



Report Date: July 15, 2026

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-30

[Submit comments to the Board](#)

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager, Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Growing Canada's Community Canopies – Contract Award

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation ("Park Board") authorize staff to negotiate to the satisfaction of the Park Board's General Manager, the City of Vancouver's (the "City") Director of Legal Services, and the City's Chief Purchasing Official and enter into a contract with Lee's Trees Ltd., for the Growing Canada's Community Canopies – Street Tree planting grant, for a term of approximately three (3) years, with an estimated contract value of approximately \$4,500,000, plus contingency and applicable taxes, to be funded through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 'Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) grant and matched by the City's Housing Accelerator Funding .
- B. THAT the City's Director of Legal Services, Chief Purchasing Official and Park Board's General Manager be authorized to execute on behalf of the Park Board the contract contemplated by Recommendation A above.
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by the Park Board's adoption of Recommendations A and B above unless and until such contract is executed by the authorized signatories of the City as set out in these Recommendations.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

A Request for Proposal (PS20261778-VBPR-RFP) was issued in June 2026 for GCCC-24-0198 Street Tree Planting.

The public RFP was open four weeks and closed on July 8, 2026. There were 5 registered proposals received and subsequently reviewed by the evaluation team. The evaluation team was comprised of staff from Urban Forestry and Supply Chain Management. The submission was evaluated against criteria including professional and technical qualifications, experience and proposed work plan.

The public RFP was advertised on the City of Vancouver website and BC Bid and the work was called in accordance with the terms and conditions of the City and Park Board Procurement Policies. The RFP evaluation committee, and, subsequently, the Bid Committee, have considered the responses received, and on that basis recommend that the Park Board negotiate and if such negotiations are successful enter into a contract as described above with Lee's Trees Ltd..

BOARD AUTHORITY / PREVIOUS DECISIONS

As per the [Park Board Procurement Policy](#) approved in October 2025 all contracts with values of \$2,000,000 and greater require Council approval, with Vancouver Park Board, Park Board General Manager, City Manager and Director, Legal Services concurrence

During the [June 12, 2024](#), Standing Committee of Council meeting, Council directed staff to submit an application to the Green Municipal Fund (GMF)'s GCCC initiative.

On [May 12, 2025](#), Park Board adopted the Urban Forest Strategy 2025 Update as outlined in this report and directed staff to advance the three short-term high-priority actions including to expand canopy on public land through the GCCC grant.

On [May 5, 2026](#), Council approved the Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments – May 2026 – RTS 18362 including the GCCC grant funding allocation and confirming the City's contribution from the Housing Accelerator Fund.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

This planting project is funded in part by the FCM GCCC grant, which was not to fund existing tree planting programs but fund the expansion of existing programs. This project looks to expand the City of Vancouver's existing street tree planting program through diffuse street tree planting of approximately 3000 new street trees focusing on five (5) low canopy Vancouver neighbourhoods (Appendix A: Planting Plan). By strategically targeting these areas, the project seeks to rectify disparities in canopy distribution, mitigate environmental inequities, and increase biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Key objectives of the grant include reducing urban heat island effects through increased shade, improving air quality, and enhancing stormwater management by planting species more suited to our changing climate and offer robust environmental benefits.

These objectives align with the City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry Strategy goals to expand the urban forest by targeting priority neighbourhoods along with strengthening and expanding Vancouver's ecological network. The project also aligns with the recently approved Vancouver Official Development Plan (2026) by planting more trees in areas with limited tree canopy to make space for nature, protect habitat, and ensure healthy, thriving ecosystems.

Internal planting crews would not have the capacity to take on the additional volume so the purpose of the RFP was to identify suppliers with a demonstrated capability to plant approximately 3000 new trees in the street right of way within two (2) planting seasons. Two (2) summer seasons of watering as well as monitoring the new trees within a two (2) year warranty period over the term of the contract with competitive pricing while meeting the Park Board's service requirements.

