



Forêt Capitale Forest

**2023-2024
Annual Report**

INTRODUCTION

We are proud and grateful to present Forêt Capitale Forest's (FCF) Annual Report for 2023-2024.

Since its founding in 2020, FCF has made impactful strides in growing the National Capital Region's tree canopy cover. A vision for a 9-acre field of dreams at our Base of Operations on the Just Food Community Farm, is growing yearly thanks to the incredible support for our mission from our community, funders and partners.

We are committed to measuring FCF's impact, and this report illustrates the story of our growth. It reflects our dedication to our afforestation plan—creating biodiverse forest cover, caring and nurturing trees, and working with our community to steward healthy forests for future generations.

Leadership

Aileen Duncan, Director
Shelley Lambert, Director
Stephanie McNeely, Director
Kevin Myers, Director
Shelley Crabtree, Executive Director

Forestry Staff

Leann Byatte, Community Engagement and Stewardship
Morgan MacDonald, Tree Planter
Martin Nesbitt, Lead, Field and Data
Jodi Newman, Program and Projects Coordinator
Colleen Richardson, Lead, Farm Operations
Matthew Tennant, Lead, Farm Operations



OUR VISION

Planting trees with a visionary plan

Planting Trees with A Visionary Plan

Our vision is that by 2030, we will create an additional 1,000 hectares of tree cover in the National Capital Region, helping to mitigate climate change and conserve biodiversity. We have built strategic relationships with organizations in Eastern Ontario to build a full lifecycle program around the establishment of new forested areas, tailored to Ottawa and Gatineau.

Our plan of afforesting 1,000 hectares roughly equates to 1 million trees and is scalable. Our vision mirrors the mandates of the National Capital Commission and the City of Ottawa and aligns with the federal government's pledge to plant 2 billion trees by 2030.

**Create 1,000
hectares of tree
cover by 2030.**

MEASURING IMPACT

FCF has developed an interactive dashboard, shared publicly on our website, with metrics indicating organizational growth and progress towards our afforestation goals. This data will be the basis for ongoing program development, monitoring and reporting the impact of our work.

Trees planted: Since 2021, FCF has planted 7,529* native trees, shrubs and forbs (an herbaceous flowering plant other than a grass) and by the end of Fall 2024, we will have planted 10,600. In 2023/2024, the amount of stock planted increased by 28% and we are forecasting an additional 30% increase in 2024/2025.

Partnerships with public and private landowners: Partnerships with the National Capital Commission, EnviroCentre and Ottawa Community Housing have led to land access allowing for 6 hectares of tree cover to be added since 2021. Of the 21 sites that were planted during that period, ten are tiny forests.

Programs, grants and donations for tree plantings: Grants, donations and support from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Tree Canada, and the Josette Robertson and Joan Johnston Family Foundation resulted in 5 planting events with 120 members of the community.

Community engagement and outreach for forestry stewardship: 43 volunteer events were held and 316 volunteers and 9 groups worked on tree care and maintenance.

