

Tree Preservation Bylaw Update

Committee of the Whole

May 28, 2020



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Purpose

Provide Council with the outcome of the second phase of Tree Preservation Bylaw review and seek approval to prepare a new Tree Protection Bylaw.



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Background

Phase One – Completed Fall 2019

- ✓ Reduced the size of protected trees,
- ✓ Clarified certain definitions,
- ✓ Standardized information requirements, and
- ✓ Strengthened tree protection

Phase Two

Comprehensive review and technical analysis



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Background

Urban Forest Master Plan Recommended Actions

- C. Incorporate the goals, policy objectives and strategies of the Urban Forest Master Plan within other relevant City plans, policies, bylaws and development guidelines
- D. Increase urban forest cover to more optimal levels in neighbourhoods currently exhibiting low canopy cover
- Q. Revise the Tree Protection Bylaw to address the removal of young (non-protected) trees and increase replacement tree ratios and compensation levels
- X. Consider establishing minimum stocking levels for new development to meet UPD-specific urban forest objectives
- Z. Improve oversight of landscape design, planting and construction on redevelopment sites to ensure that the City's design guidelines are met

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Analysis

1. Differentiating Permit Applications

- Define applications more precisely as 'development related' and 'non- development related'

2. Updating information required from applicants

- Clarify the standards of information within the bylaw

3. Replacement tree requirements

- Establishing 'density target' approach



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Analysis

4. Securities and Application Fees

- Securities are obtained for both replacement and trees intended to be retained

5. Building Envelope

- Requiring an applicant proposing a building, structure, underground service, driveway or off-street parking area to be modified or located on the lot to retain a protected tree

6. Transition Provision

- No impact to existing applications received to date

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Video: Replacement Ratios and Tree Density Target



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Next Steps

- Proceed with legal review, writing of a new Tree Protection Bylaw including a transition provision, and develop an implementation plan
- Present new Bylaw to Council for First, Second and Third readings
- Communication material outlining changes to the bylaw posted on the City's website and shared with stakeholders once adopted

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Recommendation

That Council direct staff to prepare a new Tree Protection Bylaw consistent with this report in order to:

- a. Differentiate permit applicant types and requirements according to the complexity and magnitude of projects
- b. Clarify information required from applicants for tree removal permit applications
- c. Define tree retention and replacement requirements to maintain a stable or expanding tree canopy, consisting of new tree replacement ratios, tree planting standards, and tree density targets
- d. Update the requirements for security deposits and update tree permit application fees
- e. Require modification or relocation of proposed building footprints or structures within the zoning setbacks, to retain protected trees
- f. Establish transition provisions to apply the new bylaw in order to minimize impacts to existing applications
- g. Repeal the existing Tree Preservation Bylaw No. 05-106

