



Colchester Community League

23219 Township Road 520
Sherwood Park, Alberta,
T8B 1G1

Colchester.Community@gmail.com

April 20, 2022

Councillor Corey-Ann Hartwick
Strathcona County
2001 Sherwood Drive
Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 3W7

Dear Ms. Hartwick,

I am very pleased to submit, on behalf of the Colchester Community League, an application for council priority funds for an Edible Forest Walking Trail at Colchester Hall. We see this addition to the public grounds around the hall as a wonderful educational opportunity in the area of growing food in the local climate. Over the last couple of years there has been a tremendous interest in growing one's own food and we see this as an amazing opportunity to highlight what is possible in a relatively small space. It is our goal to populate the site with many different edible fruits and berries and, since it is a public site, it would be open to all residents of Strathcona County to wander the site and pick fruits and berries when they are ripe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "M. Ackerman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, stylized 'A'.

Mark Ackerman (Treasurer, Colchester Community League)

INTRODUCTION

Each year the Mayor and Councillors have budgeted for them monies known as Council Priority Funds. Council Priority Funds are to be used to support community initiatives or events that benefit Strathcona County and its residents.

ELIGIBILITY

Organizations, including community groups, applying for Council Priority Funds must be based in Strathcona County.

- Review **GOV-001-032 Council Priority Fund Expenditures** for the policy statement, guidelines, and roles and responsibilities.

HOW TO APPLY FOR PRIORITY FUNDS:

- Fill out the application.
- Attach a budget for the event, project, or expense.
- Attach a letter of request detailing intended use of funding.
- Return the completed application with supporting documentation to the Office of the Elected Officials.

Mail in address:

**Office of the Elected Officials
Strathcona County
2001 Sherwood Drive
Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 3W7**

Drop off address:

**Office of the Elected Officials
Community Centre – 3rd Floor
401 Festival Lane
Sherwood Park, Alberta**

- The Office of the Elected Officials will notify you of your success. If we require additional information, your group may be requested to provide us with more information about your request.
- If you are successful, the reporting requirements of policy **GOV-001-032 Council Priority Fund Expenditures** will apply to funding received.
- **Failure to complete the Council Priority Funds - Report as stipulated in the policy noted above will prohibit your group from consideration for further Priority Funds.**
- **All information you provide will be presented to Council and will become part of the public record.**

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the Office of the Elected Officials at 780-464-8098.

Collection and use of personal information

Personal information is collected under the authority of section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be used to manage and administer Council Priority Funds. Please be aware that information provided may be made public. If you have questions regarding the collection, use or disclosure of this information, contact Vicky Cushman at 780-464-8098.

Council Priority Funds – Application

(Page 2 of 2)

PRIORITY FUND INFORMATION – Completed by Applicant

Organization Name Colchester Community League

Address 23219 Township Road 520

Street and number

Subdivision if rural

City or town Sherwood Park

Province AB

Postal code T8B 1G1

Contact person Mark Ackerman

Telephone 780-916-2231

Email address (optional) Colchester.Community@gmail.com

Project Type ☐ Event ☒ Project ☐ Expense

Amount Requested \$ 5000

Brief description of request

Colchester Community League together with the Colchester and District Agricultural Society would like to start an Edible Forest and walking trails on the south side of the 8 acre parcel at Colchester hall. The \$40,000 project would be multi-year and would kick off in the spring of 2022 with site layout and planning. As part of the overall project we would also like to place shade trees near the community hall and playground. The edible forest project will provide a wonderful educational opportunity for Strathcona residents and will illustrate the types of fruits and berries that can be successfully grown in Strathcona. The forest will be open to all residents of Strathcona county and we are very excited to see this move forward.

Mark Ackerman

Print name

M. Ackerman

Signature

April 20, 2022

Date

Please remember to attach a proposed budget and request letter to this request.

