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Grand River Environmental Network

R-2103-03548 | \$70,000.00

Nurturing Greenbelt-Friendly Local Planning in the Grand River Watershed

Please note: The portal does not autosave; therefore, you must click the [Save] button in the lower right-hand corner to ensure your data will not be lost.

Grant Application

▼ Applicant Information

To be considered for funding, applicants must first submit a Letter of Intent that clearly outlines the project objective and its goals. These letters are assessed on how the project aligns with the Greenbelt Foundations goals, what the expected results of the work will be and their level of impact, along with the strength of expertise involved in the project. The cost of the project is also taken into consideration. Our grant rounds are highly competitive, and this will also influence whether applicants are invited to submit a full proposal.

This Letter of Intent requests the following information:

- Executive Summary
- Project Description and Activities
- Key Applicant Project Personnel
- Project Partners
- Project Funders
- Organization and Financial Information
- Background Materials and Additional Information
- Alignment with Funding Program Goals

Organization	Grand River Environmental Network
Location	Waterloo ,ON
Primary Contact	Kevin Thomason
Binding Authority	Kevin Thomason
Job Title (Binding Authority):	Vice-Chair
Website:	www.gren.ca
Charitable Organization:	No
Business Tax ID Number:	Pending
Indigenous Organization:	No
Project Title:	Nurturing Greenbelt-Friendly Local Planning in the Grand River Watershed
Funding Amount Requested:	\$70,000.00
Total Project Budget:	\$99,400.00
Total Organizational Revenue (from last audited statement):	\$12,000
Total Funding Confirmed:	\$0.00
Length of Project:	2 years
Grant Start Date:	7/1/2021
Grant End Date:	6/30/2023

▼ Executive Summary

Provide an overview of the project with stated goal(s) and objectives.

Executive Summary:

The Grand River Environmental Network (GREN) is applying for funding to better support the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance Steering Committee efforts to build a GGH-wide local municipal planning culture that supports a larger, stronger and more resilient Greenbelt. It is important because Greenbelt protection and resilience are intimately tied to planning decisions made by municipalities inside and surrounding the Greenbelt. We want to ensure Greenbelt-friendly planning decisions are made in Waterloo Region and surrounding regions.

The project has two key goals:

Ensuring Waterloo Region continues to be a provincial leader in land protection and SMART growth planning policies.
Helping to inspire and create a planning culture In Wellington County, Brant County, and other jurisdictions creating a stronger, larger and more resilient Greenbelt.

The main project objectives include:

Ensuring Regional and Municipal leaders in Waterloo continue to promote and implement excellent planning policies and share their knowledge and approaches with others across the GGH. This will include continuing our Moraine 101 walks and firsthand experiences in nature.

Leveraging the proposed work by the OGA Steering Committee (Building a Local Municipal Planning Culture to Support a Stronger and more Resilient Greenbelt) into improving the capacity of local groups to better engage local residents and officials in Brant, Wellington and Waterloo Regions.

Working with the OGA Steering Committee to ensure local efforts are tied into larger GGH wide efforts to promote a Greenbelt-friendly planning culture.

The key outcomes include:

Increasing the number of local planning stakeholders promoting environment and Greenbelt-friendly planning decisions.
Having more local residents aware of, and supporting Greenbelt-friendly municipal, regional and provincial planning.
The Region of Waterloo, Brant County, Wellington County, and other jurisdictions making planning decisions that increasingly support the Greenbelt.

▼ Project Description and Activities

Provide a brief description of results and planned outcomes.

Project Description and Activities:

Project Goals:

Ensure Waterloo Region continues being a GGH leader in Greenbelt-friendly planning policies, including our Environmentally Sensitive Protected Areas (ESPA's), Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes (ESL's), Protected Countryside, and Countryside Line designation that in-conjunction with our Regional Official Plan creates complete communities and long-term greenspace protection.

Help create a regional planning culture In Wellington County, Brant County and other neighbouring jurisdictions that supports a stronger and a more resilient Greenbelt.

Objective 1: Leverage the proposed work by the OGA Steering Committee (Building a Local Municipal Planning Culture to Support a Stronger and more Resilient Greenbelt) to improve the capacity of local groups to better engage local residents and officials in Brant County, Wellington County and Waterloo Region:

Activities:

-Identify 5-7 local groups who have participated in the OGA Learning Program for potential mentoring.
-Perform a "needs assessment" for each group to identify what information and skills the group needs to become better connected and involved in local planning decisions.
-assist local groups in monitoring local planning processes (eg. MCR) and developing action plans to ensure local engagement in the planning processes.
-provide ongoing support to local groups (eg. regular meetings, "on-call" assistance, connection to wider OGA network).

