

REPORT

Parks and Recreation Department

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: October 7, 2024

From: Dean Gibson
Director of Parks and Recreation
File: 05.1035.10
(Doc# 2581087)

Item #: 2024-544

Subject: **Update Regarding Council Motion Re: Improving the Public's Access to Trees during the City's Biannual Tree Sale**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the staff report titled "Update Regarding Council Motion Re: Improving the Public's Access to Trees during the City's Biannual Tree Sale" dated October 7, 2024, be received for information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the status of responding to Council's April 22, 2024 resolution, regarding improving the public's access to trees during the City's biannual tree sale.

BACKGROUND

On April 22, 2024 the following motion was supported by Council for further review of workplan implications, timeline and budget impacts:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to assess whether the Climate Action Reserve Fund decision-making framework can support the purchase of up to an additional 3,000 trees over the next three years (2025-2027) to be sold as part of the City's bi-annual tree sale.

As per the terms of Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, respecting notices of motion, any motion arising out of a notice of motion must not take effect unless the following conditions are met:

- a) The Chief Administrative Officer, in consultation with senior staff, has submitted a report within three Council meetings on the feasibility of that motion considering any budget and work plan implications including but not limited to staff capacity, financial, policy, administration, feasibility, operational, legal, etc.;
- b) Council has considered the budget and work plan implications of the motion in light of any strategic plan adopted by Council; and
- c) Council has passed a motion to authorizing the budget and work plan set out in the Chief Administrative Officer’s report.

DISCUSSION

Due to current workloads staff capacity within the Park and Open Space Planning and Urban Forestry Divisions of the Parks and Recreation Department, staff has been delayed in responding to the above mentioned Council resolution. It is anticipated that staff will have completed the analysis of the feasibility and implications of Council’s motion within the next one month and report back to Council at that time.

Actions to be undertaken as part of the feasibility assessment will include:

- 1. **Funding increase from the Climate Action Reserve Fund**- Assess the Climate Action Reserve Fund decision-making framework to evaluate if this fund may support the costs to host the Biannual Tree Sale, whether the number of trees offered are increased or not.
- 2. **Tree stock availability** – Assessing feasibility of sourcing a variety of appropriate quality, healthy trees for various site conditions (sun/ shade, small/ large, deciduous/ coniferous, flowering/ seasonal interest, suitable to climate change, etc.) from local nurseries.
- 3. **Storage space** – Determine if current city tree nursery has holding capacity to support expanded tree sale, and if not, if other viable options exist.
- 4. **Staff capacity** – Determination of required additional staff resources to support an expanded tree sale scope.
- 5. **Alternative Approaches** – Identification and evaluation of alternative approaches to achieving the stated objective of supporting the sale of more trees to more households over the next three years.

It is estimated that the above actions will require up to three days of cumulative staff effort to undertake the work and prepare the report back to Council.

OPTIONS

Options for Council's consideration include:

1. THAT the staff report titled "Update Regarding Council Motion Re: Improving the Public's Access to Trees during the City's Biannual Tree Sale" dated October 7, 2024, be received for information.
2. Provide staff with alternate direction.

Option #1 is recommended.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

The City's the Energy and Climate Action Department and Finance Department were consulted in writing this report.

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

Erika Mashig, Manager, Acting Deputy Director - Parks, Policy and Planning
Sylvain Martel, Acting Superintendent- Urban Forestry
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This report was approved by:

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer
Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation