

Report to Council - Tree Seedling Program
Re: Derecho Recovery
From: Mayor Heather Watson
Date: April 5, 2023

Recommendation:

That staff bring forward options for the funding and delivery of a community tree seedling program to help residents of the Township Douro-Dummer with their property recovery and rehabilitation from the May 21, 2022 derecho.

Overview:

The May 21, 2022 derecho that swept through our region caused unprecedented damage to property and significantly altered the landscape.

While residents continue to clean up, recover and rebuild from the storm it will take a generation to fully replace the trees that were lost. Recognizing that trees play an important role in the environment we want to encourage residents to plant trees to begin reforesting areas within the Township.

On April 4, 2023, Council received a report (No. Treasurer 2023-09) from our Interim Treasurer regarding MNRF Funding the Township received to help the municipality offset the costs related to cleaning up, tree planting, and to help with the prevention of flooding and fires due to storm damages. We have a unique opportunity through this funding to potentially offer tree seedlings to residents who wish to plant trees on their property.

The hope would be that we can help residents community-wide with replacing some of the many trees that were lost due to the storm.

Conclusion:

The derecho on May 21, 2022, created wide-spread damage to trees throughout the municipality. The Township has received funding to support cleanup efforts. It is recommended that staff look into ways we can create a community tree seedling program to help reforest parts of the community.

Financial Impact:

To be determined