

## Appendix A

### Descriptions for Projects Recommended for 2024 CEF Funding

**Branchton Forest Management Project** - The Branchton Village Land Trust in North Dumfries is seeking funds for forest management activities including retaining a forestry contractor to lay down leaning and other hazardous trees as well as materials to remove invasive species such as Garlic Mustard in their Carolinian Forest.

Total project cost \$4,340; CEF Request \$4,340

Recommended funding \$4,000

**KW Habilitation Community Garden / Fruit Tree Initiative** - KW Habilitation seeks funds to expand the "Farm" at the David Fisher Residence in Waterloo to allow community members to grow vegetables and learn about organic farming and stewardship practices. Last year, the Farm produced over \$25,000 worth of organically grown vegetables which were distributed to their Inclusive Living Homes, and extra veggies were donated to House of Friendship, Soup Sisters, St. Johns Giving Table and Better Tent City. In addition, the applicants are seeking funds to add variety to their 'orchard' with plums, pears, and apple trees.

Total project cost \$4,616; CEF Request \$4,117

Recommended funding \$3,500

**University of Waterloo Bird and Bat Nesting Habitat Enhancement** - University of Waterloo Staff plan to install Tree Swallow, Wood Duck and bat boxes by Columbia Lake, on University of Waterloo property, to provide nesting opportunities for these species. In addition, 1 Purple Martin 'hotel' nesting structure is also proposed. These bat and bird populations have been declining because of a lack of suitable breeding and foraging habitats. Staff, students and volunteers will monitor these boxes over the next 2 years to confirm that these species are using the boxes and it will provide an opportunity to study many different aspects of the breeding biology of these bird and bat populations.

Total project cost \$7,947; CEF Request \$7,042

Recommended funding \$5,000

**OneROOF Youth Services Landscaping Project** - OneROOF Youth Services has expanded its campus in Kitchener through the purchase of a neighbouring home and the construction of a Supportive Housing Building to house up to 44 youth. This project proposes to landscape this additional property following the landscaping and planting schedule required by the City of Kitchener. While funding the essential needs of youth is the priority of the organization, funding assistance to meet the landscaping requirements is sought from the CEF grant so that the property's natural area can be restored and can continue to contribute to the local habitat for urban wildlife and pollinators.

Total project cost \$15,000; CEF Request \$8,456

Recommended funding \$6,200

**Barrie's Lake Wetland Restoration Project** - Staff and volunteers that are part of the Waterloo Wellington Buddhist Monastery and Meditation Centre endeavors to rejuvenate a deteriorated section of an existing wetland that lies adjacent to Barrie's Lake in North Dumfries. The wetland restoration project is part of a larger project that encompasses the ongoing implementation of the Environmental Management Plan for Barrie's Lake, in collaboration with many other stakeholders including Ducks Unlimited Canada, RARE charitable research reserve, the Institute of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Toronto and other interested neighbours of Barrie's Lake. Restoring the wetland involves significant efforts to remove unwanted material (excavation) and provide fill placement with grasses and other permanent cover to reduce future erosion. Funds are requested to cover the GRCA permit fee and buy materials such as shovels, waders, pruning saws, sleds, wheelbarrows, life jackets, rope, gloves, etc. Students and volunteers will support the post-construction monitoring to ensure that invasive species do not infiltrate the restored wetland in future years.

Total project cost \$18,090; CEF Request \$8,590

Recommended funding \$7,000

**Trees for Woolwich Tree Plantings** - Trees for Woolwich, in collaboration with the Township of Woolwich, REEP Green Solutions, and the Region of Waterloo, aims to plant trees along roads in Woolwich in order to increase canopy cover in the Region. This work is the second year of a three and a half year project. In 2023, 4,000 trees were planted while in 2024, 8,000 trees are planned to be planted. Positioned as the "largest reforestation project in Ontario in the last 100 years" this project has many benefits including: increasing carbon capture, increasing stormwater diversion,

protecting roadsides from erosion, reducing airborne pollutants, and enhancing wildlife corridors. The project costs relate to buying and planting the trees and each tree is calculated to cost \$16.

Total project cost \$146,160; CEF Request \$15,000

Recommended funding \$10,000

**Luther Village on the Park Path Restoration** - The Land Restoration Committee at Luther Village on the Park in Waterloo is in their final phase of restoring a large piece of previously fallow land into pathways, benches, and a restored park including native trees and shrubs. The first phase of the project was partially funded through the CEF in 2023 and consisted of building a crushed limestone path so that residents, children, and grandchildren could safely walk and learn about native trees and shrubs, pollinator plants and the birds and insects that they attract. The final phase aims to complete the final part of the pathway and add more native flowering shrubs to the restored area.

Total project cost \$6,760; CEF Request \$5,085

Recommended funding \$5,000

**RARE BioBlitz Events** - RARE Charitable Research Reserve is planning on hosting three Bioblitz events in 2024 with scientists and community members at their Blair property. The purpose of these events is to survey and identify a variety of taxa to update their community biodiversity collection and long-term monitoring efforts. RARE coordinated 6 other Bioblitz events from 2015-2019 that attracted nearly 1,500 participants total. This is the first series of Bioblitz events since the pandemic and organizers are targeting survey efforts into habitats not surveyed for 5 years. Participants will learn about sampling protocols, statistical analysis, rare species and species at risk, and invasive species control and management efforts. This project is seeking a CEF grant to purchase necessary equipment and supplies, provide educational materials to youth and university partners, and promote community science initiatives via social media content.

