

## 2021 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant – Environment Category

### ISSUE

The Environmental Grant assists community groups with environmental initiatives, as directed by Council Policy C03-018, Assistance to Community Groups. This annual administrative report provides project summaries from 2020 and requests approval of the recommendations for the 2021 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant – Environmental Category (Environmental Grant).

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development & Community Services approve the funding allocations for the 2021 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant – Environment Category.

### BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on April 7, 2020, the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development & Community Services, received the 2020 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grants – Environmental Component report outlining the results of the 2019 funded projects and the funding recommendations for the 2020 competition.

Funding for the Environmental Grant is directed by Council Policy and increases to the Environmental Grant are approved by City Council during the business plan and budget process; the approved available 2021 funding is \$54,000.

### DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Fifteen projects were awarded funding in 2020 resulting in a variety of positive environmental outcomes addressing aspects of climate change mitigation, solid waste diversion, green infrastructure management, and access to recreation and cultural facilities. The Environmental Grant Program awarded \$44,000 in 2020, funding 15 community projects. Some of these projects were delayed due to COVID-19, with some projects requiring extensions. Refer to Appendix 1 - Summary of 2020 Funded Projects for the summary and status, including those that are still in-progress due to COVID-19. The value of 15 projects' combined budget is \$538,770.

The 2021 Environmental Grant applications were reviewed by a three-person committee composed of representatives from the Sustainability Department, the Transportation Department, and the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee. Submissions were evaluated using criteria guided by City of Saskatoon Policy C03-018.

Sixteen applications were received in 2021 with a combined request for funding of \$79,749. The total amount of funding available for the 2021 Environmental Grant Program is \$54,000. Thirteen community projects will receive funding, leveraging

community projects valued at \$167,415; for detail refer to Appendix 2 - Summary of 2021 Grant Applications.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The allocation will utilize \$54,000 available from:

- 2021 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant – Environment Category;
- Capital Project No. P.02390 – Green Infrastructure;
- Capital Project No. P.02197 – Water Conservation Initiative;
- Capital Project No. P.02184 – Waste Characterization; and
- Capital Project No. P.02468 – Active Transportation Plan Implementation.

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The projects recommended for allocation of the Environmental Grant collectively meet the objectives of the program which are:

- Protection of the environment;
- Conservation of natural resources; and
- Environmental communications, research and education.

The projects chosen specifically support the categories prioritized for funding in 2021, including initiatives that increase awareness and protection of our water resources, reduce the amount of waste going to landfills, encourage active transportation, provide stewardship, education or enhancements to the green network, and provide learning opportunities that support the City's environmental goals. The overall impacts on greenhouse gas emissions and waste diversion resulting from these projects have not been quantified at this time.

There are no policy, privacy or CPTED implications or considerations.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The results achieved through the 2021 Environmental Grant will be reported with the recommendations of award for the 2022 Environmental Grant, in the second quarter of 2022.

A comprehensive review of the City of Saskatoon's grant policies is currently being undertaken and will likely be completed in 2022.

### **APPENDICES**

1. Summary of 2020 Funded Projects
2. Summary of 2021 Grant Applications

#### **Report Approval**

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Reviewed by: Katie Burns, Manager, Community Leadership & Program Development

Jeanna South, Director of Sustainability

Approved by: Angela Gardiner, General Manager, Utilities & Environment