

## Corporate Report

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**Report from** Recreation and Community Services, Parks and Facilities

**Date of Report:** June 28, 2013

**Date of Meeting:** July 22, 2013

**Report Number:** RCS-175-2013

**File:** 68.31.219

**Subject:** Climate Action Niagara – Fruit Tree Trail Agreement

### Recommendation

That Council approve the request from Climate Action Niagara to enter into an agreement for the Fruit Tree Trail; and

That the City Solicitor be directed to prepare the necessary agreement and by-law.  
FORTHWITH

### Summary

This report provides information about Climate Action Niagara's proposal to enter into an agreement with the City for the Fruit Tree Trail project along the Merritt Trail.

### Background

Climate Action Niagara (CAN) is an environmental organization that provides eco-education and action on issues related to climate change to improve resilience in Niagara. CAN currently leases land from the City to operate the community garden in Centennial Gardens.

CAN has developed a pilot project currently referred to as the Fruit Tree Trail. The project aims to re-establish fruit trees in parks by bringing existing trees back into production and by planting new fruit trees and shrubs. Trees will be tagged for identification by the public and student volunteers and the Niagara Region will use GPS to add the fruit trees to the Region's cycling map. CAN will hold public workshops on topics related to fruit tree education, such as proper tree care and canning, and harvested fruit will be donated to local charitable organizations. The pilot project will focus on trees along the Merritt Trail, as illustrated in Appendix 1.

### Report

#### **Staff recommend an agreement between CAN and the City**

Staff recommend that the City enter into an agreement with CAN to facilitate the Fruit Tree Trail project on City property, namely the Merritt Trail, for a period of 4 years. The agreement will define specifics such as the physical limits of the project, the

responsibilities of each party, any training CAN will be required to provide their volunteers, and third party liability insurance requirements. The agreement will be drafted by Legal Services and the details will be determined based on conversations between CAN and the City.

### **Financial Implications**

Not applicable, as any costs related to the project will be the responsibility of Climate Action Niagara.

### **Notification**

It is in order to notify Jane Hanlon, Executive Director, Climate Action Niagara, 111 Church St., St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 3C9.

### **Submitted by:**

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### **Prepared by:**

Kristen Sullivan  
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### **Approved by:**

Rick Lane, R.D.M.R.  
Director of Recreation & Community Services

