



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: W.H. Jackson, Director of Utility Services

MEETING DATE: May 17, 2011

SUBJECT: Report APRAC11-020
Draft Urban Forest Strategic Plan

PURPOSE

To consult with the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on the Draft Urban Forest Strategic Plan as presented on March 15, 2011.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC11-020 dated May 17, 2011, of the Director of Utility Services, as follows:

That the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that Council adopt the Draft Urban Forest Strategic Plan as the guide to inform urban forest management in the City of Peterborough.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to receiving this report.

BACKGROUND

The urban forest significantly contributes to the quality of life in the municipal environment. To safeguard the many benefits provided by trees, past Councils have directed resources to manage this key element of Peterborough's green infrastructure. Notwithstanding these efforts, the condition of the trees in Peterborough, similar to other Canadian municipal settings, reflect symptoms that result from an increasing level of environmental stress thereby compromising tree performance and the potential compliment of benefit contribution. Local studies have shown that existing maintenance programs, reduced growing space and root zone disturbances in municipal right of ways, urban intensification and new development has resulted in reduced tree health and imbalances in species distribution and age profile there by impacting the sustained performance of Peterborough's urban forest.

Strategy Development

In response to these growing concerns, Council at its meeting of April 30, 2007 received Report USEC07-012 of the Director of Utility Services and the Director of Community Services. The report outlined a process to undertake an In-House review of the 1988 Forest Resource Management (FRM) policy and the advancement of new policy initiatives.

To review current practice and vision direction to sustain and enhance Peterborough's urban forest, a committee of key community stakeholders was established. Representation through the 28 member committee included City departments, Trent University, Fleming College, Parks Canada, MNR, ORCA, Peterborough Green-Up, Peterborough Utilities, Peterborough Home Builders, Peterborough Field Naturalists and Kawartha Heritage Conservation.

The Committee reviewed existing City policies, By-laws and practices and related experience from other municipal jurisdictions. The committee identified key areas for policy direction that are now compiled in a Draft Urban Forest Strategic Plan for Peterborough. The Strategy includes eight objectives to be implemented by 49 recommendations.

Summary

Staff presented the Draft Urban Forest Strategic Plan to the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in March 2011. Staff wish to now consult with the Committee to secure endorsement of the Plan and respond to any recommended amendments before bringing Peterborough's Urban Forest Strategic Plan forward to Council.

Submitted by,

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Director, Utility Services Department

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