



Memo to Woolwich Township Council

To: Woolwich Township Council
From: Woolwich Environmental Advisory Committee (prepared by Rebecca Schwarz in consultation with Dan van Haastrech, Art Timmerman, Tova Davidson, Chris Snyder, Lindsay Joseph, Richard Petrone, and Kayla Grant)
Subject: Recommendation to Council to endorse ReForest Woolwich
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Meeting Date: August 27, 2024

30 July, 2024

Dear Councillors and Mayor Shantz;

The Woolwich Environmental Advisory Committee (WEAC) is a working committee in the township established in January 2023. We are a group of citizens with environmentally-focused expertise that meet regularly to provide insight on environmental issues to the Township Council.

In early 2023 we established that increasing tree canopy cover was a central concern in the township. This aligned with the Elmira Green Infrastructure Report completed in 2018 that lists many recommendations for improving tree canopy cover. Trees for Woolwich (T4W) and other Township projects have begun significant work to meeting these goals already.

T4W reached out to WEAC about an exciting new initiative called ReForest Woolwich which sets ambitious but achievable goals of doubling the urban tree canopy coverage to over 30% by 2070. A draft plan for this new project was presented to WEAC in the spring of 2024 by Mark Schwarz. We were impressed with the detailed work that was completed on finding a workable, cost-effective plan to drastically improve the environmental well-being of our community

In June 2024, WEAC voted unanimously to endorse the ReForest Woolwich project draft proposal, and to make the following recommendations to council: 1) that council also endorse this pioneering project and 2) that council direct staff to prepare a report to assess the long-term impacts of this project, both benefits and costs, especially as we understand from the ReForest Woolwich proposal that support from the township will be key to its success

The Woolwich Environmental Advisory Committee is encouraged to see an ambitious, well-researched, citizen-led initiative to improve the Township, and we are excited to be engaged on this meaningful project. We are also keen to contribute to the preparation of a staff report on the

ReForest Woolwich initiative in order to help drive this process forward. All questions and requests for input from WEAC may be directed to Rebecca Schwarz.

In conclusion, we recommend that the Township Council move to endorse the ReForest Woolwich project and direct staff to prepare a report on the long-term costs and benefits.

With warm regards and hope for a greener future together;

The Woolwich Environmental Advisory Committee

Attachments:

1. Elmira Green Infrastructure Report, 2018
2. ReForest Woolwich Draft Proposal, 2024