**As of July 15, 2024*

Growth in Stock Planted



7,529
trees

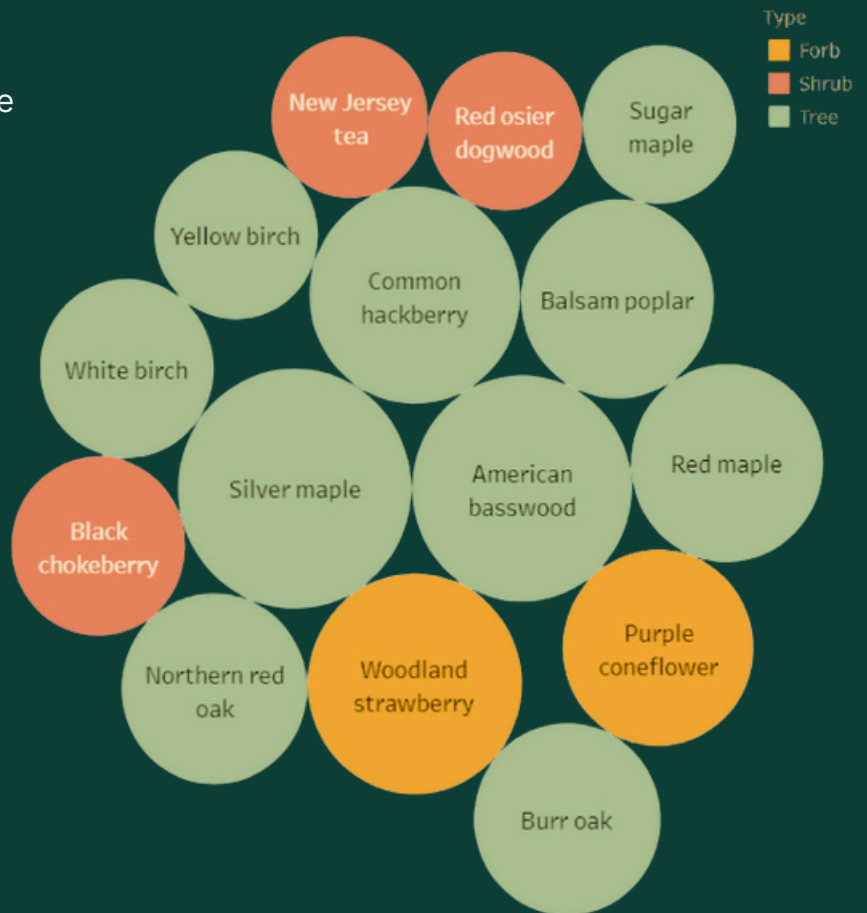
30%
growth

WHAT WE ARE PLANTING

Through afforestation, a thriving forest ecosystem is planted using native species that best match the surrounding forested areas for best growth.

143 species of trees, shrubs and forbs have been planted since 2021. We select native or naturalized species that are adapted to grow in the local climate. For successful plantings, we aim to select plants that best match the localized soil and site conditions. Forbs are primarily planted in the tiny forests we create.

Top Species Planted



We collect data on all trees planted and their sites and commit to their care and maintenance until they are “free to grow”.

2023-24 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The organization completed its first year of charitable status and is finalizing its second financial audit with a new firm that has been retained for the next two years.

- First online charitable fundraiser was launched during a Holiday campaign. A charitable tree sale fundraiser is ongoing, and a first annual lunch and workshop fundraiser is planned.
- The website was revamped with support and inspiration from the Josette Robertson and Joan Johnston (JR&JJ) Family Foundation.
- The first iteration of our data dashboard was completed and has been updated regularly on our website to showcase progress toward our mission.
- FCF led plantings of Tiny Forests in urban spaces using the Miyawaki Method and produced a technical guide and videos as resources to be shared with the community.
- Weekly training on tree planting, care and maintenance was provided at the Base of Operations to a class of students from the Norman Johnston Secondary Alternate Program. The group helped prepare sites including work at the Birch Path Healing Forest.

PRIORITY NEXT STEPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS



- Enhance relationships with existing partners like the NCC and Tree Canada to grow the number of planting events.
- Pursue partnerships for the growth of Tiny Forests in Ottawa and Gatineau, sharing our expertise for design and commitment to thriving planting sites.
- Support a governance model at the Just Food Community Farm that is inclusive of all members working to continue to improve the site for the benefit of all users.
- Work toward establishing partnerships and programs with groups like Ottawa Tourism for sustainable environmental legacy investments in tree planting, tree care and maintenance.

PRIORITY NEXT STEPS



ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Grow our board of directors, including the recruitment of representatives with financial knowledge.
- Continue increasing our financial competencies within the Board, with a focus on our core mission to plant trees.
- Seek fair value for the services we provide.
- Create a plan and strategy to diversify revenue sources, including program development targeting individuals, organizations and businesses to support ongoing tree care and maintenance.
- Expand engagement and outreach with new and existing partners that recognize the value we provide in the National Capital Region's ecosystem and honour a balanced approach to defining roles and responsibilities.

OUR FORESTRY COMMUNITY

- Continue to share knowledge with and train our volunteers: use an online badging system to help build a community tree care service in the National Capital Region.
- Further develop our staff-led seed collection team.
- Leverage technology for improved community involvement including:
 - The purchase of GNSS survey equipment thanks to the Josette Robertson and Joan Johnston Family Foundation for precise tree tracking, data collection and reporting.
 - Plan the development of a community tree care app. for volunteer-led maintenance.
- Continue to pursue grant funding to leverage the use of technology.



SUCCESS STORIES

TINY FOREST LEADERSHIP

FCF is driven to lead the Miyawaki Method Tiny Forest movement in the region. Since May 2022, we have planted ten Tiny Forests following the Miyawaki Method of afforestation.

