

MEMORANDUM

PDS-C 45-2021

Subject: Tree Planting at Decew Falls Water Treatment Plant

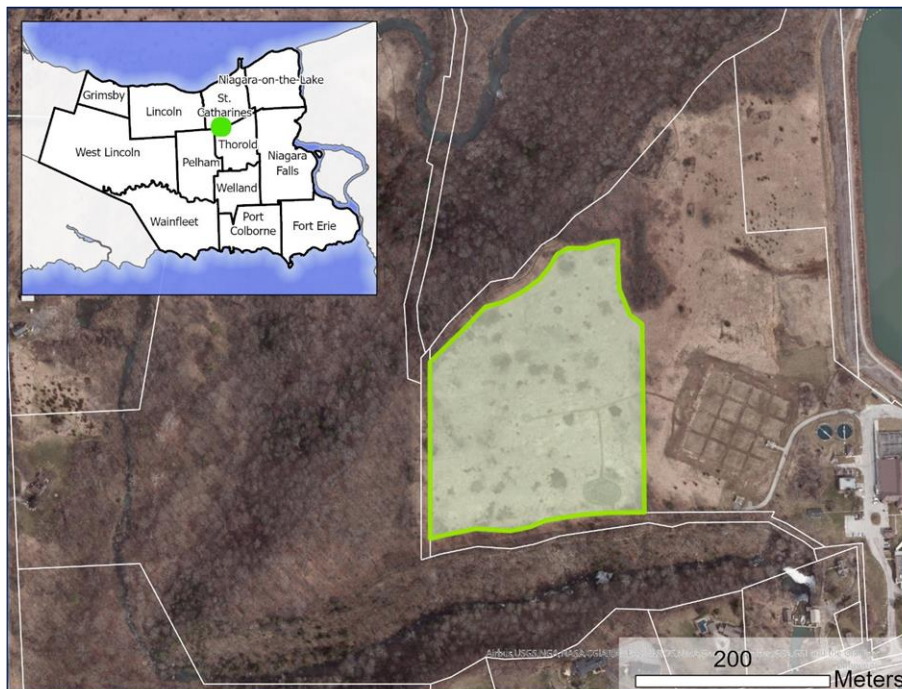
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee

From: Katie Young, Planner

The purpose of this memo is to update Committee on the planting of 7,400 native trees at the Region’s Decew Falls Water Treatment Plant in the City of St. Catharines. This project was undertaken as part of the Niagara Official Plan Greening Initiative which aims to enhance the region’s 29% vegetative cover.

The map below illustrates the approximate tree planting area:



In response to communications shared between the NPCA and members of Regional Council, staff became aware of a tree planting program administered by Land Care

Niagara (LCN), a non-profit stewardship council. Through working with LCN and the Region's Water & Wastewater group, The Decew Falls site was identified as a suitable area for tree planting.

This project was undertaken in support of LCN's 'Data Gap Analysis of Fragmented Forest Parcels in the Niagara Region', the analysis and tree planting were 100% funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. LCN's analysis identified Decew Falls as having a high suitability to increase forest cover in the 12 Mile Creek watershed, in addition to its location beside the Bruce Trail, Laura Second Legacy Trail, and enhancing forest cover within the Niagara Escarpment area.

The photo below shows the site prior to planting:



Preparation for the planting began in March of 2021, and the tree planting occurred over 4 days in May 2021. A total of 7,400 deciduous and coniferous native tree seedlings were strategically machine planted on site using landscape ecology principles. Tree species planted include:

- White Spruce
- Red Oak
- White Pine
- White Cedar
- Silver Maple

The photo below shows the transplanting in process:



Staff intend to continue monitoring this site to evaluate the success of the project and identify considerations for the Region's Greening Initiative. This project will also be used to help inform other plantings that may occur through the Regional Greening Initiative (as detailed in PDS-C 44-2021). Work is already underway with the NPCA to identify additional Regional owned sites that may be suitable for planting in the Spring of 2022.

The success of this project was due to the collaboration between Planning and Public Works Staff, Land Care Niagara, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. To read more about this initiative as highlighted by the media please visit the following links:

- 7400 Trees Planted at Niagara Region's Decew Water Treatment Plant (<https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news/niagara-region/2021/05/26/7400-trees-planted-at-niagara-regions-decew-water-treatment-plant.html>)
- Planting Trees for Our Future- Niagara Region at Its Best! (<https://niagaraatlarge.com/2021/05/26/planting-trees-for-our-future-niagara-region-at-its-best/>)

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Katie Young, MSc (PI)
Planner