

## Davneet Sandhu

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**From:** noreply@townofws.ca  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 9:53 AM  
**To:** Clerks General; Council Meetings  
**Subject:** New Response Completed for Deputation Form

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

Please note the following response to Deputation Form has been submitted at Thursday June 5th 2025 9:52 AM with reference number 2025-06-05-004.

- **First Name:**  
Laura
- **Last Name:**  
Miller
- **Street Number and Name:**  
[REDACTED]
- **Postal Code:**  
[REDACTED]
- **City/Town**  
Stouffville
- **Province/Territory:**  
Ontario
- **Phone:**  
[REDACTED]
- **Email Address:**  
[REDACTED]
- **Council Meeting Date:**  
6/18/2025
- **Subject:**  
Tiny Forest - Stouffville Proposal
- **Full name of Spokesperson and Name of Group or Person(s) being Represented:**  
Laura Miller, representing Desjardins

- **Brief Summary of Issue or Purpose of Delegation:**

To introduce a new environmental initiative led by Desjardins: the creation of a native Tiny Forest in Stouffville using the Miyawaki method. This turnkey project would transform underused municipal land into a dense, fast-growing microforest that supports climate resilience, biodiversity, and community engagement—at no cost to the Town. The purpose of the presentation is to share the proposed vision, benefits, and collaboration opportunities with Council for consideration and support.

- **Have you been in contact with a Town staff or Council member regarding your matter of interest?**

Yes

- **Full name of Town staff or Council member with whom you spoke:**

Mayor Lovatt and Commissioner Baird

- **Date:**

6/4/2025

- **Please indicate if you will be providing your deputation in-person or electronically:**

Electronically

- **I have a presentation file(s):**

Yes

- **When will you submit your presentation?**

Now

- **My presentation file(s):**

1. [Tiny Forest Proposal - Stouffville.pdf \[1.0 MB\]](#)

- **I acknowledge that the Procedural By-law permits 5 minutes for Deputations.**

I agree

[This is an automated email notification -- please do not respond]

# Tiny Forest Proposal for Stouffville

## Investing in Resilience

**Presented by:** Laura Miller, P & C Insurance Marketing, Planning,  
Integration and Implementation

**Date:** June 4, 2025



# Why Tiny Forests? Why Now?

**Severe weather events are becoming more frequent** and more costly – impacting homes, businesses, and communities across Canada.

As an **insurance provider**, Desjardins is on the front lines of these risks, and we know that prevention and resilience matter.

As a **cooperative**, we believe in going beyond financial support. We invest in long-term, community-rooted solutions.

**Tiny forests are a nature-based climate solution** that improves local resilience by reducing flood risk, heat, erosion, and biodiversity loss.

Desjardins is committed to helping protect our clients and the communities they live in – now and for the future.

**Together, we can transform underused green space into a thriving legacy of environmental leadership.**

# What is a Tiny Forest?

## Big Impact from a Small Space

- A **dense, fast-growing native forest** around the size of a one car garage (200-400 sq. ft)
- Based on the **Miyawaki method** – a proven technique used in over 40 countries
- Grows **10x faster** than traditional tree planting, **becomes self-sustaining in 2-3 years**, and mimics natural ecosystems
- Designed for **underused green spaces** like outside libraries, community centres, hockey arenas, parks and other municipal-owned land
- Ideal for urban and suburban environments with limited space

## Tangible Benefits for Stouffville

### Climate Resilience:

- Absorbs CO2 and air pollutants
- Reduces stormwater runoff and erosion
- Helps regulate temperature and combat urban heat

### Biodiversity:

- Attracts pollinators, birds, and native insects
- Restores local ecosystems using native species
- Boosts soil health

### Community Engagement & Education:

- Involves local residents in planting
- Becomes a point of pride and environmental leadership

# A Turnkey Project Led by Desjardins

- 1 Fully funded by Desjardins – **no cost to the town**
- 2 Desjardins leads all **planning, site preparation and planting**
- 3 We'll **engage local volunteers** (residents, schools, etc.) to participate in planting and stewardship
- 4 Desjardins will handle **signage, media and ongoing maintenance**
- 5 Work with the Town of Stouffville to identify a **suitable site** and move forward with the **Town's endorsement** of the project



# Let's Find the Perfect Site

## Clippers Sports Complex

- Area currently under construction, making it an ideal location to reintroduce greenery and restore ecological balance



## Memorial Park

- A highly visible space near the community centre, offering great potential for transformation and public engagement

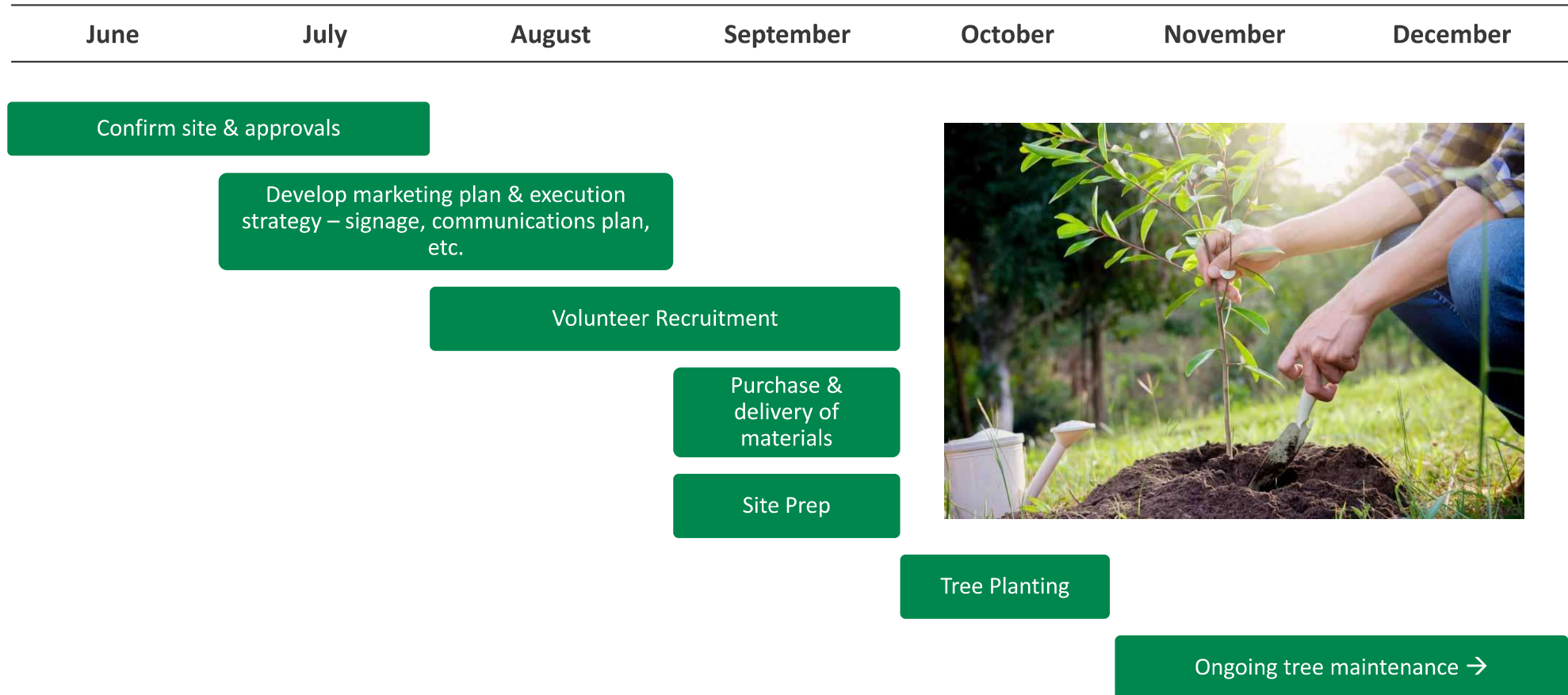


## Madori Park

- Nestled beside a natural pond and trail, this site offers a seamless extension of the existing ecosystem



# We're Ready for Fall 2025 Planting





# Let's Grow Something Great Together



- Stouffville has the chance to lead with **innovative environmental action**
- This forest will grow for generations – and so will the impact
- Let's make this a model for other towns to follow

## Next Steps:

- ✓ Confirm support from the Town of Stouffville
- ✓ Finalize the preferred site together
- ✓ Align on planting date (Fall 2025)

**“The best time to plant a forest was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.”**



**QUESTIONS?**