

Friday July 23, 2021

To attention Goderich Mayor John Grace, Deputy Mayor Myles Murdock, Coun. T. Bazinet, Coun. J. Donnelly, Coun. S. Thomson, Coun. M. Hoy, Coun. S. Tamming

**Proposal by Green Goderich to plant trees in Victoria Park, Goderich**

**1. General outline :** We recommend a native-species tree planting program on Goderich municipal property (Victoria Park), supported by Green Goderich member fundraising for the purchase of trees, and in cooperation with the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) of Goderich Town Council.

We have enlisted the expert advice and continuing support of Maitland Valley Conservation Authority for this project (Chris Van Esbroeck, MVCA stewardship services coordinator; Greg Urquhart, forestry technician), based on MVCA's decades of experience in reforestation activities. Goderich Director of Operations Sean Thomas has generously provided technical advice on practical issues of tree species and care, transplanting methods, and concerns such as locations of utilities.

After review and suggestions by the EAC at its June 9 meeting, we suggest a potential location for tree planting : The Victoria Park playground on the east side of Hwy 21 presents ten or more locations for different appropriate native species of trees. MVCA recommends a mix of ten hardwoods and evergreens; each kind can achieve a possible mature height of 75-100 feet, with a crown width of 25-35 feet. Attachment 1: sketch map of Victoria Park.

The park at its central location is a magnet for kids and families, locals and visitors, all through the year, especially in summer because of the splashpad, the playground facilities, the picnic shelter/washroom structure, and the Tourist Bureau office and retail shopping nearby. Tennis courts at the east end are now used for pickleball; and of course the winter ice rink is well used.

We believe enhanced tree-shade would improve the use of the park for residents and visitors from late spring to fall. Availability of a water supply in the park is an asset.

(Columbus Park on the north side of Balvina Drive East was considered as a planting site, and then put aside. Part of the site is being developed as a community vegetable garden; other amenities are also planned. It was concluded that this potential site for tree planting could wait until a later time when these other facilities are established.)

**2. Benefits of this proposal to the community :** Urban forests have substantial health and financial benefits for municipalities (enhanced attractiveness for residents' use and tourism, recreational opportunities, storm water flood attenuation, air quality improvements/diminished health care costs, windbreaks); for residents (property values, energy conservation); and for business (attractive retail and residential areas, spinoff to local merchants).

Our principal interest is the proven beneficial effects of increased tree cover in mitigation of climate changes, reducing atmospheric CO2 and supporting the general urban cooling effect.

Internationally, communities are recognizing that urban forests play an important role in carbon-offsetting and in their competitiveness to attract young families and professional people, as well as retail business and industry.

**3. Our request to Goderich Town Council :** We seek an endorsement from town council, including that council direct the cooperation of appropriate municipal services (Parks Dept., Works Dept., other) for logistical support on the tree planting plan.

We are aiming at a plan with net zero expense for the town, apart from labour costs of municipal employees as required. Protection and support devices needed by transplant trees would be provided by GG and MVCA in coordination with Parks Dept. Considerations of watering and continuing care of trees by volunteers to be determined. This would be arranged with the Parks Dept., as they may require control of water management, rather than relying on volunteers.

Specific planting sites would be determined only after appropriate clearances from Ontario One Call for public utilities (water, gas, cable, hydro location services).

**4. Responsibilities of Green Goderich :**

- Seek endorsement and financing from partner organizations (TD Trees grant program, Tree Canada, Canadian Tree Fund, Rotary and other service clubs, private donors, etc).
- Provide regular written reports of tree planting accomplishments and activities to Town Council and the Environmental Action Committee.
- Provide volunteer labour and continuing maintenance for the tree program, building on the Communities in Bloom model.
- Plan and offer a continuing program of "companion planting" of native shrubs and flowers similar to pollinator gardens adjacent to planted trees, a volunteer program with support and direction from appropriate town departments.
- Provide a continuing program of public education related to the town tree inventory and other environmental improvements. This might include interpretive signage at the sites of new trees.

**5. Timeline:** GG efforts to confirm financing, confirm purchase with the vendor (MVCA), arrange delivery to the planting site, and organize volunteer labour requirements will continue through this fall, anticipating dates for planting in fall 2021 and perhaps in 2022. Attachment 2: tree planting timeline spreadsheet.

Attachment 1: sketch map of Victoria Park.

Attachment 2: tree planting timeline spreadsheet.

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**To attention Mayor and Councillors**  
**GREEN GODERICH PROPOSED SCHEDULE of TREE PLANTING,**  
**VICTORIAL PARK, GODERICH, ONTARIO August 2021**

Task	Responsibility	Timing : Month				Notes
		August	S	O	N	
Plan consideration by Town Council	Council; presentation by GG	August 16				
Fundraising	GG volunteers	Continuing				
Locate & mark utilities	Town staff/Ontario One Call	♦				
Submit order to MVCA	GG	♦				
Locate & stake planting sites as determined	MVCA/S. Thomas		♦			Attention to utility locations
Order trees & supplies	GG purchase order to MVCA		♦			Invoicing to GG
Tree stock delivered to Victoria Park	MVCA; rec'd by staff/GG			♦		
Trees installed; guards, mulch, water as appropriate	Goderich Parks staff/MVCA + GG	Continuing		♦		Addl mulch as req.
Continuing tree maintenance & water	Parks + GG	Continuing				Tree spike-fertilizer schedule? Spring/fall.... Expensed to GG?
Remove tree stakes & guards	Parks + GG	After 1 yr?	-	-	-	?

Notes :