

Canadian Tree Fund Final Grant Report

CTF - Jack Kimmel Grant 2019	GV - Youth and Trees Growing Together
Start Date: February 1, 2020	End Date: June 30, 2021

Overview

In 2019, Green Venture was awarded the Jack Kimmel Grant through the Canadian Tree Fund to deliver the 'Youth and Trees Growing Together' project. The goals of this project were:

1. To engage students in climate change resiliency through learning the importance of trees as part of urban green infrastructure,
2. To facilitate hands-on events for youth to engage with their urban forest through neighbourhood tree identification, stewardship planning, and tree planting, and
3. To expose students to the potential of pursuing Arboriculture as a possible career choice.

Green Venture planned to deliver these action items through urban forest school presentations, a tree forum at EcoHouse, a Youth Stewardship team to meet, plan and organize youth tree planting and stewardship events, and a youth tree planting event. Unfortunately, the program was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and adjustments were made to reach youth in Hamilton on the topic of urban forestry.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the following outcomes were achieved:

Project Activity	Audience	Participants	Project Goal(s)
Youth Stewardship and Professional Skills Program	Grade 11 / 12 Students	14	1, 3
Stewardship Project with Westmount Secondary School	Grade 12 Students	33	1, 2, 3
Tree Kits (public and educational institutions)	Students (elementary / high school), families, individuals	177	2
Public Tree Plantings	Students (elementary / high school), families, individuals	68	2
Total Participants in Tree Programming at Green Venture (2020 - 2021)			292

The following will breakdown each project activity, the goals, outcomes and next steps under Green Venture's Canopy for Community program.

Youth Stewardship and Professional Skills Program

A five-week course was designed during delivery to educate high school students in grades 11 and 12 about urban forest stewardship. Students learned about urban forestry while learning fundamental skills to develop and conduct their own stewardship projects. Students were divided into groups to plan and implement stewardship projects. One group developed a TikTok account to showcase how to reduce waste through upcycling and the other developed a website with education materials pertaining to urban forestry. Students had the opportunity to learn professional skills such as collaboration, leadership, conflict resolution, resume building, and career development. Guest speakers from the urban forest professional field were invited to present at the weekly meetings, and students earned volunteer hours for their time in the program. Overall, 14 students participated earning 140 community service hours total, or 10 hours each. Youth Stewardship and Professional Skills alumni will be invited to a tree planting event this fall. Green Venture will continue to provide this program to students in grades 11 / 12 for different environmental and sustainable subjects.

Stewardship Project with Westmount Secondary School

Students from a grade 12 class at Westmount Secondary School participated in a Canopy for Community presentation and stewardship project. Green Venture staff presented to the class about urban forestry, the importance of green infrastructure, benefits of urban forestry, and invasive species, specifically LDD (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) moths. Green Venture staff reviewed the stewardship project, demonstrated removal of the invasive species egg sacks, which included methods of removal and surveying. Students went out with the staff to remove the egg sacks at a nearby forest. Green Venture will continue to offer this presentation and stewardship program to teachers and students.

Tree Kits (public and educational institutions)

Green Venture received Red Oak acorns from Green Legacy that were cold stratified and then packaged into kits for students and community members to grow at home. Students at Westmount Secondary School and Gordon Price Elementary School were given acorns on the request of their teachers and public kits were requested via Green Venture's website. The tree kits included the acorns, soil and pots for potting up the acorns. Participants were encouraged to use resources provided by Green Venture including how to properly plant. Participants were also invited to join the Facebook group GV Plants Trees to talk about and share their progress and experience. Due to the pandemic a mass planting was not possible, so participants were encouraged to plant their trees at home or drop off at EcoHouse. Green Venture will invite participants to an upcoming tree planting if COVID-19 precautions allow. There is the potential to continue this program and connect it to the Hamilton Tree Equity project as a community engagement tool.

Community Tree Plantings

Green Venture teamed up with the City of Hamilton Forestry Department, Trees for Hamilton and Hamilton Mountain Mosque to plant a total of 352 trees between three sites in the fall of 2020 and spring 2021. Green Venture will be teaming up with the City of Hamilton Forestry Department, Trees for Hamilton and CanPlant to plant Hamilton's first Miyawaki Forest (tiny forest).

Summary

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Green Venture was able to deliver a dynamic urban forest education program that reached youth across Hamilton. The following links showcase some of the work completed under this project:

Featured in the News:

- [Hamilton Spec Article, June 7, 2021 - 'Super eye-opening': Stewardship program teaches kids about urban forestry, sustainability](#)
- [Snapd Hamilton, December, 2020 - "Community Tree Planting"](#)

Various web pages, social media posts and blog posts recognized the grant:

- [Canopy for Community Webpage](#)
- [Planting Trees, Grows Community!](#)
- [Tree Kits Webpage](#)
- [Grow an Oak Tree](#)