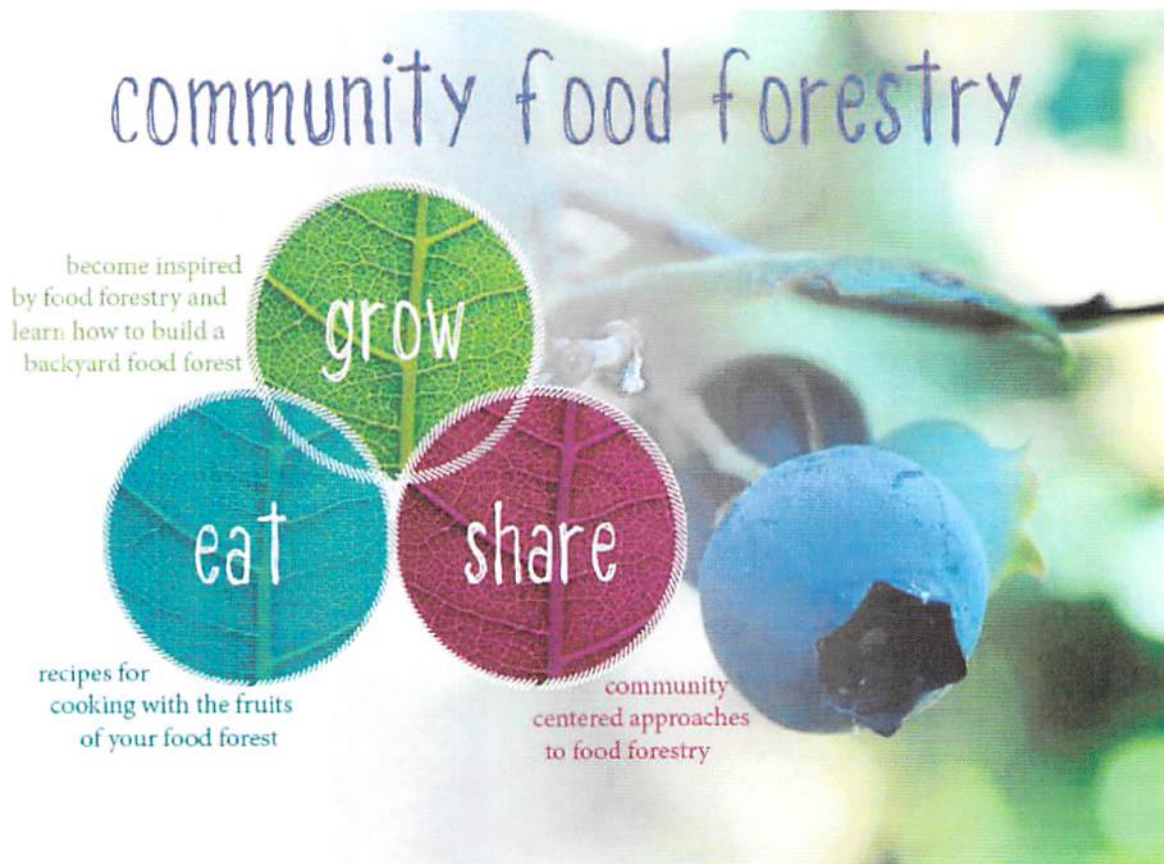
Number of attached pages 5

Collection and use of personal information

Personal information is collected under the authority of section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be used to manage and administer Council Priority Funds. Please be aware that information provided may be made public. If you have questions regarding the collection, use or disclosure of this information, contact Vicky Cushman at 780-464-8098.

Colchester Community League Edible Forest

Colchester Community League
23219 Township Road 520
Sherwood Park, Alberta



Colchester Community League strives to bring light and life into the community by getting families involved in events at the hall that are unique and fun for all. We will give the community a place to celebrate, laugh, learn and grow together.

Colchester Community League would like to start an Edible Forest and walking trails on the south side of the 8 acre parcel at Colchester hall. The project would be multi-year and would kick off in the spring of 2022 with site layout and planning. As part of the overall project we would also like to place shade trees near the community hall and playground.

Colchester Community League needs a letter of support for our edible trial and shade tree project at Colchester Hall in order to support an application to the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP), Peavey Mart or other funding sources.

The garden groups, intent is to create a walking trail on the south portion of the community hall grounds, Figure 1, and wants to make sure its installation and ongoing operation will not cause maintenance problems for the Strathcona County grounds crew.



Figure 1 Colchester Hall Site with Edible Forest Areas marked in red

The Edible Forest will consist of fruits trees, canes and shrubs which are safe for consumption and free for the taking. The selection of plant species include, apples, plums, cherries, and Haskap to name a few. We would also like to incorporate a wild area for choke cherries, cranberries pin cherries, gooseberry and saskatoons which grow well in our area.

Edible Forest makeup is an essential part of the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient. Local food supplies are important from the perspective of security, climate change and ensuring that lower income families have access to high quality fruits and vegetables.

An Edible Forest is very important as it provides an avenue for anybody who loves gardening to develop a meaningful connection with nature through a holistic design system integrating food, water, shelter energy and waste system into the design of sustainable human habitats.

Our group feel this is a worthwhile project, as it can provide a rich cultural opportunity to plant, harvest, learn and grow food together and all these activities are “Community-Building”. We currently have about a dozen members of the gardening group and to attract new community league members and volunteers with an interest in gardening as the project progresses.

It is more important than ever to bring people together in a community setting given the isolation with the pandemic, Ukraine and food prices soaring out of control. An Edible Forest is a marvelous way for people to get outdoors and meet while still maintaining any necessary physical distancing.

The project budget is currently \$42,000.00 over a two-year period as shown below. We currently have the support of the community league as well as the Colchester and District Agricultural Society which has pledged \$10,000 to be used as matching for the Community Initiatives Program. The group will submit an application together to Peavey Mart (due May 31).

