



## **Council Report**

### **For the Meeting of March 11, 2021**

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**To:** Council **Date:** February 18, 2021  
**From:** Thomas Soulliere, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities  
**Subject:** New Tree Protection Bylaw No. 21-035

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council give first, second and third readings for the attached new Tree Protection Bylaw, No. 21-035.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the new Tree Protection Bylaw, as directed by Council.

In 2019, Council approved a strategic plan action to undertake a comprehensive review and update of the Tree Preservation Bylaw, which resulted in a project plan consisting of two phases of review. The first phase, which focused on immediate tree protection measures, concluded in the fall of 2019. Council adopted an initial set of updates, including a significant reduction in protected tree size and a cash in lieu option for replacement trees.

In May 2020, staff presented the second phase of the comprehensive technical review to Council. Staff recommended changes to six key areas to align the bylaw with leading practices and support the implementation goals of the Urban Forest Master Plan.

The key changes focused on:

- 1) Differentiating permit applications;
- 2) Updating information required from permit applicants;
- 3) Updating replacement tree requirements, including establishing minimum tree density;
- 4) Updating security deposits; and application fees;
- 5) Enhancing tree protection within zoning setbacks; and
- 6) Providing a transition provision.

Council directed staff to prepare a new *Tree Protection* Bylaw generally consistent with recommendations outlined in the May 2020 report, as well as an implementation plan with transition provisions to minimize impacts to existing land-use applications.

Over the past several months, staff completed a comprehensive approach to prepare the new bylaw. The bylaw addresses the recommended changes approved by Council, by clarifying

definitions, updating the associated fee schedule, and addressing several issues that the *Tree Preservation* Bylaw did not adequately cover. The new bylaw provides a balanced approach to protecting and growing Victoria's private urban forest by protecting retained trees whenever possible, replacing every bylaw-protected tree removed, and growing tree canopy across the City.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Soulliere  
Director

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.**

**List of Attachments:**

**Attachment A:** Tree Protection Bylaw No. 21-035