

To: Committee of the Whole

I am presenting the following perspective for your consideration today as a resident of Burlington (Ward 4), parent of school-aged children, and urban planner. I am supportive of the Forestry department's proposal to update the *Tree Planting Initiatives Reserve Bylaw* with the intent of allocating public funds to not simply plant individual trees, but to both plan and execute tree planting in a manner that supports re-establishing the urban canopy 1) in areas that either have or will have extensive tree removals (ie: due to pest or disease) and 2) in areas that will benefit the public good (ie: public parks, outdoor classrooms, outdoor spaces adjacent to recreational facilities).

Specifically, I am supportive of the City planting new trees with evidenced-based planting best practices in order to maximize the survivorship of newly planted trees and enhance the quality of pervious growing spaces in the city. These practices include initial testing of the soil, enhancing the soil with organic matter and bacterial / mycorrhizal inoculants, and timed watering of trees. Furthermore, the establishment of new canopy areas (particularly in recreational areas) would benefit from supportive under-canopy planting of shrubs and naturalization of grassed areas.

The Halton District School Board should be an important partner in the City's mission to enhance the urban canopy as their facilities are where Burlington's youth spend most of their time and have access to outdoor recreational amenities. School sites are often accompanied by municipal infrastructure (active transportation corridors, playground structures, etc.) which would benefit from planting for shade. Mohawk Gardens Public School (Ward 5) is one particular site that is uniquely positioned to benefit from enhanced planting as a) the school is adjacent to a large parcel of municipal open land b) the site has experienced mature tree loss due to Emerald Ash Borer c) the site has existing hardscaping in the form of a N-S municipal active transportation pathway and an Outdoor Learning Classroom and d) the school has a supportive Principal and Staff who are committed to an outdoor education program and the involvement of students in caring for the outdoor space.

In summary, it is my hope that Committee agrees with Staff that there are many potential benefits to extending the Reserve Fund to include planting opportunities on school properties, and to invest in supportive planting practices including soil enhancement, companion planting, watering programs, and pruning and other maintenance activities to support the initial establishment of new canopy areas in the City of Burlington.

Thank you.

Meredith Lynes, MCIP, RPP

Co-signed by:

Ashley Turney, BLA, OALA (former member), Ward 4 resident, Mohawk Gardens PS Parent

Principal Cindy Snowdon, Pineland PS

Principal Sarah Baylor, Mohawk Gardens PS