

DATE OF MEETING April 19, 2023

AUTHORED BY DAVID STEWART, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

SUBJECT COMMUNITY WATERSHED RESTORATION GRANT – SECOND INTAKE

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain the Finance and Audit Committee's recommendation for Council approval of the Community Watershed Restoration Grant's second intake allocations for 2023.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:

1. approve a total of \$11,907.25 for the 2023 Community Watershed Restoration Grant's allocations as follows:
 - Applicant Name: Nanaimo Area Land Trust/ syuwé'ñct Elementary School (formerly Coal Tyee)
 - Project: Northfield Marsh Restoration
 - Recommend: \$2,500.00
 - Applicant Name: Walley Creek Streamkeepers/ Nanaimo Area Land Trust
 - Project: Walley Creek- Reach Two Bank Stabilization
 - Recommend: \$2,000.00
 - Applicant Name: Pacific Gardens Cohousing
 - Project: Pacific Gardens (Zone 3) Wildlife Habitat/Wetland Restoration Project
 - Recommend: \$ 7,407.25

BACKGROUND

The first Community Watershed Grant intake launched on 2022-SEP-09, with up to \$20,000 in total funding available for 2023.

On 2022-DEC-19, Council approved a total of \$8,092.75 for two projects eligible for the Community Watershed Restoration Grant. At that time, Council also directed Staff to issue a second grant intake in spring 2023 to allocate the remaining \$11,907.25 of the 2023 budgeted grant amount.

The second intake opened on 2023-FEB-17 and closed on 2023-MAR-27. The application and grant award timeline was scheduled to support the fall planting season.

DISCUSSION

Five grant applications were received for the second intake with a total funding request of \$31,045.00. Staff reviewed the applications according to the grant guidelines and criteria (Attachment A) and Council's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan priorities. Below is a summary table of the grant applications:

Organization	Project	Requested	Recommended
Nanaimo Area Land Trust/ syuwéñct Elementary School (formerly Coal Tyee)	Northfield Marsh Restoration	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Walley Creek Streamkeepers/ Nanaimo Area Land Trust	Walley Creek- Reach Two Bank Stabilization	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Pacific Gardens Cohousing	Pacific Gardens (Zone 3) Wildlife Habitat/Wetland Restoration Project	\$7,795.00	\$7,407.25
Nanaimo Area Land Trust	Chase River Auto Parts Clean Up	\$11,000.00	\$0.00
Newcastle Community Association	Millstone Ravine and Restoration Plan	\$7,750.00	\$0.00
Total		\$31,045.00	\$11,907.25

Those projects recommended for funding demonstrated strong partnerships between organizations, identified high value stewardship and restoration projects, and a capacity to successfully complete the work.

Should Council support funding the projects as recommended by Staff, applicants will be advised that funding approvals will be conditional on ensuring that City processes are followed, particularly those relating to work in potentially environmentally and archeologically sensitive areas, where there are Snuneymuxw interests, and/or on City lands. Staff intend to meet with the successful applications to help coordinate land use permissions and provide overall project direction. |

OPTIONS

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:

1. approve a total of \$11,907.25 for the 2023 Community Watershed Restoration Grant allocations as follows:
 - Applicant Name: Nanaimo Area Land Trust/ syuwéñct Elementary School (formerly Coal Tyee)
 - Project: Northfield Marsh Restoration
 - Recommend: \$2,500
 - Applicant Name: Walley Creek Streamkeepers/ Nanaimo Area Land Trust
 - Project: Walley Creek- Reach Two Bank Stabilization
 - Recommend: \$2,000

- Applicant Name: Pacific Gardens Cohousing
 - Project: Pacific Gardens (Zone 3) Wildlife Habitat/Wetland Restoration Project
 - Recommend: \$ 7,407.25

- The advantages of this option: Three recommended projects, determined to have higher merit based on the grant guidelines and criteria, will receive full or nearly full funding. Funding these projects is consistent with the commitment to the grant program’s purpose and parameters as well as the City’s environmental objectives.
- The disadvantages of this option: Remainder of funding would not be available for other City initiatives.
- Financial Implications: This option will allocate all the remaining 2023 funding for the Community Watershed Restoration Grant.

2. That the Finance and Audit Committee provide alternative direction. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- Council approved a total of \$8,092.75 for the Community Watershed Restoration Grant in December 2022 and directed Staff to issue a second intake in spring 2023 to allocate the remaining \$11,907.25 of the 2023 budgeted grant amount.
- A second intake was opened on 2023-FEB-17 and closed on 2023-MAR-27. Five applications were received with a total funding request of \$31,045.00.
- Staff recommend the remaining funding of \$11,907.25 from the Grant be awarded to support three applications considered strong based on the grant criteria.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Community Watershed Restoration Grant Guidelines and Criteria. |

Submitted by:

Ting Pan
Manager, Sustainability |

Concurrence by:

Charlotte Davis,
Manager, Parks Operations

Lisa Bhopalsingh
Director, Community Development

Laura Mercer
Director, Finance

Dale Lindsay
General Manager, Development Services /
Deputy CAO |