Implementation Timeline

- Planting and watering season 1: Q4 2026 to Q3 2027
- Planting and watering season 2: Q4 2027 to Q3 2028
- Ongoing monitoring and warranty: Project completion Q4 2029

DISCUSSION

The RFP was issued in accordance with Park Board's Procurement Policy. Responses received from five (5) proponents:

Category	Weighting %	Lee's Trees	VI Tree Service	Whitestar	Sylva	Canadian Landscape
Technical Score	50%	45.0	15.2	39.8	17.0	22.2
Sustainability Score	5%	3.0	2.3	1.8	2.8	2.3
Financial Score	45%	28.9	45.0	19.6	31.3	26.5
TOTAL	100%	76.9	62.4	61.2	51.1	50.9

Responses Received:	Lee's Trees Ltd. (Lee's Trees")	Price:	\$4,518,000.00
	Vancouver Island Tree Service Ltd. ("VI Tree Service")		\$2,899,094.00
	WhiteStar Property Services Ltd. ("Whitestar")		\$6,671,429.95
	Sylva Environmental Inc. ("Sylva")		\$4,163,650.00
	Canadian Landscape and Civil Services Ltd. ("Canadian Landscape")		\$4,920,000.00

Responses were evaluated through the work of an evaluation team comprised of three (3) representatives from the Urban Forestry department under the stewardship of Supply Chain Management to ascertain if the responses offered good overall value to the Park Board; both quantitative and qualitative factors were evaluated. The weighting matrix was established because a lower bid does not equate to a qualified proponent. The emphasis was on a technical submission with criteria to demonstrate a proponent's experience, capacity, skill and reputation delivering the same or similar Scope and scale of work. The technical submission would also demonstrate whether a proponent had reviewed and understood the scope of work and could outline a work plan to plan, deliver and maintain new street trees in a municipal context. The technical evaluation team was not provided financial details prior to the submission of their scoring.

Based on the overall evaluation using the established matrix, Lee's Trees Ltd. achieved the highest combined score, with the top marks in both the Technical and Sustainable, Ethical and Environmental categories, along with a strong third-place result in the Commercial evaluation. Evaluators particularly commended Lee's Trees Ltd. for their robust technical submission, including detailed responses regarding the company's capabilities, a comprehensive project team with directly relevant experience and a thorough work plan that clearly demonstrates their ability to successfully deliver the project as defined in the scope of work.

Proponents were also required to submit hourly rates for traffic control services to support tree planting on city streets. Actual traffic control costs will be confirmed during implementation planning and managed on an as-needed basis using the contracted rates.

While other proponents submitted lower bids and performed competitively on the commercial aspects, some of the technical submissions were missing a detailed work plan which was a critical piece of the technical submission. While others did not sufficiently demonstrate a proponent's municipal tree planting experience at this scale or complexity. They also inadequately outlined their approach to planning and delivering the project, from logistics, tree storage, experience with the public and managing disruption, quality control or a detailed watering and warranty plan. The evaluation matrix therefore supports awarding the contract to Lee's Trees Ltd. who was able to demonstrate that they understood the demands and expectations of this project as the contractor best positioned to deliver a high-quality, reliable service.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Finance has reviewed and confirmed that funding is available from the approved capital budget through a combination of the GCCC grant and Housing Accelerator Fund. As a result of the RFP, the Park Board can achieve cost certainty for the proposed approximately 3-year contract term.

All contracts with contractors related to this work will continue to be in accordance with the City of Vancouver's Procurement Policy ADMIN-008 which is led by Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management and Legal Services and applies to Park Board.

The estimated contract value for the project, including all possible extension terms, is approximately \$4,500,000.00, plus contingency and applicable taxes. Actual costs for traffic control will be determined through implementation planning and will be addressed through change orders. In keeping with the Park Board's independent service mandate to deliver best value for park users and citizens, staff are not seeking additional funding as the proposal estimate provided in the submission is in line with available funding.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Park Board Procurement Policy requires that all contracts, renewals, extensions, and any other forms of commitments and contracts will be on terms and conditions approved by the City Solicitor.

All contracts awarded and valued at \$2,000,000 or greater will be signed by Vancouver Park Board General Manager, the City Manager, and the Director of Legal Services.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Upon Board approval, staff will proceed to negotiate final terms and enter into a contract for an approximate 3-year term to advance the GCCC street tree planting project with Lee's Trees Ltd. for the delivery of approximately 3000 new street trees in sodded boulevards across five (5) low canopy Vancouver neighbourhoods.

