

NO: R126

COUNCIL DATE: June 12, 2017

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **June 6, 2017**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **6300-01**
General Manager, Planning & Development **6880-70**

SUBJECT: **Tree Planting and Removal**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and the Planning & Development Department recommend that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

At the May 8, 2017 Regular Council – Public Hearing, Council requested information from staff pertaining to tree planting and removal; specifically, how many trees were cut under permit in the last five years, and how many trees were planted during the same time period (Item K.2, Regular Council – Public Hearing Minutes; May 8, 2017).

DISCUSSION

Over recent decades, the Lower Mainland region has experienced important growth. With the upward trend in the real estate market, there has been a lot of growth pressure south of the Fraser River, where it is still possible to find a more affordable offering of housing types.

With this development pressure experienced in Surrey, back in 2006 Council introduced a stronger tree protection by-law (*Surrey Tree Protection Bylaw, 2006, No. 16100, “the Tree Bylaw”*). With this direction, Council wanted to ensure that over the long term Surrey would still keep a healthy urban forest and that funding would be in place in order to ensure the success and long term growth of the replacement trees associated with development projects.

Following the implementation of the Tree Bylaw and the associated Green City Fund that was created, it has allowed for a yearly robust tree planting program within the City on both private and City properties.

City Trees

The City plants many thousands of new trees along its streets and in its parks and natural areas every year. Over the last 11 years the City has planted more than 60,000 large shade trees, averaging more than 5,400 trees each year. In addition, over the same period, the City has planted more than 149,000 container-sized trees and seedlings through natural area enhancement and restoration projects, averaging of more than 13,600 trees per year. In total, over the last 11 years the City has planted more than 210,000 trees along streets and in parks, averaging more than 19,000 trees each year. Detailed information is included as Appendix “I.”

Private Trees

Over the past five years, the City has issued 5,201 regular tree cutting permits which encompassed 41,728 trees. During the same time period, 1,041 hazardous tree cutting permits were issued, comprised of 1,273 trees. A total of 55,984 trees were planted on private lands as replacements for those cut during the development process. Detailed information is included as Appendix “II.”

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

This report supports the following Sustainability Charter 2.0 Desired Outcomes (DO) and Strategic Directives (SD).

Built Environment and Neighbourhoods

- DO 5: Trees, green spaces and natural areas are integrated into all neighbourhoods.
- DO 6: Land is used efficiently and sensitively, and development minimizes the impacts on the natural environment, viewscales, agricultural land and urban wildlife.
- SD 3: Integrate natural areas, ecosystems, and green areas in all neighbourhoods.

Ecosystems

- DO 2: Surrey actively protects, enhances and restores its natural environment and habitats.
- DO 3: All development enhances, or minimizes the impacts on Surrey’s lush tree canopy and natural environment, and avoids encroachment into natural areas, habitat features and parks.
- SD 4: Develop, apply, monitor and enforce standards and strategies to minimize the impacts of development on the natural environment, ecosystems and urban forest.
- SD 5: Increase tree canopy coverage across the city.

CONCLUSION

The City values its tree canopy and the vital role that trees play, which includes beautifying the City; providing habitat; mitigating storm water run-off; off-setting carbon emissions; filtering other pollutants; mitigating heating and cooling costs; and improved health and well-being for our citizens. Policies and procedures exist to ensure that citizens do their part to protect our environment, and the City also holds itself accountable to maintain a thriving, green city.

It is recommended that Council receive this report for information.

Original signed by
Laurie Cavan
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager, Planning & Development

SS/NA/JLL

Appendix “I” - City Trees 2006 – 2016
Appendix “II” - Private Trees 2012 – 2017

City Trees 2006 - 2016

Description	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	11-year Total
Caliper Street Trees	3,713	4,728	3,681	3,677	4,627	3,459	4,734	5,438	3,284	4,807	4,552	46,700
Caliper Park Trees	987	1,257	979	978	493	1,007	2,246	749	1,250	1,727	1,705	13,378
Subtotal - Caliper Street and Park Trees	<u>4,700</u>	<u>5,985</u>	<u>4,660</u>	<u>4,655</u>	<u>5,120</u>	<u>4,466</u>	<u>6,980</u>	<u>6,187</u>	<u>4,534</u>	<u>6,534</u>	<u>6,257</u>	<u>60,078</u>
Seedlings	10,000		14,250		2,600		200		3,300	3,995	6,700	41,045
Parks - container stock trees for Natural area restoration	3,400	6,000	7,060	2,491	5,204	6,237	5,772	4,027	5,050	5,249	5,500	55,990
Engineering - Container Stock	8,100	11,985	11,720	7,146	10,031	1,294	608	196	571	387	866	52,904
Subtotal - Seedlings and Container Stock	<u>21,500</u>	<u>17,985</u>	<u>33,030</u>	<u>9,637</u>	<u>17,835</u>	<u>7,531</u>	<u>6,580</u>	<u>4,223</u>	<u>8,921</u>	<u>9,631</u>	<u>13,066</u>	<u>149,939</u>
Total trees, seedlings, and container stock	<u>26,200</u>	<u>23,970</u>	<u>37,690</u>	<u>14,292</u>	<u>22,955</u>	<u>11,997</u>	<u>13,560</u>	<u>10,410</u>	<u>13,455</u>	<u>16,165</u>	<u>19,323</u>	<u>210,017</u>

Street Shade Trees (caliper), Average per year	4,245
Park Shade Trees (caliper), Average per year	<u>1,216</u>
Total Street and Park Shade Trees, Average per year	5,462

Private Trees 2012 - 2017

Tree Permits Issued			
Year	Regular Tree Permits	Hazardous Tree Permits	Infraction Permits
2012	717	92	26
2013	811	119	22
2014	850	157	22
2015	1150	300	26
2016	1311	319	28
2017	362	54	6

as of May 12, 2017

Tree Cutting		
Year	Regular Trees	Hazard Trees
2012	5926	122
2013	5794	125
2014	6712	133
2015	8570	396
2016	9893	426
2017	4833	71

as of May 12, 2017

Replacement trees		
Year	Replacement trees required	Replacement trees planted
2012	11169	8510
2013	12494	7130
2014	13191	8720
2015	11698	7350
2016	15193	7913
2017	7552	4322

as of May 12, 2017

Trees retained	
Year	
2012	1072
2013	1216
2014	2056
2015	3113
2016	3254
2017	1328

as of May 12, 2017

Totals			
Year	Total Tree Permits	Total Trees Removed	Total Trees Planted/Retained
2012	835	6048	9582
2013	952	5919	8346
2014	1029	6845	10776
2015	1476	8966	10463
2016	1658	10319	11167
2017	422	4904	5650

as of May 12, 2017