

## **Donation from The Garden Club of Toronto for Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden Renovations**

**Date:** March 7, 2022

**To:** Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**From:** Janie Romoff, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**Wards:** Toronto Centre

### **SUMMARY**

---

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from City Council to accept a donation and enter into a donor agreement with The Garden Club of Toronto, a registered charity, for renovations to the Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden, a City-owned facility in Allan Gardens. Parks, Forestry and Recreation's 2022-2031 Council Approved Capital Budget and Plan includes \$0.250 million in debt funding in 2022 for renovations to the Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden within the Parks Plan sub-project in the Park Development project. Authority from Council is required to amend the approved 2022-2031 Capital Budget and Plan by increasing the total project cost by \$0.100 million with future year cash flow commitments in 2023, funded from the donation for this project.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to accept a donation valued at up to \$0.100 million from The Garden Club of Toronto, to provide financial support for the Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden revitalization project at Allan Gardens, in compliance with the Donations to the City of Toronto for Community Benefits Policy.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to negotiate and sign on behalf of the City a donor agreement with The Garden Club of Toronto, outlining the agreed-upon uses of the donated funds and donor recognition, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
3. City Council approve an amendment to the Parks, Forestry and Recreation's 2022-2031 Council Approved Capital Budget and Plan for the Parks Plan sub-project, in the

Parks Development project, in the amount of \$0.100 million, by increasing the total project cost and future year cash flow commitments in 2023 funded from The Garden Club of Toronto donation, for the purpose of the Allan Gardens Teaching Garden.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

The 2022-2031 Council Approved Capital Budget and Plan for Parks, Forestry and Recreation includes \$0.250 million in 2022, funded from debt, for renovations to the Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden within the Parks Plan sub-project in the Park Development project. Authority from Council is required to amend the approved 2022-2031 Capital Budget and Plan by increasing the total project cost for the Parks Plan sub-project by \$0.100 million with funding from The Garden Club of Toronto donation cash flowed in 2023.

There are no additional annual operating costs associated with the planned improvements as the Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden is an existing asset, and as such, is part of Parks Forestry and Recreation's base operating, maintenance and inspections budgets.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

---

City Council, at its meeting on February 17, 2022, approved the Parks, Forestry and Recreation's 2022-2031 Capital Budget and Plan through item EX30.2 (140) in which the PFR's 10-Year Capital Plan includes \$0.250 million cash flow for renovations to the Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2022.EX30.2>

At its meeting on October 30, 31 and November 1, 2012, City Council amended its Donations to the City for Community Benefits policy:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX23.17>

At its meeting on September 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2006, City Council adopted its Donations to the City for Community Benefits policy.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060925/cofa.pdf>

## **COMMENTS**

---

The Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden at Allan Gardens is a bustling space on the south side of Children's Conservatory. Managed by the Horticulture and Greenhouse Unit of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, the fenced space is actively maintained in collaboration with volunteers of Friends of Allan Gardens and other non-profit organizations. Although community events and volunteer activities have been

reduced through the pandemic, the garden has still been able to produce significant harvests that have been contributed to the Moss Park Food Hamper and other organizations, while giving smaller groups of volunteers a chance to learn and stay connected to the earth.

The garden's success and the increasing demand for gardening activities and teaching, especially for children, led to a vision for expanding and redesigning the garden. The scope of work includes redesigning the garden space to take better advantage of sunny areas, creating new garden beds and planters, improving accessibility and amenities including gathering areas and seating.

The Garden Club of Toronto, in collaboration with the Friends of Allan Gardens, has enthusiastically supported a revitalized Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden. Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2022, the Garden Club has a long history of supporting city-building with the City of Toronto by contributing to the development of beautiful gardens and parks. In addition to its past support for projects at the Toronto Botanical Garden in Edwards Gardens, recent projects include the revitalization of St. James Gardens and the development of June Callwood Park, and future work for an entrance garden at The Meadoway. The Garden Club is keen to continue this tradition at Allan Gardens, one of Toronto's destination parks.

The 2022-2031 Council Approved Capital Budget and Plan for PFR includes \$0.250 million in debt funding in 2022 for renovations to the Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden within the Parks Plan sub-project. Donated funds in the amount of \$0.100 million to be added to the project, will increase the construction budget for renovations to the Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden from \$0.250 million to \$0.350 million, with the donated funds cash flowed in 2023. Construction timing of the Children's Conservatory Teaching Garden will align with the state-of-good-repair rehabilitation work to the historic Palm House at Allan Gardens, planned to start in 2022, as included in the approved 2022-2031 Capital Budget and Plan for PFR.

## **CONTACT**

---

Michelle Reid, Manager, Horticulture and Greenhouses, Parks, Forestry and Recreation  
Tel: 416-392-0360. email: [michelle.reid@toronto.ca](mailto:michelle.reid@toronto.ca)

Alex Deighan, Manager, Partnerships and Business Services, Parks, Forestry and Recreation. Tel: 416-338-5123, email: [alex.deighan@toronto.ca](mailto:alex.deighan@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Janie Romoff  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation