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<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 25, 2013</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>J. M. FLEMING MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY-LED PARKS PROJECTS – 2012 UPDATE</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, the following information **BE RECEIVED** regarding the success of Community-led Parks Projects in 2012.

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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The City of London partners with various organizations, businesses and individuals to develop and implement community-initiated projects on municipal parkland every year. These community projects include naturalization plantings, Adopt-a-Park activities, community gardens, playground projects and commemorative donations. This report is intended to give an update on the success of these community projects in 2012.

<b>PROGRAM OVERVIEW</b>
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**Summary**

This past year 103 park projects were successfully completed due to outstanding community support. The total value of cash donations, in-kind donations and volunteer time was approximately \$566,000. These projects were coordinated by the Community Projects Coordinator and external partners with assistance from other City staff throughout all Departments. The City's capital investment in these projects for 2012 was approximately \$80,000 resulting in approximately a 7:1 leveraging benefit.

The cash donations made by our major partners and sub-partners totalled approximately \$202,500 and in-kind donations totalled approximately \$175,000. Volunteer participation was fantastic, with approximately 5000 people coming out to plant trees and shrubs, remove invasive species, plant community gardens, and participate in many other parks projects. Volunteer participation for 2012 is valued at approximately \$165,000. For a more detailed account of specific projects and their associated values, see "Appendix A". For a complete list of all project partners, see "Appendix B".

Community projects in parks are categorized into four main focus areas: 1. community forestry and stewardship, 2. community gardens, 3. other park projects, and 4. commemorative programs. For this report, data on the first three areas has been grouped together, and data on commemorative programs has been compiled separately.

**Community Forestry and Stewardship**

- There were a total of 71 planting, invasive species removal and stewardship projects in parks completed in 2012, 44 of which were led by our largest planting partners - ReForest London, Scoutrees, and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.
- A total of 8666 native trees and shrubs were planted on City-owned land. In addition, approximately 1000 wildflowers and grasses were also planted. Volunteers from all over the City came to plant and make a difference by providing habitat for wildlife, increasing forest cover and improving air quality.

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- Veteran’s Memorial Parkway Community Program (VMPCP): This past year the program partnered with local businesses along the VMP including 3M, Trojan, Starlim, Scouts Canada, Echo Power Equipment, Kellogg Canada and Landscape Ontario. They completed 4 planting projects where 230 large-size calliper trees were planted from Tartan Drive to Admiral Drive along the west side and between Gore Road and Tartan Drive on the east side.

**Community Gardens**

- The London Community Resource Centre was awarded the contract to administer the program in 2012 and successfully filled 430 plots across the 14 gardens on City-owned land.
- This year begins the process of developing the Community Gardens Strategy and it is expected that the program will grow in 2013 and beyond as a result.

**Other Projects**

- July 2012 was the official launch of the Adopt-a-Park program. A media event was held in Kiwanis Park, at the skate park area which was the first adopted site. Since then, 16 parks have been adopted. This spring, many clean-up events and other projects will be hosted by these groups.
- This past year saw the launch of the Buckthorn Busting pilot project in seven City parks. The evening and weekend events brought out a total of 150 volunteers who removed 850 invasive buckthorn plants and improved the ecology of our park woodlands.
- Each year sport fields in City parks are supported by a number of organizations and donations are made toward enhanced field improvements. A number of teams have also expressed interest in adopting their home park and engaging in clean-up and tree planting activities.

**Commemorative Programs**

The City of London’s Commemorative Program is a way to honour a special memory, person or event. We offer Londoners the opportunity to donate towards a naturalization planting, a Carolinian tree, a Memory Wall engraving, a park bench, or towards a large-scale park feature.

- There were 13 benches installed, 13 trees planted and three Memory Wall engravings completed. The benches and trees are located throughout eight City parks.
- The total value of commemorative donations in 2012 was approximately \$42,000.

<b>2013 MAJOR PROJECT PREVIEW</b>
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**Buckthorn Busting!**

Due to the success of the pilot program in 2012 and the community’s desire to continue doing this type of ecological restoration, Buckthorn Busting will continue in 2013 with events planned in 10 parks already. Most of these projects are a continuation of what was started last year, to further improve eight park woodlands, and two projects are new, arising from a strong community desire to restore ecological integrity in Hastings Park and Viscount Woods.

**VMP Community Program**

The VMP landscape enhancement plan continues to grow and flourish, with six planting projects and three commemorative features planned for 2013. New business partners have joined in supporting the project this year, including General Dynamics Land Systems and Triple H construction. There are also plans this year to begin a commemorative tree program for veterans, which will be offered through the community program.

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<b>CONCLUSION</b>
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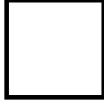
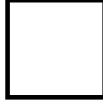
Community partners continue to support enhancements to City parkland that provide new or expanded amenities for the benefit of all Londoners. Lead by the Community Projects Coordinator and supported by many other City staff, the program resulted in at least a 7:1 return on all capital investment in 2012, the highest ratio in the last five years of reporting. The number of projects (101) is also more than any of the past five years.