In the fall of 2023 our partnership with EnviroCentre, supported by a generous gift from the Josette Roberston and Joan Johnston Family Foundation – Ottawa Community Foundation, led to the creation, design and planting of four Miyawaki Method Tiny Forests. Three are located at Ottawa Community Housing sites at Essex, Cutts and Riverdale and the fourth one is planted at the York Street Public School.

The process of community consultation and engagement resulted in a broad volunteer effort at each site to plant the hundreds of trees, shrubs and forbs. From the ground up, community members of all ages were engaged in the knowledge and benefits of forests, tree planting, care and maintenance to foster community stewardship.



FORESTRY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

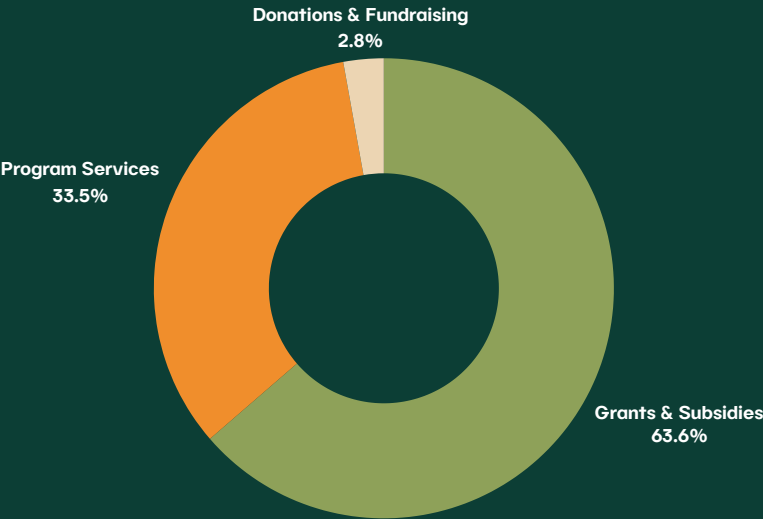
In the spring of 2024, a group ranging in 8 to 16 students from the Norman Johnston Secondary Alternate Program in Ottawa joined staff one half day a week for six weeks at the Base of Operations. They learned tree planting, care and maintenance skills and took part in a mushroom farming workshop. The opportunity to work with the students provided benefits including the transfer of tree knowledge, the importance of biodiversity, and support for individuals with an interest in potential careers in the forestry sector in the future.



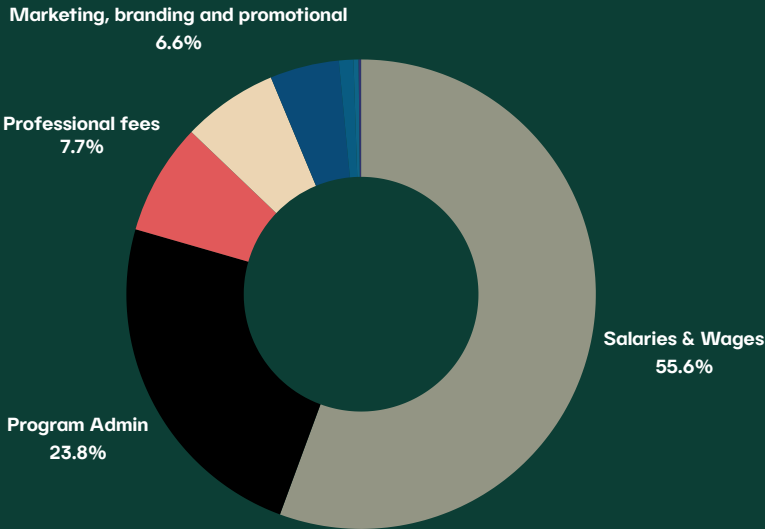
Financials

Year End March 31	2024	2023	% Change 2024/2023
Revenues	380,917	149,852	+154%
Expenses	290,606	138,076	+110%
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	90,311	11,776	+667%

2024 Revenues



2024 Expenses



Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the incredible support we've received throughout our growth:

- Josette Robertson and Joan Johnston Family Foundation
- Just Food Community Farm
- TD Canada Trust
- Tree Canada
- National Capital Commission
- EnviroCentre
- Arbour Day Foundation
- Ottawa Community Housing



**Special thanks to all our
dedicated volunteers
for your support in our
efforts
to build forests and
increase canopy cover
in Ottawa and
Gatineau.**

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PHOTOS CREDIT: John Duimovich