



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Bruce Botanical Food Gardens Request for Letter of Support**

**Date: Nov. 17, 2025**

**Report Number: CLK-2025-32**

**Department: Legislative Services**

**File Number: C11 CLK 25**

**Prepared By: Jennifer White, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk**

**Attachments: Project Design**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives Report CLK-2025-32, prepared by Jennifer White, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk;

AND FURTHER THAT Staff be directed to provide a letter of support from Council to the Bruce Botanical Food Gardens, along with approval to proceed with Project #15859 - Expand the Harvest as outlined in the report.

### **Background:**

The Township has received a request from the Bruce Botanical Food Gardens for a letter of support regarding their grant funding application to Tree Canada.

### **Discussion/Analysis/Overview:**

Tree Canada is accepting applications from nonprofits, community gardens, schools etc, for a financial grant. The Bruce Botanical Food Gardens (BBFG) is intending to complete an application for funding to plant additional trees and fruit bushes along with replacing dead or dying trees at BBFG. The Project is called Expand the Harvest #15859.

A requirement of the grant process is a letter of permission from the landowner to move forward with the project. Council would need to approve a letter

### **Details of the project:**

The grant through Tree Canada would be for edible trees and fruit bushes. The BBFG are looking to plant 18 new tree seedlings (ranging from pawpaws to edible nut trees) along with 17 fruit bushes (blueberries, kiwi, blackberries, haskap). They also intend to purchase 40 apple rootstock to host a tree grafting workshop with the Ripley apple. Extra grafted Ripley apples will replace the ones lost in the memorial plot and to be shared with the community. This exact number will depend on grafting survival and workshop attendance.

The BBFG seek to plant the trees at the back of the garden outside the fence heading towards the Sycamore tree. The fruit bushes will be planted inside the fence with the exception of the blackberry bushes. (Design attached to this report)

The application is intended to be submitted by November 26, 2025. A letter supporting the proposed project and providing permission to move forward with the project is required from Council, for the grant application to proceed.

Staff are supportive of the project and have confirmed that it the project is within the scope of land use in the BBFG's lease agreement as amended. This project will enhance food security within the community, provide support to the work of local volunteer organizations and promote and restore the natural environment within the community.

It is recommended that Council direct Staff to provide a letter of support to the Bruce Botanical Food Gardens, along with approval to proceed with Project #15859 - Expand the Harvest.

**Financial Impacts:**

There are no unbudgeted costs associated with approving this request.

**Performance Measurement:**

Support for local volunteer efforts.

**Strategic Area:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability         |

**Strategic Goal: Protect, promote and restore our natural environment**

**Strategic Goal: Build Community Capacity**

**Strategic Goal: Encourage citizen first delivery**

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Jennifer White, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

**Report Approved By:**

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer