

Sunnyacres Canopy Project
c/o Tom Ewart
2 Sydenham St.,
Guelph, ON N1H 2W2
September 24, 2020

Mayor Cam Guthrie & Councillors of the City of Guelph
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden Street,
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

RE: SUPPORT & FUND THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dear Mr. Mayor and Esteemed Councillors,

We are writing on behalf of a growing group of neighbours in the Sunnyacres Park area. There is enthusiastic support in this neighbourhood for Guelph's Urban Forest Management Plan, and we are writing to ask Council to prioritize funding to implement its recommendations. We were glad to see the unanimous support of Council's Committee of the Whole at its September 8, 2020, meeting.

The Sunnyacres neighbourhood is home to many people interested in green solutions to urban issues we face. We are a diverse neighbourhood, and include people who have lived here their whole lives, others 20 years and more, young families in their first home, and young adults looking to what the City holds for their future.

There is a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the Guelph community and in our neighbourhood. Many of us are supporting the greening of the city through our professional work, and many families have initiated their own native tree and garden plantings as well as participated in a wide range of City initiatives and programmes, including community gardens, rain barrels and rain gardens.

We recognize the City's long term commitment to this Plan and to prudent fiscal management. Investing in urban forests has a compelling financial and strategic case for the City. But, especially in times of a pandemic and climate extremes, we are seeing both economic and community health benefits. Your reports show the economic sense of investing in urban forest and canopy:

- Guelph's tree canopy provides an estimated \$9.7 million in environmental benefits **each year**, including home energy savings of approximately \$1.9 million.
- Our urban forest has a value of over \$800 million.
- Further, our trees:
 - Prevent nearly 400,000 cubic metres of runoff, which supports our Stormwater Management Master Plan.
 - Remove 156 tonnes of pollutants and 6,455 tonnes of carbon dioxide, supporting our goal of being a Net Zero Carbon community by 2050.
 - Support the rest of our plant life and anchor our green spaces, contributing to our Community Plan and Natural Heritage Strategy.


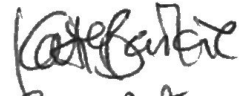



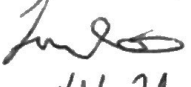


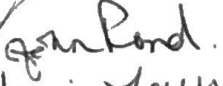

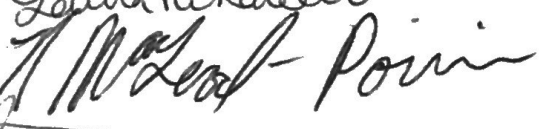
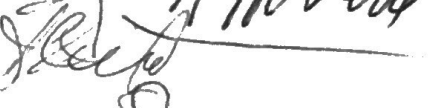


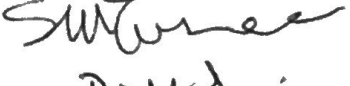


We see from our experiences in our neighborhood alone that there is a loss of canopy, and that, as your September 8 report states, our trees that provide proven public health benefits to cities, are vulnerable and under serious threat. We believe there would be city-wide support for immediate action.

We commend City Staff and Council on their Urban Forest Management Plan. As an active and passionate group, we look forward to opportunities to collaborate with the City and its Staff on projects under the Plan, and to be able to promote next steps and the Plan's community engagement objectives to other neighbourhoods.

We call on you today, Mayor Guthrie and Council Members, to move forward on the Committee of the Whole vote, to vote unanimously to prioritize funding requirements. We urge you to continue your support throughout your entire upcoming budget process, including a Staff mandate to implement the recommendations of Guelph's Urban Forest Management Plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our input.
Yours sincerely,

The members of the Sunnycres Canopy Project and other neighbours:

Christiaan Baikie		Katherine Baikie	
Susan (Colleran) Mason		Eva Deligiannis	
Tom Deligiannis			
Tom Ewart			
Kelly Main			
Johann Peters			
John Pond			
Laura Pinarello			
Hayley Macleod-Poirier			
Jim Reid			
Souhaila Sarkis			
Marvin Stemeroff			
Susan Turner			
Paige MacLean			
Gordon Skinner			
Tim Fredericks	