



Home Grown Grant background information



The best way to make trees a vital part of your community is to make them Home Grown

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The City of Winnipeg's Home Grown Grant is an exciting new way to bring new life to your community's tree canopy.

With funding from the Government of Canada's Two Billion Trees Program, the Home Grown Grant will provide community organizations up to \$20,000 each to revitalize the urban forest in their neighbourhood parks, green spaces, and natural areas with large-scale, community-led planting projects on publicly owned land.

There is a total \$180,000 available for 2024

In addition to the grant funding, successful applicants will also receive one-on-one guidance and support from a City of Winnipeg arborist throughout the life of their project.

All community groups who are registered legal entities (non-profits or corporations) are eligible to apply. We are particularly interested in projects that will benefit underserved communities and geographic areas of higher poverty.

By focusing on these communities, the grant program will help make tree planting activities and environmental stewardship more inclusive and accessible to all Winnipeggers. Partnerships among community groups and volunteer organizations are greatly encouraged.

Why trees matter to communities

Winnipeg's urban forest is an invaluable asset to the city and its residents, providing shade, improving health of people, plants, and animals, and supporting ecological viability.

The urban forest comprises more than three million trees city-wide; however it is facing unprecedented challenges and change. More than half of the city's public tree inventory is at risk due to invasive pests alone. Many elms have already been lost to Dutch elm disease and green ash trees are under threat by emerald ash borer.

Strategic tree planting is key to growing the urban forest into the future – and grassroots, community-led initiatives are a critical component of our planting strategy.

Whether your community-based organization has an existing plan to plant or just a vision of a greener, fuller canopy over your neighbourhood, the Home Grown Grant may be right for you.

More information on eligibility and application criteria can be found in the Home Grown Grant Application.

But before you jump right in and apply, see the included Quick Start Guide to help kickstart your planning and application.



Home Grown Grant Quick Start



Home Grown, well planned +

Proper planning, planting, and maintenance are key to successfully establishing new trees and ensuring their longevity for future generations. The Home Grown Grant requires applicants to submit detailed project plans that include carefully considered planting sites, species selection, and ongoing maintenance.

We envision projects to fulfill one of three purposes :



Restoring habitat
and natural areas



Enhancing parks
and greenspaces



Revitalizing our communities
with street trees

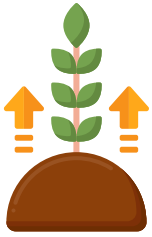
General planning considerations

When developing your plan, make sure you consider the following key elements of successful tree-planting projects.

- Space limitations - large-growing shade trees typically provide the most environmental benefits in the long term, but smaller-growing ornamentals are suitable for sites where space is limited. A combination of tree sizes and species helps to increase diversity.
- Infrastructure and sightline conflicts – be mindful to avoid planting too close to powerlines, light sources, pedestrian crossings, or street signage. Some tree species (i.e. evergreens) are not suitable for some sites because their low branches obscure sightlines and create safety concerns.
- Planting season – spring and fall are the ideal times to plant. Mid-summer heat puts new trees under stress during the planting process, and more attention to maintenance and extra watering might be required.
- Environment – what plants do you already see in or near your planting site? The types of species already thriving may provide you clues about the soil type.
- Soil moisture – is the planting site normally wet or dry?
- Sunlight – will seedlings or young trees be shaded or crowded by existing trees?
- Drainage – monitor the area for drainage patterns and avoid planting in low areas.

Tree specifications

When developing your planting list, make sure you consider size, hardiness, diversity, and shape.



Size



Hardiness



Diversity



Shape

Size of planting stock:

- Bare root stock and small containerized stock (#1 - #7 container) are appropriate for “no mow” naturalized areas, such as rehabilitation of a riverbank, and are NOT suitable for mowed and maintained areas of parks, or on boulevards.
- #10 and #15 container stock trees (single stem) are appropriate for most parks
- Wire baskets, or balled and burlapped trees, are appropriate for boulevards and parks but must be planted with a contractor and special equipment due to their size and weight.

Hardiness:

select species that are hardy to Manitoba, and grown or supplied from reputable local nurseries to ensure the stock is hardy

Species diversity:

- Include two or more species in your planting plans based on site suitability. Please be aware that species availability can change on short notice, so you may need to consider substitutes. View our list of recommended species.

Mature size and shape:

- Different trees have different heights and widths at maturity - ensure the planting site has room to accommodate the tree at its mature size.
- What is the typical shape of the tree at maturity, and will that shape fit into the landscape well?

More information on appropriate species selection can be found in the application package, under Supplemental information.

Please remember perhaps the most important thing about the spirit of the Home Grown Grant: the program is designed to bring communities together to plant today, for tomorrow. We can all play a role in the future of the urban forest ... let's have fun doing it.

For questions about the Program or about completing your application, contact the Home Grown Grant program coordinator:

Phone: 204-986-3454

Email: homegrowngrant@winnipeg.ca