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APPENDIX A

PLANTING PLAN

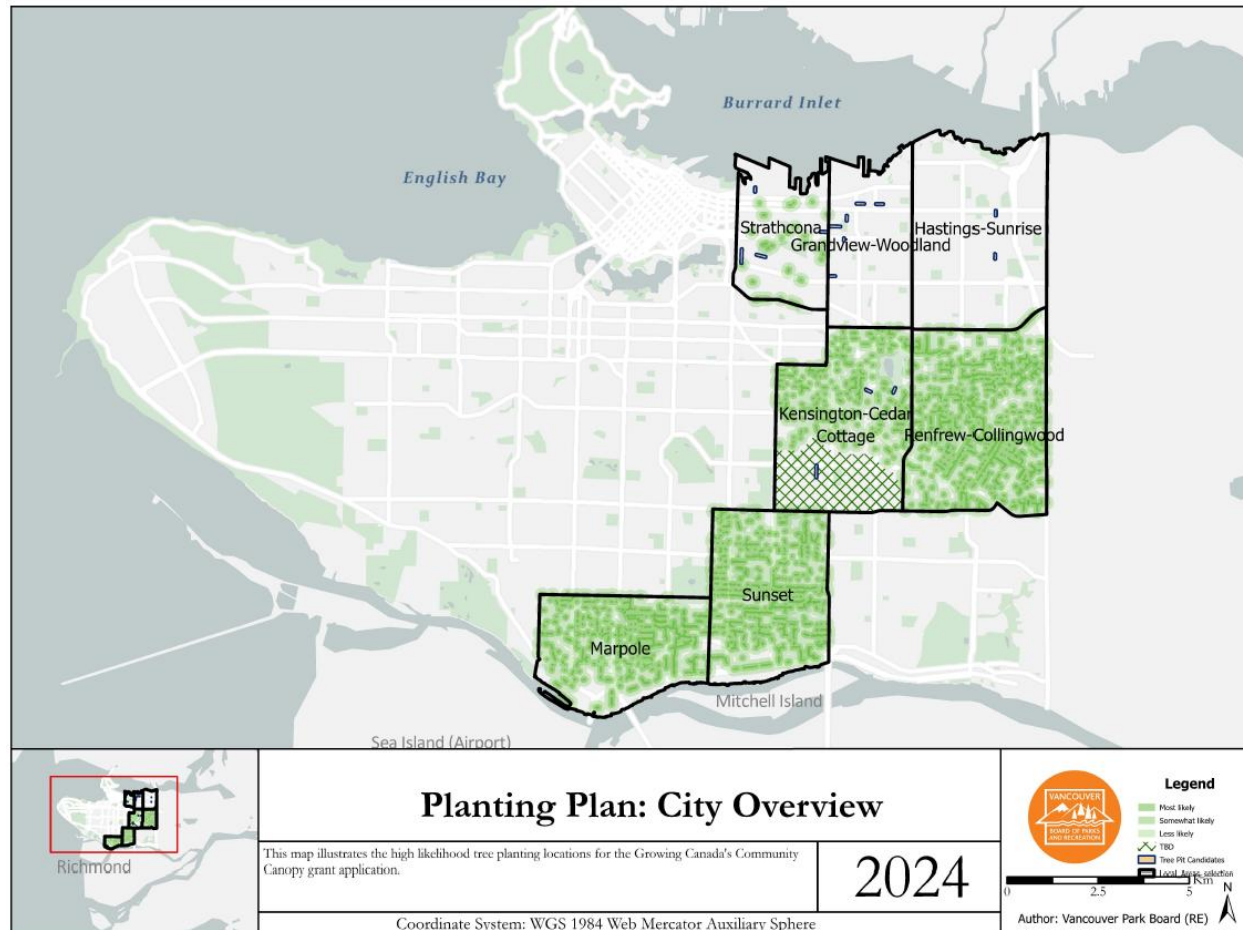


Figure 1: City Overview of Planting Plan