



July 3, 2019

RE: STARS INNOVATION CREDIT – Fleming College Arboretum

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Fleming College, I am writing to affirm the details of the Fleming College Arboretum as it relates to the STARS Innovation Credit under the Innovation and Leadership Category.

The Fleming College Arboretum was established in 2017 at the School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences at Frost Campus. The mission of the Arboretum is to create a campus wide living laboratory, showcasing native trees and shrubs in a variety of landscape settings for the purposes of education, research and community engagement. The Arboretum has greatly benefited Fleming College as a whole and the Kawartha Lakes community. First, the Arboretum is a unique, outdoor classroom space used by various programs at Fleming College and allows students to gain hands-on experience in tree identification, tree health care and standardized monitoring and maintenance protocols. The enhanced collection of specimens has increased our overall canopy cover allowing us to maximize the environmental services that urban forests provide, including improved air, soil and water quality, reduction of greenhouse gas concentrations, stormwater runoff abatement, wildlife habitat creation and increased biodiversity. Finally, the Arboretum creates a new green space for members of the public to visit and utilize, further enhancing their appreciation of nature all the while improving their physical and mental well-being.

In light of climate change, we have been able to successfully incorporate many of Ontario's at risk tree species within our Arboretum including American chestnut, Cucumber-tree, Pawpaw, Butternut and Red mulberry. These species are incredibly important from a natural heritage and indigenous perspective so Fleming College is aiding in their preservation for future generations.

Long term monitoring protocols have been established to monitor the overall health of the Arboretum. We have begun using ITree Eco to track carbon sequestration rates of all our trees to help quantify Fleming College's contribution to combating climate change.

Sincerely,

Jason Kerr

Technologist, Ecosystem Management Program

Fleming College, Frost Campus, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences