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Greenbelt Foundation

#404 - 720 Bathurst Street
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Greenbelt Foundation Backgrounder

Mitigomin Native Plant Nursery Grant Announcement

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Overview

The Greenbelt Foundation has provided a new grant to Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna (Alderville BOS) for the creation of the Mitigomin Native Plant Nursery (MNPN). The nursery will grow plant species native to Ontario's grassland ecosystems, including the Black Oak Savanna ecosystem at Alderville First Nation.

The native plants grown at the MNPN will be used to support a few different projects, including large-scale restoration projects and smaller gardening or "backyard" projects. While the nursery will primarily grow plant species native to tallgrass prairies and savannahs, it will also grow traditional foods such as wild raspberries, Canada wild rye, pawpaw, and walnuts. Once complete, the project will positively contribute to ecological restoration and resilient food systems for Alderville First Nation and the surrounding communities in the eastern Greenbelt.

Background

The Mitigomin Native Plant Nursery is a project led by Alderville Black Oak Savanna and the Alderville First Nation. Located on the First Nation in the Rice Lake Plains region of Northumberland County, the Black Oak Savanna was established in 1999 to preserve, restore, and expand tallgrass and savannah habitat within Alderville First Nation and the larger community. The MNPN will be the latest expansion of the Alderville BOS as it works toward its goals of ecological restoration, environmental research, and education and outreach.

The Greenbelt Foundation previously funded the first stage of the MNPN project in 2019. The previous grant allowed Alderville BOS to create a blueprint and business strategy for the nursery. With the latest grant, work will continue over the next two years to develop the nursery before an anticipated opening in 2023.

Other partnerships involved with this project are Grow Wild! Native Plant Nursery and the Rice Lake Plains Partnership. The expertise of Grow Wild will be crucial for the horticultural aspects of the project. Grow Wild will be consulting with Alderville BOS to guide the project team in growing techniques and successful greenhouse operation. The Rice Lake Plains Partnership will support the project through in-kind donations of time and expertise and will also be customers of the nursery to support their own



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restoration efforts in the broader community. The partnership is made up of: Lower Trent Conservation, Ganaraska Region Conservation, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and Northumberland Land Trust.

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