

DATE OF MEETING December 13, 2023

AUTHORED BY DAVID STEWART, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

SUBJECT COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT GRANT

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present to the Finance and Audit Committee the recommended Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant allocations for 2024.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommends that Council approve a total of \$20,000, in accordance with the Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant Guidelines and Criteria as attached, and that the grant allocations be as follows:

Alex King – SD68 Departure Bay Elementary School - \$3,100
Project: Learning in Place – Wardropper Park Restoration Project

Amie Armet – Rocky Point Neighbourhood Association - \$2,000
Project: Greening Rocky Point Private Yard Tree Planting and Climate Action Workshop

Anni Thesan – Youth 20/20 Can - \$2,000
Project: Beaufort Park Native Plant Garden

Joanne Sales – Broombusters Invasive Plant Society - \$2,000
Project: Nanaimo Parkway Broom Removal Project 2024

Lee Sanmiya – Nanaimo Community Gardens Society - \$3,500
Project: Community Engagement Project

Minah Lee – Art Action Earwig - \$3,000
Project: Love Tooth Nest

Shelley Serebin – Nanaimo Old City Neighbourhood Association - \$1,400
Project: Shelley Serebin's Climate Action Plan Project

Matthew Stephens – Snuneymuxw First Nation - \$3,000
Project: SFN Transitional Housing Community Garden

BACKGROUND

On 2023-SEP-25, Council endorsed the Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant Guidelines and Criteria. The first Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant intake was launched on 2023-OCT-02, and closed on 2022-NOV-06. A total of \$20,000 in funding is available for this grant intake.

The purpose of the grant is to support small environmental sustainability and climate projects that aim to improve the environmental health of natural systems, enhance residents' connections to nature, provide educational values, and contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation. The grant can provide up to \$5,000 per project, for eligible projects not already supported by another City of Nanaimo grant.

The evaluation of applications involved an integrated review committee with Staff from Sustainability, Engineering and Environment, Community Planning, Parks Recreation and Culture, and Finance.

DISCUSSION

Ten Community Environmental Sustainability Grant applications were received. A total of \$37,650 was requested, which was \$17,650 more than the available grant funding. Staff are recommending a total of \$20,000 be allocated to 8 applicants as follows:

Applicant	Project	Requested	Recommended
Agnes Provost - Dabbling of Denny	One Flame Can Change It All	\$5,000	\$0
Alex King - SD68 Departure Bay Elementary School	Learning in Place - Wardropper Park Restoration Project	\$3,500	\$3,100
Amie Armet - Rocky Point Neighbourhood Association	Greening Rocky Point Private Yard Tree Planting and Climate Action Workshop	\$2,500	\$2,000
Anni Thesan - Youth 20/20 Can	Beaufort Park Native Plant Garden	\$4,750	\$2,000
Joanne Sales - Broombusters Invasive Plant Society	Nanaimo Parkway Broom Removal Project 2024	\$2,000	\$2,000
Karolien Soylu - Frank J Ney Elementary School	Frank J Elementary Bird and Bat Box Project	\$5,000	\$0
Lee Sanmiya - Nanaimo Community Gardens Society	Community Engagement Project	\$3,500	\$3,500
Minah Lee - Art Action Earwig	Love Tooth Nest	\$5,000	\$3,000
Shelley Serebin - Nanaimo Old City	Shelley Serebin's Climate Action Plan Project	\$1,400	\$1,400

Neighbourhood Association			
Matthew Stephens - Snuneymuxw First Nation	SFN Transitional Housing Community Garden	\$5,000	\$3,000
Total		\$37,650	\$20,000

The grant guidelines and criteria state that projects occurring outside the City of Nanaimo are ineligible. An application was received from the Snuneymuxw Hilit Lelum Transitional Housing program for a project on Snuneymuxw reserve land (IR4), which is technically not within City of Nanaimo boundaries. The project is however otherwise well aligned with the grant guidelines and criteria. The project also builds on the City of Nanaimo and Snuneymuxw First Nation partnership in developing Snuneymuxw transitional housing units and is keeping with the City's commitment to reconciliation. Council may choose to interpret the guidelines to include IR4 in this instance.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommends that Council approve a total of \$20,000 in accordance with the Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant Guidelines and Criteria as attached, and that the grant allocations be as follows:

- a) 2024 Community Environmental Sustainability Grants – Total \$20,000

Alex King – SD68 Departure Bay Elementary School - \$3,100
Project: Learning in Place – Wardropper Park Restoration Project

Amie Armet – Rocky Point Neighbourhood Association - \$2,000
Project: Greening Rocky Point Private Yard Tree Planting and Climate Action Workshop

Anni Thesan – Youth 20/20 Can - \$2,000
Project: Beaufort Park Native Plant Garden

Joanne Sales – Broombusters Invasive Plant Society - \$2,000
Project: Nanaimo Parkway Broom Removal Project 2024

Lee Sanmiya – Nanaimo Community Gardens Society - \$3,500
Project: Community Engagement Project

Minah Lee – Art Action Earwig - \$3,000
Project: Love Tooth Nest

Shelley Serebin – Nanaimo Old City Neighbourhood Association - \$1,400
Project: Shelley Serebrin's Climate Action Plan Project

Matthew Stephens – Snuneymuxw First Nation - \$3,000
Project: SFN Transitional Housing Community Garden

- The advantages of this option: Eight proposed projects of higher merit based on fulfilling the guidelines and criteria of the Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant will receive full or partial funding.
- The disadvantages of this option: Some applicants will only receive partial funding and may need to scale down their intended project or seek another funding source.
- Financial Implications: The recommendation allocates the full \$20,000 in available project funding.

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

SUMMARY POINTS

- The City launched a new Community Environmental Sustainability Project grant this fall. The purpose of the grant is to support small projects that aim to improve the environmental health of natural systems, enhance residents' connections to nature, provide educational values, and contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation.
- The City received ten applications requesting a total amount of \$37,650.
- Staff are recommending the full amount of \$20,000 be awarded to eight proposed projects.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant Guidelines and Criteria |

Submitted by:

Ting Pan
Manager, Sustainability |

Concurrence by:

Laura Mercer
Director, Finance

Jeremy Holm
Director, Planning & Development |