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>
<b>V. KINSLEY COMMUNITY PROJECTS COORDINATOR</b>	<b>A. MACPHERSON MANAGER – ENVIRONMENTAL AND PARKS PLANNING</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	
<b>J. M. FLEMING MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER</b>	

February 15, 2013

Vk/vk

Attach  
 Appendix A: Community Projects Annual Report 2011  
 Appendix B: Community Partners Information – 2011



**APPENDIX A**

COMMUNITY PROJECTS Annual Report 2012									
NAME	PROJECT CASH FUNDING	VOLUNTEER IN-KIND*	IN-KIND FUNDING**	TOTAL FUNDING	# OF PROJECTS	TYPES OF PROJECTS	TREES PLANTED	SHRUBS PLANTED	VOLUNTEERS
UTRCA	\$44,200.00	\$60,600.00	\$20,750.00	\$125,550.00	12	naturalization	1957	1543	2000
ReForest London	\$65,860.00	\$40,530.00	\$30,193.13	\$136,583.13	30	naturalization planting, aftercare	2532	1634	1351
Scouts Canada	\$9,000.00	\$14,250.00	\$18,000.00	\$41,250.00	2	caliper tree and shrub planting	272	150	475
VMPCP <sup>1</sup>	\$49,500.00	\$16,400.00	\$57,696.00	\$123,596.00	4	Caliper tree planting, Adopt-a-Street	228		400
Friends of the Coves	\$24,905.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$42,905.00	11	planting, stewardship	150	200	300
Adopt-a-Park Partners		\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00	5	clean-ups, invasive species removal			200
LCRC <sup>2</sup>	\$9,000.00	\$9,120.00		\$18,120.00	23	Community Gardens			
LHBA <sup>3</sup>		\$3,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$43,000.00	3	labyrinth, parking lot, planting			100
Buckthorn Busting program		\$4,260.00		\$4,260.00	10	invasive species removal			142
Carolinian Food Forest Project	\$5,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$17,975.00	\$24,475.00	3	site prep, watering, meeting time, planting			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$202,465.00</b>	<b>\$164,660.00</b>	<b>\$175,639.13</b>	<b>\$565,739.13</b>	<b>103</b>		<b>5139</b>	<b>3527</b>	<b>4968</b>
				<b>FUNDING TOTAL</b>		<b>TOTAL PLANTS</b>		<b>8666</b>	
				<b>(IN-KIND + CASH)</b>					

\* - All volunteer in-kind work time is calculated based on 3 hours of work per volunteer at \$10.00 per hour except:

\*\* - This amount is for all other in-kind donations over and above volunteer time. For example - project materials, professional work hours, etc.

<sup>1</sup> VMPCP = Veterans Memorial Parkway Community Program

<sup>2</sup> LCRC = London Community Resource Centre

Community garden volunteers work is valued at \$15.00/hour. 65 volunteers worked 4 hours, and 12 worked 3 hours. Also includes Administrative support at 12 hr/wk for 26 weeks.

<sup>3</sup> LHBA = London Home Builders' Association

VMPCP volunteer hours calculated at \$10.25 per hour for 4 hrs. each





**APPENDIX B**

COMMUNITY PARTNERS INFORMATION - 2010		
LEAD PARTNER INFO	SUB-PARTNER	
<p><b>UTRCA</b> 1424 Clarke Road London, ON N5V 5B9 519-451-2800</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Foundation RBC Bluewater Program Earth Day Canada Trees Ontario CAA Catholic Central High School St Catherine of Sienna Northridge Public School Dillon Consulting</p>	<p>Lions Clubs Cargill Evans and Logan Funeral Homes TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Byron Southwood Public School Msg Bruyere Thamesford Public School Friends of Stoney Creek</p>
<p><b>ReForest London</b> PO Box 1852, Station B London, ON N6A 5H9 519-936-9548</p>	<p>rTraction Cohen Highley Northeast London Community Engagement TD Friends of the Environment Matthew's Hall Libro Hamilton Road Community Association Wildcraft Permaculture London Chamber of Commerce London Development Institute Trees Canada St. Catherine of Siena McCormick Canada Centre for Jewish Catholic Muslim Learning</p>	<p>London Homebuilders Association London and St. Thomas Association of Realtors Urban League of London Molson Evergreen Western University Canon Girl Guides Home Hardware Impark Westminster Central P.S. Amway Canada David and Marcia Crockett</p>
<p><b>Friends of the Coves</b> 111 Elmwood Ave. East London, ON N6C 1J4 519-640-5397</p>	<p>City of London Kensal Park French Immersion Public School Upper Thames River Conservation Authority University of Western Ontario Saunders Secondary School Westminster Secondary School Thames River Clean Up Members of the Public Nature London The Little Red Roaster</p>	<p>TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Evergreen Foundation/Fido Old South Community Organization Ontario Stewardship Rangers Junior Achievement McCormick's employees German Canadian Club Biodiversity Education Awareness Network Urban League of London Union Gas</p>
<p><b>Scouts Canada</b> 531 Windermere Rd. London, ON N5X 2T1 519-432-2928</p>	<p>TD Friends of the Environment Foundation St. Robert</p>	
<p><b>London Community Resource Centre</b> 652 Elizabeth Street London, ON N5Y 6L3 519-432-1801</p>	<p>London Composts Friends of the Civic Garden Complex London Master Gardeners</p>	