Objective 2: Work with the OGA Steering Committee to ensure the local efforts are tied into larger GGH wide efforts to promote a Greenbelt-friendly planning culture.

Activities:

-Identify, engage and connect local youth leaders with the OGA and the Greenbelt Youth Ambassadors on timely local planning issues.
-Work with the OGA Steering Committee to develop additional and timely communications and engagement materials that can help local groups further develop a Greenbelt-friendly planning culture.
-ensure opportunities exist to showcase Waterloo Region planning culture across the GGH.

Objective 3: Waterloo Region along with area Municipal leaders and staff continue promoting and implementing excellent planning policies as well as share their knowledge and approaches with others across the GGH.

Activities:

-continue connecting with key municipal leaders and staff to support their efforts including continuing our very successful Moraine 101 hikes with key stakeholders.
-invite key municipal leaders and staff (eg. guest speakers) to participate in GREN's OGA Learning Program, which is part of the OGA Steering Committee "Building a Local Municipal Planning Culture to Support a Stronger and more Resilient Greenbelt" proposal.
-facilitate connections between Waterloo Region municipal leaders and staff with other GGH planning stakeholders.
-monitor and respond to planning decisions by lower tier and upper tier municipalities and, as required, encourage Greenbelt-friendly actions.

Results:

-5-7 groups from Waterloo, Wellington and Brant have increased capacity to engage in local planning decisions that lead to Greenbelt-friendly municipal planning decisions.
-these groups engage local residents Greenbelt-friendly planning discussions and activities.
-local groups actively encourage municipal and county/regional leaders to support Greenbelt-friendly planning decisions.
-Waterloo Regional along with area Municipal leaders and staff receive ongoing and increasing support for excellent planning decisions and culture.

Outcomes:

A Greenbelt-friendly planning culture is emerging among local planning stakeholders locally and is surrounding jurisdictions.

More local residents are aware of, and supporting Greenbelt-friendly municipal planning.

The Regions of Waterloo, Brant County, Wellington County and others making planning decisions that are Greenbelt-friendly.

▼ Key Applicant Project Personnel

Identify the project personnel, including partners, involved in the project and describe their role, skills and expertise in relation to the project.

Number of Project Personnel:	Two
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▼ Key Personnel 1

Key Person Name:	Kevin Thomason
Title:	Vice-Chair
Phone Number:	519-240-1648

Role in the Project :

Kevin has more than 20 years of experience and expertise advocating for Greenbelt protection and environmental activism. He will co-ordinate and lead outreach efforts to elected officials, municipal staff, and community groups. He will also help to lead media outreach and engagement.

▼ Key Personnel 2

Key Person Name:	Franz Hartmann
Title:	Co-ordinator
Phone Number:	416-606-8881

Role in the Project :

Franz will help to co-ordinate our local activities with broader regional and provincial activities happening in other areas - thus ensuring synergies, efficiency and economies of scale that will allow for the greatest possible impact and the most efficient use of resources.

▼ Project Partners

Identify the project partner(s) and describe their role, skills and expertise in the relation to the project.

Number of Project Partners :	One
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▼ Project Partner 1

Organization Name:	Hold The Line Waterloo Region
Key Person Name:	Sean Campbell
Key Person Title :	Executive Director
Phone Number:	519-503-2246
Email Address:	sean@seancampbell.ca

Role in the project :

Hold the Line Waterloo Region will be a local partner assisting in the rollout and ongoing delivery of program and activities. Hold The Line has built strong connections to community groups outside of the usual environmental realm such as arts, music, gardening, and agriculture that will be leveraged for additional reach and impact.

▼ Project Funders

Identify all the project funders.

Number of Project Funders :	Two
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▼ Funder 1

Organization Name:	Grand River Environmental Network
Phone Number:	519-888-0519
Contact Name:	Kevin Thomason
Email Address:	kevinthomason@mac.com
Type of Organization:	Others
Contribution:	\$20,000 In-kind volunteer hours
Fund Confirmed:	Yes

▼ Funder 2

Organization Name:	Hold The Line Waterloo Region
Phone Number:	519-503-2246
Contact Name:	Sean Campbell
Email Address:	sean@seancampbell.ca
Type of Organization:	Others
Contribution:	\$10,000 In-kind volunteer hours
Fund Confirmed:	Yes

▼ Project Need and Benefits

Outline the need for your project and present an argument for why your methodology is sound and relates to your project goal. Describe how the project benefits the Greenbelt and aligns with the Foundation's vision and goals. Please limit your response to 300 words.

