



File #: IR-25-001, **Version:** 1

TAMRMS#: B05

INFORMATION REQUEST (IR) - Scope & Budget for Planters at Intersections

Requested by: Councillor Killick

Date of Request: January 21, 2025

Date Response Due: February 21, 2025

Confidential Response: **No**

QUESTION

Please clarify if the scope and 2025 budget for the "extra large petunia planters at intersections" is sufficient to meet new intersections in growth areas ie Riverside, Cherot, Nouveaue etc and specifically on the traffic circle at Tache st. Info could support a PM to increase budget for 2025 if required.

RESPONSE

Thank you for the inquiry.

The current annual flower program consists of 53 extra-large planters (includes both the decorative Madison planters found at St. Albert Place front plaza and the extra-large black ones more commonly found at intersections), 92 regular planters, 5 balcony planters at St. Albert Place, 2 raised concrete planters, and 7 in-ground flowerbeds, provided by a contractor, at 55 locations.

The scope and budget for the 2025 annual flower program will not provide new planters in growth areas, nor additional planters at the traffic circle on Tache Street. The contract also does not currently include the additional 12 downtown planters that were installed outside of the contract in July 2024. The current contract is in year three and will be re-tendered for the 2028 budget year.

Neighbourhood planters have historically been for locations that started as developer-installed annual beds that the City either no longer had Partners in Parks to manage or they were more suited for planters due to weed and pest issues (i.e. Dufferin Street @ Giroux, Berrymore Crescent @ Sturgeon Road). Current city standards for development do not have provision for annual beds, and as such there is currently not a plan to provide planters in growth areas like Riverside, Cherot, and Nouveau. The Partners in Parks program is an option that can provide residents with a soil-filled planter (a good example of that is at Oakmont Drive @ Bellerose Drive).

Major intersection planters was a multi-department initiative, but the focus for those were Ray Gibbon Drive, St. Albert Trail, and Boudreau Road roadway intersections. Exceptions were made for the intersection at Riel Drive @ Levasseur (because of Hole's relocation to that area), 170th @ Levasseur Road (as a welcome to St. Albert because a entrance feature sign did not exist at that time), and 137th Avenue/Leclair Way @ Sir Winston Churchill Avenue.

Adequate space is required for a planter to be placed on concrete, or into existing mulched beds in the case of replacing annual flowerbeds. Placement of planters on turf is avoided as it is not efficient from a maintenance perspective. Also, planters must not impede the safe passage of pedestrians, therefore locations are assessed for suitability accordingly.

Currently the intersection of Giroux and Ray Gibbon has only recently been completed and future roadway work will impact the intersection, it is recommended to postpone assessment in the short term. There are not any locations in the Cherot, Nouveau, or Riverside neighborhoods under consideration at this time as they are not eligible for planters under the current program parameters. St. Albert Trail North intersections will be assessed as they are completed, but the landscaping design was done so that the perennial/shrub/tree beds beautify without needing annuals.

With respect to funding requirements, adding planters to the Tache Street roundabout island can be done with a minimum of one extra large planter (\$695), but it would likely look more attractive if it was one extra large surrounded by at least three smaller planters (\$420 each), \$1,955 total. The 12 additional planters downtown would cost approximately \$5,040.

Should a motion be made to increase funding, engagement with the supplier would be required to confirm if the 2025 planting could support the additional locations. However, extra planters are typically planted to replace those that may be vandalized or damaged.

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Author(s): Louise Stewart
Department: Public Operations
Department Director: Tim Saunders
Managing Director: Dinu Philip Alex
Chief Administrative Officer: Bill Fletcher