Total project cost \$26,300; CEF Request \$4,650

Recommended funding \$4,500

**F.W.R. Dickson Prairie Enhancement Project (GRCA)** - The F.W.R. Dickson Wilderness Area in North Dumfries Township contains a rare tallgrass prairie ecosystem and is part of the Region of Waterloo's Dumfries Carolinian Environmentally Sensitive Landscape. The goal of this project is to remove and reduce non-native and other

undesirable plants within this Core Environmental Feature using two approaches. The first approach will be to cut and spray non-native invasive trees and vegetation in the summer of 2024. The second approach is planned to occur in the spring of 2025 employing a prescribed burn to the entire tallgrass prairie community. The CEF grant would be used to offset the costs of the contractor to be hired to perform both approaches (prescribed burn and invasive species control).

Total project cost \$20,535; CEF Request \$15,000

Recommended funding \$6,000

**All Our Relations – Biodiversity Project** – All Our Relations is a charity land stewardship effort in Bloomingdale, Woolwich that uses their land to engage in biodiversity, sustainability and community enrichment projects. Partnering with other local community organizations, All Our Relations is seeking CEF funds to advance three projects in 2024 including a microforest demonstration project; beehives; and to expand their community garden.

Total project cost \$23,368; CEF Request \$9,768

Recommended funding \$5,000

**Waterloo Co-op Residence Inc. (WCRI) Landscape Plantings** – As one of the largest student housing co-operatives in North America, WCRI in Waterloo is planning to establish a landscape featuring low-maintenance, drought-tolerant native species, with a focus on creating habitats to attract native pollinators. In collaboration with the Youth Network Keepers program, CEF funds would be used to purchase landscaping materials including soil, lumber, fencing, tools, native species, and professional landscape designer support.

Total project cost \$5,381; CEF Request \$4,500

Recommended funding \$4,000

**Smart Waterloo Region Innovation Lab (SWRIL) Nurture School Gardens / Food Forests** – Smart Waterloo Region Innovation Lab is a hub for Children & Youth in Waterloo Region to create and expand their ideas. One of their ‘nurture’ projects involves collaborating with 16 elementary and high schools across Waterloo Region to address the lack of access to healthy food and address poor food literacy in children and youth. The Food Forest project fosters regenerative agriculture practices focusing on planting perennial crops and enhancing the ecological resilience of school grounds.

CEF funds would be used to run soil tests at each school location and to purchase perennial native pollinator plants that produce food while naturalizing school grounds.

Total project cost \$19,448; CEF Request \$14,922

Recommended funding \$10,000

**Petersburg Community Garden** - Part of the Waterloo Region Community Garden Network, the Petersburg Community Garden has grown to include 20 acres under long term contract with a mission to allow new Canadians to grow food for their families and communities. This project is seeking funds for the purchase and transportation of compost and farm manure to rebuild the soil and enhance food production. Local food production will employ organic methods and will provide an opportunity for people to achieve equity of opportunity and to help address food insecurity.

Total project cost \$10,375; CEF Request \$7,781

Recommended funding \$6,000

**Waterloo Wellington Science and Engineering Fair** - The Waterloo Wellington Science and Engineering Fair is an annual school fair for students in grades 7 to 12. Affiliated with Youth Science Canada, the 2025 Fair theme is "No Time to Waste" and students will be expected to develop projects and displays covering various topics from recycling, waste management, energy efficiency, sustainability, reducing GHG emissions, and more. These projects are evaluated by a panel of expert judges during the event. Awards include university entrance scholarships and participation in the Canada wide Science Fair - Canada's largest youth science event. This event provides significant youth leadership and research opportunities while developing Canada's capacity for high quality research. Their funding request is to support bus transportation costs for the students.

Total project cost \$1,600; CEF Request \$800

Recommended funding \$800

**SustainableWR – Develop Emission Reduction Tool to Engage Staff** - Sustainable Waterloo Region (SustainableWR) continues to support local organizations to pursue ambitious but realistic GHG emissions reductions targets while incorporating sustainability into their structures and strategies. This project proposes to develop and trial a novel staff engagement tool that will allow employees to calculate their personal and corporate scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions and educate them on their employer's sustainability strategy. The project will result in piloting the tool across local

organizations involved in SustainableWR's Impact Network and will track personal and corporate emission reductions as well as cost savings for the organization along with their environmental impact tool. It is anticipated that the tool, the results of the pilot, and the engagement case study, can be distributed across other Impact Network member organizations in future years.

Total project cost \$18,000; CEF Request \$13,000

Recommended funding \$8,000

**Mill Courtland Neighbourhood Association – Nature in Motion Workshop Series -**

Partnering with Grand River Food Forestry, this project proposes a workshop series to be held at the Mill Courtland Community Centre in Kitchener focussed on sustainable living practices, nature connection, and ancestral food traditions. Engaging hands-on sessions on microgreens cultivation, seed ball making, food forest design, and ancestral food traditions will empower participants to implement sustainable practices in their own lives and communities.

Total project cost \$13,150; CEF Request \$12,350

Recommended funding \$5,000