but also develop a sense of responsibility and stewardship of the natural environment in our urban centres. To foster a spirit of sustainability, participants will be encouraged to use GRT or Bikeshare to the events. The total value of the project is \$8,443. It is recommended that up to \$3,920 be allocated to the CLIPPED Outdoors

Take-a-Hike programme to defray part of the wage costs of the programme instructor as well as some programme, media, and promotional costs.

2014-26 Sir Adam Beck Public School Footprints No-Mow Area Naturalization Project (Category 2) - \$2,000

Sir Adam Beck Public School was the recipient of a previous Community Environmental Fund stewardship grant in 2012 which was used to establish a healthy play space complete with shade trees and wind breaks on the grounds of this relatively new school. The establishment of naturalised areas would also provide a locale for outdoor and environmental education. The second phase of the project will continue the development of this area through naturalized landscaping and the installation of rocks, trees and a vine-covered pergola for a shaded teaching area and the attraction of birds and insects. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions is \$5,883.07. As this is a second schoolyard application to the Community Environmental Fund, the maximum amount allowable for this project is \$2,000.00. It is recommended that up to \$2,000 be allocated to the Project for the purchase of rocks, native trees and vines, and the design and installation of educational signage.

2014-28 Brigadoon Public School Greening Project. (Category 4) - \$3,000

Brigadoon Public School contains many natural features due to its location and topography. Nevertheless, the topography poses some challenges in the form of site drainage and soil erosion. It is proposed to install two tiers of armourstone on a significant slope to provide seating space and an outdoor classroom and in the process control soil erosion. Part of the upper slope will be re-vegetated with native meadow species which will prevent slope erosion and also attract native pollinators. Removal of declining and dying ash trees will be offset by planting several native trees in the vicinity of play structures which are currently exposed to direct sunlight. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions is \$15,100. It is recommended that up to \$3,000 be allocated to the Project for the purchase of native trees and armourstone rocks.

2014-29 TWEEC Ash Tree Removal and Replanting Along Trans Canada Trail in Woolwich Township. (Category 2) - \$17,750

Through an agreement with the Region, the Township of Woolwich has developed a segment of the Trans Canada Trail along the side of the Regional Road 85 right-of-way between St. Jacobs and the Farmers' Market. When the trail was constructed in 2000, native ash trees were planted along it to provide shade to walkers. Many of those trees are now dead or dying (in large part due to the Emerald Ash Borer). The Township of Woolwich Environmental Enhancement Committee, Trees for Woolwich, and the Woolwich Trails Group are proposing to plant native trees to replace the ash trees in order to provide shade, improve the aesthetic quality of the trail, and attenuate sound and wind. It is also anticipated that the trees will serve as habitat for wildlife, and in particular birds. The project is anticipated to be carried out over a three-year period with tree planting occurring in the first year and partial removals of ash each of the three years to reduce the visual impact and allow establishment of the planted trees. The Region's Transportation Division is in support of this proposal. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions is \$21,800. It is recommended that up to \$17,750

be allocated to the Township of Woolwich TWEEC Ash Removal and Replacement Tree Planting on the Trans Canada Trail Project for the purchase, installation, and after-care of native trees as well as the removal and chipping of dead and dying ash trees.

2014-32 Windale Park Rejuvenation Project (Category 2): \$ 2,800

Windale Park is located in the Valleyview area of Kitchener adjacent to the Conestoga Parkway. The neighbourhood contains many social housing projects, including one operated by Waterloo Regional Housing. The park is somewhat isolated from the rest of the community. It is also notably lacking in trees and amenities. In 2010, a community “safety can be fun” event won the City of Kitchener Festival of Neighbourhoods \$10,000 prize. The money is to be put toward rejuvenating the park. By planting trees and improving vegetation, it is expected that the park will attract greater usage and improve community safety. In cooperation with the Waterloo Regional Police Service and the Public Health Department, Safety and Shade audits have been carried out to inform the redesign of the park. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions from the City of Kitchener and other community partners is: \$26,110. It is recommended that up to \$2,800 be allocated to the City of Kitchener Windale Park Rejuvenation Project for the purchase of native shade trees and armoustone blocks for seating.

2014-34 The Waterloo Region Shade Forum, 2014 (category 4): \$1,200

The Waterloo Region Shade Working Group is planning to host a fourth Shade Forum in the fall of 2014. The target audience is municipal and school board planners and maintenance staff with an interest in urban design and the operation of parks and greenspaces. Previous Shade Forums have educated the group as to the benefits of shade for skin cancer prevention, mitigation of urban “heat island effects”, and the enhancement of livability in our urban centres. At present, policies promoting shade have been included in Area Municipal official plans, and agency staff are now developing shade promotion within their areas of jurisdiction. The total cost of holding the Shade Forum is: \$3,740. It is recommended that up to \$1,200 be allocated to help defray the costs of hosting the 2014 Waterloo Region Shade Forum.

