

Tree Policy and Regulatory Review Update February 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

None.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ACTION

The following resolution was adopted at the December 19, 2017 Finance and Intergovernmental Committee meeting:

That the Finance and Intergovernmental Committee authorize staff to prepare a strategy for a tree canopy target, draft an amended Tree Bylaw, and bring forward work program adjustments for its further consideration.

REPORT SUMMARY

The 2018 Workplan for the Sustainability & Environmental Committee identifies the milestones to be met in implementation of the direction set by the Finance and Intergovernmental Committee to develop policies and draft bylaws regarding management of trees. This report provides detailed information regarding the program and timeline for this direction.

BACKGROUND

The 2017 Business Plans for the Parks Division of the Engineering & Public Works Department and the Planning Division of the Development Services Department included a comprehensive review of policies and regulations applicable to trees to be undertaken as a joint project. Staff carried out a comprehensive consultation process over the summer and fall of 2017, the results of which were presented to the Finance and Intergovernmental Committee on December 19, 2017.

DISCUSSION

The following actions and time frames are proposed for 2018:

Timeline	Action	Responsibility	Scope
April	Amend Tree Bylaw	Parks / Planning	Per FIG direction: require tree replacement or cash-in-lieu; eliminate annual free permit, reduce minimum size of regulated trees, refine significant tree definition
April	Amend demolition permit process	Planning/ Building	Provide for the identification and protection of trees prior to demolition approval

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Timeline	Action	Responsibility	Scope
April	Amend Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw	Bylaw Services	Increase fines for contravention of the Tree Bylaw
April	Revise Fees and Charges Bylaw	Parks/Planning	Revise fees for tree permits, including payment of a fee for any permit
April	Amend Zoning Bylaw	Planning	Require trees at the time of development within the single residential zones
July	Adopt a tree management policy	Planning/Parks	Provide guidelines for the interpretation and implementation of tree regulations
July	Assess development of a tree farm	Parks / Planning	Provide a report outlining feasible options for implementation including ownership, operations, siting and costs.
September	Develop and implement communication and education programs	Planning/Parks/ Communications	Update and publish additional information on the City's website, including a tree portal; brochures and instructional videos to guide tree permits and planting; tree selection tool (right tree, right place)
September	Identify incentives for tree retention	Planning/ Parks / Finance	Bring forward a cost-benefit analysis of options to offer incentives for tree retention and tree planting programs
November	Community Celebration	Planning/ Parks/ Recreation	Determine if there is a community group interested in partnering with the City to create an annual tree celebration activity. If so, bring forward options including format and cost implications with the intent a celebration could be held in 2019.
November	Create an inventory and map of significant trees, including heritage trees	Planning/ Parks	Create an inventory; map tree locations. Contact owners of trees on the inventory to provide information on the initiative and options for retention, including Heritage Registry procedures
2018/19	Update Subdivision Servicing Bylaw	Planning/ Development Engineering	Assess requiring street trees in established residential neighbourhoods as part of the bylaw update process
2018/19	Draft a tree canopy target and policies for trees to be included in the OCP update	Planning	Draft policy to be included in the OCP when updated in 2019. Include an assessment of how various measures will inform the canopy target to be

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Timeline	Action	Responsibility	Scope
			achieved in the City. Create guidelines for tree planting requirements in new developments.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None associated with this update.

OPTIONS

(Check = Staff Recommendation)

#	Description
1 	None (the Tree Policy and Regulatory Review Update report is presented for information)
2	Direct staff that Committee wishes to amend the proposed 2018 tree policy and regulatory review program