Table 1 – Edible Forest Tentative Budget

Budget - Community Edible Forest		
Site survey and garden bed layout	\$2,000.00	
Garden design	\$500.00	Approximate time for horticulturalist
Alberta First Call	no cost	
Wood chips	\$1,500.00	
Compost	\$3,000.00	
Disposal of clay from planting holes	\$1,000.00	
Plant materials	\$12,000.00	
Labor for installation	\$2,000.00	100 hours of volunteer time at \$20/hour, community members, scouts?
Labor for spreading wood chips	\$500.00	25 hours of volunteer time at \$20/hour (community members, scouts)
Water Tote, garden hoses	\$500.00	
Lawn tractor and trailer to haul water tote	\$2,000.00	
Water trucking (first summer)	\$1,000.00	
Summer Student (4 months @ \$4000/month)	\$16,000.00	Garden maintenance, watering, general grounds work
Project Total	\$42,000.00	

We will be starting with a basic or a simple design and as we grow in knowledge, we will be able to incorporate and add different elements over time. The possibility are endless and everyone is welcome to provide input and help in this project. The starting point will be the layout of the site with approximate species placement as shown in Figures 2 through 5. Ultimately the beds will be covered with mulch and wide grass trails will be placed between beds to enable grass cutting. Weather proof signs will be placed near each different species of tree/fruit bush to enable easy identification.



Figure 2 Layout starting with larger fruit bearing trees

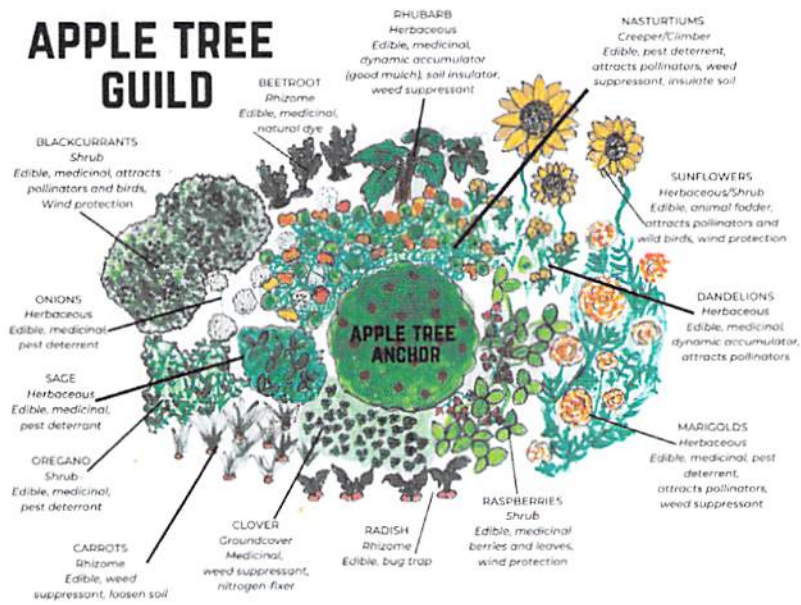


Figure 3 Bed planting with mixture of fruit and berry bearing shrubs



Figure 4 Mixed bed planting with multiple berry bearing shrubs

Fruit Tree Guild

Grow more ~ Work less



theresiliencyinstitute.net

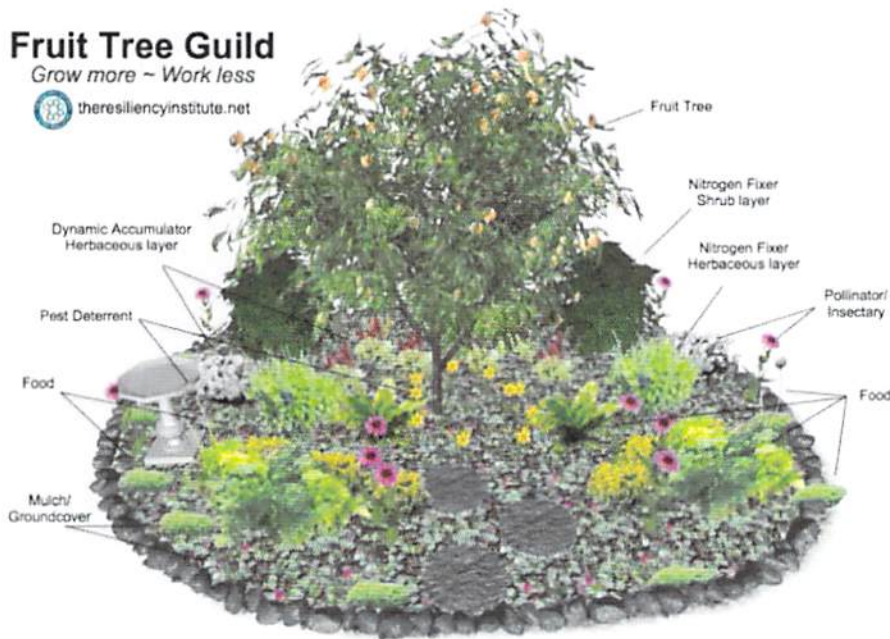


Figure 5 Mixed planting with central fruit tree

The total budget for the project is about \$42,000 and we have support of the Colchester and District Agricultural Society (\$10,000), Colchester Community League (2000) and Prairie Gardens (horticulturist time). We are applying to the Community Initiatives Program and Peavey Mart for the balance of the required funding but would love to kick off this spring with garden layout and identification of appropriate plant species/cultivars and would really appreciate your support. We have enlisted volunteer support of the community league, the scout troop that meets at the hall, the local 4H group and local residents for the planting and bed preparation.