



APPLICATION FOR COUNCIL COMMUNITY FUND

CC 942 (R2022-02)

Be sure to save your completed document to your desktop before you print and/or email the form for submission so you do not lose any content. Please attach the application to the Cover report you would bring forward to the Executive Committee

Date of Submission – March 2, 2026

Name of Project – Dalhousie Community Garden and Food Forest Project

Sponsoring Councillor(s) – Councillor D J Kelly (Ward Four Office)

Applicant Name – Dalhousie Community Association (DCA)

Applicant Contact Number - *Include area code* – Doug MacDonald, DCA General Manager, 403 286 2555 ext. 103

**Applicant Business Unit or Name of Organization –
Dalhousie Community Association (DCA)**

**Affected or Supporting Business Units and/or Departments –
City of Calgary Partnerships, Parks and Open Spaces**

**Amount of Funds Requested - *please include your budget breakdown details, in an attachment* -
\$300,000.00**

Draft EC cover report attached – Yes No

*The application, cover report and additional attachments for the Council Community Fund request are to be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer Sr. Executive Advisor no later than six (6) weeks in advance of the targeted Executive Committee (EC) meeting date. **Only completed applications supported by a EC cover report will be submitted for placement on the EC agenda. The EC will review the report and proposal and provide their recommendation to Council. The recommendation and report will then be forwarded to Council at their next scheduled meeting.***

Your personal information is being collected, used and disclosed for the administration and processing of your application for funding under the Council Innovation Fund Project. Your information is collected pursuant to section 33(c) of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (“FOIP Act”) of Alberta. If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information, please contact The City of Calgary’s Chief Financial Office (#8003), The City of Calgary P.O. Box 2100, Stn. M, Calgary, AB T2P 2M5 and by calling at 403-268-5664.

Please list supporting documents provided:

2024 DCA Project Support in Principle
DP2025-011869 Permit Conditional Approval
Garden and Food Forest Concept Design
Bylaw and Tree Protection Plan
Cost Estimate
Parking Lot Proposal
Letters of Support

Provide a summary description of the project to a maximum of 2 pages –

A group of Dalhousie residents proposed building a outdoor community hub in an unused municipal greenspace next to one of our community association buildings.

The plan is for an accessible community space, about 3,500 square meters, including gardening boxes, gathering spaces, walking paths, and a variety of native fruit trees and shrubs.

The new community garden and food forest will be a community hub. It creates a space where residents can interact with their neighbours and spend time with their families. It nourishes the earth and encourages connection to the land. Fall harvesting brings neighbours together in positive and productive ways.

This project will also complete a major priority for the Dalhousie Community Association with the final element of their food security initiatives. The other elements consist of:

- Partnering with the Love with Humanity Association to install a food pantry at the community hub. The pantry has been serving the residents of Dalhousie and surrounding communities for two years.**
- Testing a snack program for the families in the kindergarten program in the out of school care program at the community centre**
- And for three years the ICare UCare Society has organized a fresh food distribution program at the community centre two nights a week.**

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Identify how this project meets the criteria as outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Council Innovation Fund. *Please attach additional information as required.* -

A community garden and food forest clearly fits a community-based initiative because it:

- **Is community-led (designed, governed, and maintained by local residents, volunteers, and partner organizations).**
- **Addresses locally identified needs (food access, green space, education, climate resilience).**
- **Provides shared public benefit, not private gain.**
- **Encourages inclusive participation across ages, cultures, and income levels.**
- **Builds local capacity through skill-sharing in growing food, composting, and stewardship.**

The garden and forest were proposed by a group of Dalhousie residents. A working committee has been established and they report to the Community Association Board of Directors.

Our community garden aligns strongly with municipal priorities:

A community garden and food forest typically aligns strongly with municipal priorities such as:

Climate Action & Environmental Sustainability

- **Carbon sequestration through trees and perennial plants.**
- **Stormwater absorption and urban heat reduction.**
- **Increased biodiversity and pollinator habitat.**

Food Security & Public Health

- **Improved access to fresh, healthy food.**
- **Reduced food insecurity in vulnerable neighborhoods.**
- **Nutrition education and healthy eating promotion.**

Community Wellbeing & Equity

- **Inclusive green space accessible to diverse populations.**
- **Cultural food-growing practices.**
- **Social connection and mental health benefits.**

Urban Resilience & Beautification

- **Productive use of underutilized land.**

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- Long-term natural infrastructure that strengthens neighborhood resilience. .

Outline the proposed timeline for this project, including the final report back date -

We are dealing with the two conditions required for the Development Permit to be issued.

We began tree and shrub planting in 2025.

In 2026, with fund on hand, we will begin construction focusing on the garden boxes and related amenities.

Once this grant is approved, we will construct the parking lot and finish the phase 1 elements of the project.

Identify what success looks like, and how it will be measured -

Success, at its core, means getting the new community hub built and open — garden, food forest, and all. Once it's up and running, it'll add to what's already in the neighbourhood and become a place people actually want to spend time, whether they live in Dalhousie or nearby.

The refreshed outdoor space will make it easier for neighbours to connect, grow food together, and take care of the land. Families will be able to gather around the harvest table for Saturday picnics, creating the kind of long term relationships that make a community feel like home. And the new pollinator garden will give bees, butterflies, and other pollinators the food and shelter they need, helping support biodiversity and a healthier ecosystem.

In the end, the community garden and food forest will turn an underused patch of land into a lively, welcoming hub — a place where people can build confidence, learn new skills, feel well, and strengthen the connections that hold a community together.

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