Project Need and Benefits:

There is a significant opportunity in Waterloo Region, and need in neighbouring jurisdictions such as Wellington County and Brant County for planning stakeholders (ie. local groups, community leaders, youth leaders, municipal leaders, municipal staff, other Greenbelt stakeholders) to better understand and promote Greenbelt-friendly planning decisions. Doing so, will improve the protection and resilience of the landscape for environmental and Greenbelt protection.

This project relies on a methodology of leveraging available connections, relationships, and resources to create deeper commitment and engagement to Greenbelt-friendly planning in the area.

First, it builds on the OGA proposal, Building a Local Municipal Planning Culture to Support a Stronger and more Resilient Greenbelt, by deepening the local relationships nurtured and/or created by GREN as it carries out the OGA project. Second, it leverages the existing relationships GREN has with Waterloo Region municipal leaders and staff by engaging them in efforts to educate surrounding municipalities in Greenbelt-friendly municipal planning. Third, it focuses the mentoring efforts on existing local groups that are already active. Finally, the Project also leverages the work being done across the GGH by other OGA groups by relying on, and contributing to the emerging network (or community of practice) that is building a Greenbelt-friendly planning culture.

As a result, this Project directly supports the Foundation's vision of a "vibrant and healthy Greenbelt" by focusing on improving municipal planning decisions so that they are Greenbelt-friendly. As well, the project directly aligns with the Foundation's key goals of improving the understanding and awareness of Greenbelt benefits along with nurturing relationships and partnerships.

▼ Organization & Financial Information

Provide a brief outline of your organization's history, objectives and current activities.

Please use the space below to upload a project budget.

Organization and Financial Information:

GREN is a proactive voice for the environment in the Grand River watershed. GREN members are activists, watchdogs, guardians, stewards, and concerned citizens who foster environmental awareness and literacy - supporting each other by sharing information, expertise and experience while promoting respect for our natural world.

For years GREN has worked at a grassroots community level across the Grand River watershed helping to pioneer in Waterloo Region in-particular numerous environmental protections, SMART growth practices, water conservation measures, recycling and waste reduction, public transit including our ION LRT rapid transit, and active transportation initiatives.

Project Budget (complete and upload the [budget template](#))

Itemize the budget using the template provided. Include details totals for each budget item and indicate the amount requested from the Foundation. For additional expenditures, please also indicate other sources of confirmed funding, including in-kind, and whether these amounts have been confirmed. Overhead costs of up to 10% of the total requested project budget will be supported.

UPLOAD PROJECT BUDGET

GREN GBF Budget Mar 2021 - v2.3.pdf
1B - Budget
Added by Kevin Thomason at 3:50 PM on March 10, 2021

▼ Background Materials and Additional Information

If necessary, please provide any relevant project background materials only.

UPLOAD DOCUMENTS

▼ Alignment with Funding Program Goals

Please review the Greenbelt Foundation's Funding Guidelines and assess which funding program area your project fits into.

Only address the relationship to the program area selected i.e. if you selected "Resilient Greenbelt" in "Program Area" above, only address "Resilient Greenbelt" in the portion below and ignore the other program area. You cannot choose more than one program area.

Geographic Focus: Outer Ring

Program Area: Resilient Greenbelt

Relationship to Foundation Program Goals

Prosperous Greenbelt:	
Resilient Greenbelt:	Maintaining and enhancing natural infrastructure and climate resilience and advancing municipal natural asset management., Increase public and stakeholder awareness of the importance of the Greenbelt, including the effectiveness of the Greenbelt Plan, needed approaches to communities today and under future climate scenarios, Protect, maintain and enhance Greenbelt systems, enhancing connectivity and the unique values and features of the Protected Countryside Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine, and Urban River Valleys., Maintain and protect the ecological and hydrological health of the Greenbelt's agricultural soils.
Growing the Greenbelt:	

What reporting requirements would your project be measured against?

Reporting Requirements :	Protection and Enhancement: increased protection or enhancement of Greenbelt systems., Engagement Capacity: number and organization of new partnerships generated., Public Awareness and Support: number of people reached, geographic spread and depth of public support for the Greenbelt and complete communities.
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