

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

VOTE

Authorizing the City Manager to accept and expend a Greening the Gateway Cities Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation in the amount of up to \$20,000 in reimbursements for items specifically related to tree planting, including creating new tree pits, stump removal and purchase of tree watering bags to help sustain new planted trees in the City of Lowell.

The City of Lowell is desirous of improving the tree canopy within the project area by 5%, which is an average of 400 trees per planting season in the fall and spring; and

The City was recently informed DCR's Urban Forestry Crew has expanded their work area to include Lowell. Funds will be used for items specifically related to tree planting, including creating new tree pits, stump removal and purchase of tree watering bags to help sustain new planted trees.

BE IT VOTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL:

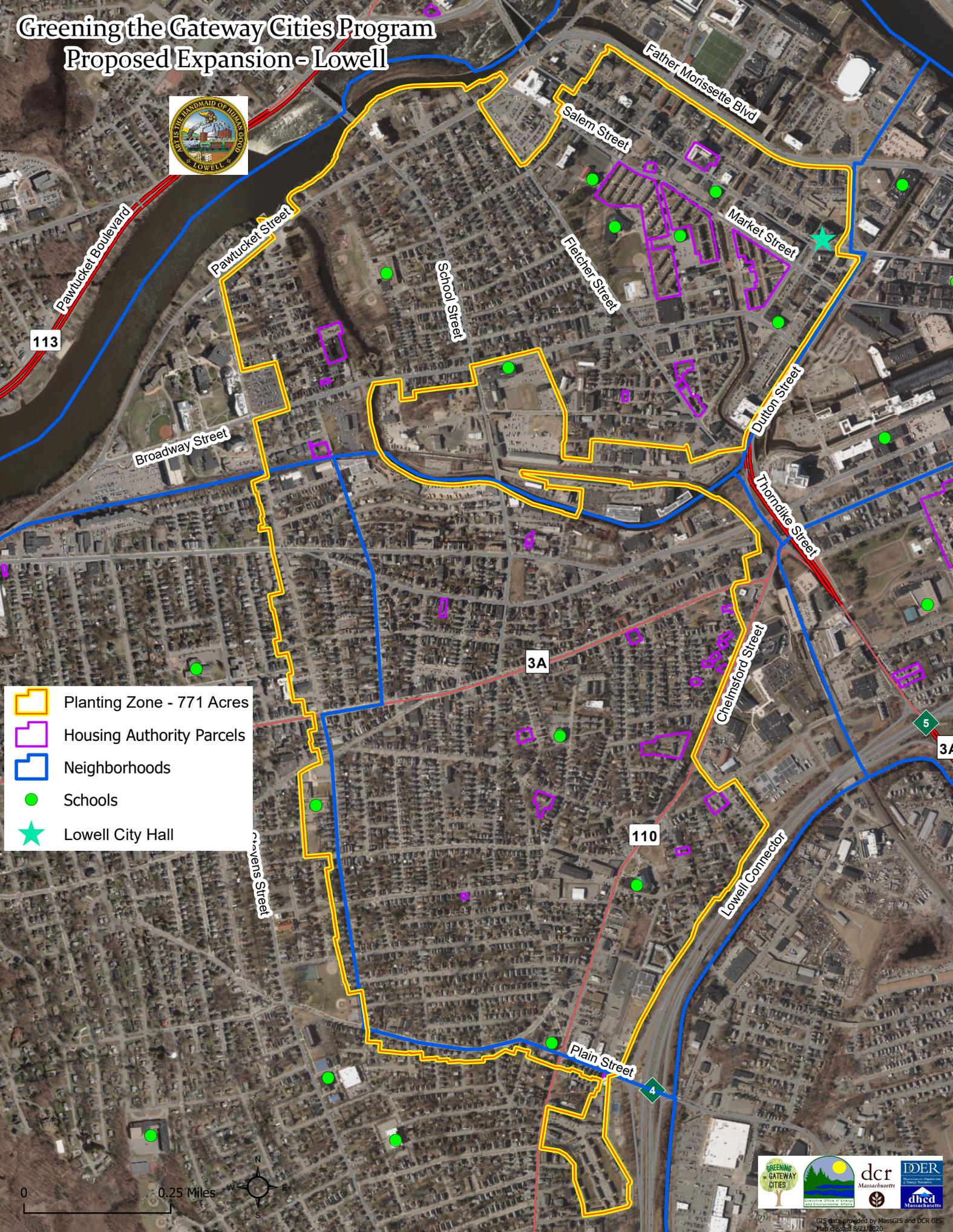
That the City Manager be and is hereby authorized to accept, and expend a grant from the Greening the Gateway Cities Grant Program from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), Department of Conservation and Recreation in the amount of up to Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) Dollars in reimbursements for items specifically related to tree planting, including creating new tree pits, stump removal and purchase of tree watering bags to help sustain new planted trees in the City of Lowell.

BE IT FURTHER VOTED:

That the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Lowell, be and hereby is, authorized to execute any and all documents necessary in connection with said Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Grant.

V:grant/GreeningtheGateway2020

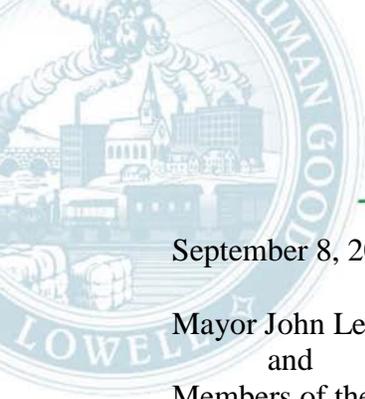
Greening the Gateway Cities Program Proposed Expansion - Lowell



-  Planting Zone - 771 Acres
-  Housing Authority Parcels
-  Neighborhoods
-  Schools
-  Lowell City Hall



GIS data provided by MassGIS and DCR GIS. Map created 8/21/2020



September 8, 2020

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Mayor John Leahy
and
Members of the City Council

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

REFERENCE: Approval to accept, and expend a Greening the Gateway Cities Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Dear Mayor Leahy and Members of the City Council:

The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) is requesting approval to apply for, accept and expend a Greening the Gateway Cities Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The City was recently informed DCR's Urban Forestry Crew has expanded their work area to include Lowell. DPD and DPW staff have worked directly with the Greening the Gateway Cities Program staff to finalize a project focus area that met the program guidelines for Environmental Justice areas with lower tree canopy coverage. A map of the project focus area is attached.

DCR's goal is to improve the tree canopy within the project area by 5%, which is an average of 400 trees per planting season in the fall and spring. The goal is to plant 2,400 trees in a three year period on public and private properties. Trees are provided by DCR and planted by DCR's forestry crew, who are often hired locally. Plantings in Lowell will begin in the spring of 2021.

DPD submitted a grant application for the Greening the Gateway Cities Program for up to \$20,000 in reimbursements for items specifically related to tree planting, including: creating new tree pits, stump removal and purchase of tree watering bags to help sustain new planted trees.

I respectfully request that the City Council authorize the City Manager to apply for, accept and expend up to \$20,000 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation for the Greening the Gateway Cities Program.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

EMD/ns
Attachment

cc: Christine P. O'Connor, City Solicitor
Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director
Yovani Baez-Rose, Design Planner