



# Staff Report

## Community Services – Parks and Trails

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**Report To:** Council Meeting  
**Meeting Date:** March 9, 2026  
**Report Number:** CS.26.017  
**Title:** Application for Funding – Urban Forestry Plan  
**Prepared by:** John McMullen,  
Manager of Parks & Trails

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report CS.26.017, entitled “Application for Funding – Urban Forestry Plan”;

AND THAT Council endorses submitting a grant application to the FCM to complete an Urban Forestry Plan to strengthen the planning, management and stewardship of urban forests and Town Owned trees.

### B. Overview

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Grants up to a maximum of \$175,000, for the purpose of completing an Urban Forestry Plan, are available through the FCM’s Green Municipal Fund. Municipalities with populations of fewer than 10,000 will receive a cost share of 90 percent.

### C. Background

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The Town of The Blue Mountains has identified the need for a comprehensive plan for Urban Forestry to include strategies for naturalization and tree-planting and to reduce deforestation while enhancing tree cover. The plan will guide and inform policy, protect trees and woodlots, and inform operations with best practices in tree management.

### D. Analysis

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A successful grant application will allow the Town to move forward by engaging a qualified consultant to work with Town staff to complete an Urban Forestry Plan.

Applications to the Green Municipal Fund are accepted until **April 15, 2026**, or until the funding is fully subscribed. With Councils endorsement staff will submit an application prior to the identified deadline.

## **E. Strategic Priorities**

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### **1. Communication and Engagement**

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

### **2. Organizational Excellence**

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

### **3. Community**

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

### **4. Quality of Life**

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

## **F. Environmental Impacts**

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A completed urban forestry plan that includes meeting with local stakeholders, conservation organizations, and the development community will help clarify the Town's goals and objectives related to trees. Matters of tree conservation, risk management, planting and canopy targets will be identified and enforcement, budgeting, staffing implications, and understanding asset management as related to trees and urban forests will be included.

## **G. Financial Impacts**

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10% of the overall project budget is required to be covered by the Town if the grant application is successful. A project budget of \$100,000 would require a \$10,000 contribution from the Town.

The Town's portion of funding will be funded from the Operations department, operating budget that supports urban forestry.

## **H. In Consultation With**

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Vicky Bouwman, Supervisor of Accounting and Budgets

Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

Monica Quinlan, Director of Corporate and Financial Services

## **I. Public Engagement**

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The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to John McMullen, Manager of Parks & Trails [parks@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:parks@thebluemountains.ca)

## **J. Attached**

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<https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/funding/urban-forestry-plans-studies>

Respectfully submitted,

John McMullen  
Manager of Parks & Trails

For more information, please contact:  
John McMullen Manager of Parks & Trails  
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### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CS.26.017 Application for Funding - Urban Forestry Plan.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 2, 2026

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**No Signature - Task assigned to John McMullen was completed by delegate Ryan Gibbons**

**John McMullen - Mar 2, 2026 - 10:53 AM**

**Ryan Gibbons - Mar 2, 2026 - 10:56 AM**