2014-35 Phragmites Management Strategy in Laurel Creek Headwaters Environmentally Sensitive Landscape (category 1): \$1,910

Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) is a highly invasive non-native species that has proliferated across southern Ontario. It is to be seen along roadsides and the edges of wetlands where it threatens the ecological integrity of natural areas. It has been identified as a major concern of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council. Phragmites is now threatening the natural environment of the Laurel Creek Headwaters ESL. At the end of 2013, the Laurel Creek Headwaters Environmentally Sensitive Landscape Public Liaison Committee endorsed a project to develop a strategy to control this plant within the ESL before it becomes more established. Working in partnership with the University of Waterloo Faculty of Environmental Studies, it is proposed to develop a program of Phragmites control by reviewing scientific literature for relevant control practices, mapping occurrences of Phragmites within the ESL, and identifying site characteristics that would influence control mechanisms. This will result in the production of a

scientifically-based strategy for control within the ESL. The total cost of the project is: \$1,910. It is recommended that up to \$1,910 be allocated to the Faculty of Environmental Studies for the Phragmites Control Strategy for the Laurel Creek Headwaters ESL to be used to hire an undergraduate environmental studies student and to purchase services and materials required to complete the strategy.

**2014-36 Invasive Species Control at rare Charitable Research Reserve
“Hogsback” Woodland (category 1): \$13,447**

The “Hogsback” woodland is a large natural feature on the eastern part of the rare Charitable Research Reserve which also forms the boundary of the Blair-Bechtel-Cruickston Environmentally Sensitive Landscape. The area serves as the headwaters of Cruickston Creek. Through the recently-completed Cambridge West Master Environmental Servicing Plan, it was determined that the feature warrants consideration as a new Environmentally Sensitive Policy Area, tentatively called the Cruickston Creek Headwaters. The northern portion of the feature which is owned by rare contains several invasive non-indigenous species: Common and Glossy Buckthorn, Phragmites, and two species of exotic barberry. All threaten the ecological integrity of the feature. It is proposed to control these species and to enhance the feature with plantings of suitable native trees and shrubs. The total value of the project including in-kind contributions is \$34,227. It is recommended that up to \$13,447 be allocated to the Project for the purchase of native plant materials and tools required to remove or kill off invasive plants.

Attachment 2**Sustainability Grant Applicants**

Monsignor Haller Elementary School	The 4 th R, Water Refill Station	\$1,600
City of Kitchener	Waste Diversion at Recreation Centres	\$15,000
Guelph Street Community Garden	Good to the Last Drop: Rainwater Harvesting	\$7,304
Kitchener Horticultural Society	Rainwater Harvesting at Rockway Gardens	\$5,079
University of Waterloo	Managing End-of-Life Textiles	\$4,996
Galt Collegiate Institute	CGI Hydration System	\$6,000
Sustainable Waterloo Region	Development of an Electric Vehicle Charging Network	\$15,000
The Working Centre	Building a Bicycle Culture	\$5,000
Grand River Public Bike Share	Grand River Public Bike Share	\$15,000
Wilfrid Laurier University	Laurier Living Lab	\$15,000
Furnish the Future	Furnish the Future	\$15,000
Green Rocket	Waterloo Region Environment Network	\$4,615

Attachment 3**Community Environmental Fund Stewardship Stream Applications Not Recommended For Approval****2014-10 Monsignor Doyle Secondary – Outdoor Student. (Category 1) - \$3,000**

The Outdoor Student project is an effort to improve the outdoor spaces at Monsignor Doyle Secondary School. Assistance is requested for funding the purchase and installation of Redi-Rocks near the entrance of the school and the bus loading area. The rocks will provide convenient seating and meeting areas for students outside the school buildings. A later phase of the Outdoor Student project will see the addition of trees, shrubs and planting areas as well as a stage and an outdoor classroom. The Community Environmental Fund has supported schoolyard greening projects which involve the planting of native trees to bolster the urban tree canopy and provide shade as a means of preventing skin cancer in schoolchildren. This project only involves installing Redi-Rocks in an open area and does not achieve these objectives of broader Regional policy, and so is not recommended at this time.

2014-30 Nature and Art Project (Category 4) - \$13,221

This project has many commendable features in terms of bringing together a variety of Regional residents, long-term and newcomers alike, to explore the natural heritage of the Region and celebrate it in a mural facilitated by well-known local muralist Pamela Rojas. The artwork is intended to reinforce a sense of belonging by all participants. Ms Rojas's role as muralist would be informed and supplemented by a natural scientist and social scientist. Staff is of the opinion that the project has real merit, but that it may be premature at this time in that a suitable location and an ongoing community partnership for interpreting the mural have yet to be identified. The mural would need to be readily accessible, yet preferably protected from the elements. Staff also advise that the public art component of such a project would benefit from being coordinated with an existing Regional arts organization such as Arts Smart and/or the Public Art Advisory Committee. Staff will encourage the applicants to re-submit the application following the completion of this additional preparatory work.