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<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS BUILT &amp; NATURAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2011</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>PAT MCNALLY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>FALL 2011 LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT FOR THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the Executive Director of Planning, Environmental and Engineering Services, the following report outlining the planned fall landscape enhancement project **BE RECEIVED.**

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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- September 12, 2011 BNEC reports regarding the revised partnership Agreement with Landscape Ontario for the enhancements of the VMP.
- August 15, 2011 BNEC report outlining the pertinent details of the intent and purpose of the recommended agreement with Landscape Ontario.
- March 28, 2011 BNEC report on the status of the enhancements to the Veterans Memorial Parkway (VMP), noting the planned agreement with Horticultural Trades Association Inc – known as Landscape Ontario (LO).

<b>PLANNED ENHANCEMENT PROJECT</b>
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The Agreement with Landscape Ontario (LO) to lead the future enhancements along the VMP brings huge benefits to the City in securing the skills and donations from LO member companies, a promotion and fund-raising program and the coordination of volunteers to carry out the work.

Within the Agreement, there are several clauses that are required to be met in the January of each year of the Agreement for planned projects (not including 2011). This report provides the information generally required to satisfy those Agreement clauses and provides an update for Council on the fall project.

Coordination of the work is being carried out the program manger hired specifically for the VMP Community Program. He is working closely with several Divisions at the City – Planning, Transportation, Communications, Parks Operations, and the CAO's Office to ensure that all City requirements and approvals are received. He is also working with the Police, St. Johns Ambulance and Landscape Ontario –London Chapter who are supporting the logistics for the planting day.

The Veterans Memorial Parkway Community Program fall planting will take place on October 1 and will consist of two planting projects on the west side of the VMP; one between Trafalgar Road and Tartan Drive; and the other south of Tartan Drive. Each of these planting projects will consist of approximately 100 large trees – roughly 50mm calliper (approx. 3-4m in height) planted into mown areas of the VMP. These areas are currently maintained by the adjacent businesses and will continue to be mown by them.



Funds for the work have been secured from Trojan UV, Starlim North America, 3M Canada, Scoutrees London and the City.

The trees will be planted by volunteers in two steps. Member companies of LO will auger large holes for the trees and place the trees in the holes, prior to the public volunteers arriving on site. These companies are providing this service as a donation to the Program. Approximately 250 Volunteers from several local Scout groups, employees from Trojan UV, Starlim North America ,and 3M Canada, members of local community groups, additional volunteers from the London Chapter of Landscape Ontario and other interested parties will then complete the planting process by preparing the root balls for planting, backfilling the holes with soil and mulching and staking the trees.

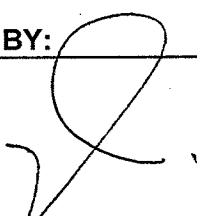

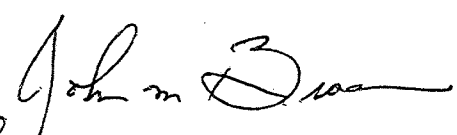
Trees and other planting materials will be supplied by local members of Landscape Ontario at a reduced cost to the VMP Community Program through the partnership with LO. Landscape Ontario leadership is working with the suppliers to ensure that the program receives the very best quality materials in an open, fair, and collaborative process.

As in previous years, a traffic management plan and safety plan for the planting work have been submitted and have been approved. All volunteers will be parking and accessing the site from private lands to the west of the roadway, not along the VMP.

A celebratory BBQ for the participants will be held after the planting on 3M Canada's Tartan Road site, funded by the VMP Community Program. An official ribbon cutting is planned for late spring of next year.

The total value of the planting projects is estimated at \$32,000, with direct funding from the City of \$3000 for a 10:1 leveraging of dollars.

The planning for this project by the team who will form the Veterans Memorial Parkway Community Program began in early 2011. Should the Agreement for the formal Program not be in place by October 1, the planned project as described will continue as City-led project in partnership with the same parties.

<b>PREPARED BY:</b> 	<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> 
<b>ANDREW MACPHERSON MANAGER PARKS PLANNING &amp; DESIGN</b>	<b>JOHN FLEMING DIRECTOR LAND USE PLANNING &amp; CITY PLANNER</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b> 	
<b>PAT MCNALLY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; ENGINEERING SERVICES</b>	