

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Tree Preservation and Tree Canopy Enhancement Initiatives proposed by the Environmental Advisory Committee**

This appendix lists recommendations from the EAC to Council and subsequent staff comments. Staff are able to move forward on some of the recommendations; however, others as noted below require Council direction. The Governance and Legislation Committee did not give direction on this list during consideration on April 26, 2021:

3. Develop proposals to give tree preservation and canopy enhancement greater and more explicit priority in zoning and planning regulations and procedures throughout the City. [R1] Comment to be addressed in report considering Bylaw 1831.
4. Develop proposals for the adoption of an explicit canopy recovery target (eg, 27% canopy coverage by 2045), for increasing the currently projected maximum number of trees (2500) that can be planted on City land, and for increasing lands on which the City can plant additional trees to help meet the target. [R2(a)] Staff will continue to administer the Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 to minimize tree removals and to maximize tree plantings. However, without Council fundamentally changing the policy relationship between views and trees and increased Council support for tree planting, the tree canopy is not likely to increase. Setting a target without administrative policy tools to achieve the target could be considered naïve or even disingenuous.
5. Investigate and report to Council on means to prevent the removal of or interference with trees, and to facility the planting of trees, by the City and BNSF on BNSF lands. [R2(c)]If Council directs, staff could enter dialogue with BNSF.
6. Review regulations and policies concerning “significant trees” and “heritage trees” and establish a consolidated definition of “significant tree”, a “Significant Tree Policy” and a “Significant Tree Registry To be considered as part of Bylaw 1831 report.
7. Review fees, securities, cash-in lieu requirements, replacement values and quotas, and fines to ensure they are commensurate with best practices conducive to preserving and increasing the number of healthy trees and the amount of tree canopy in the City. [R9]Staff will review and make recommendations to Council as appropriate.
8. Review and present any appropriate advice to Council regarding methods and resources employed to ensure effective enforcement of Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611. [R10]Staff will continue to look to Council for support in tree planting and tree preservation efforts.
9. Maintain a record of contractors that contravene Bylaw 1831 or Policy 611 and take steps to ensure that such contractors are not hired by the City, that relevant fines are levied on them, and/or that their business licences are suspended or revoked. [R11] If Council directs, this can be done, subject to legal review.
10. Review and improve methods by which residents and property owners are informed of the importance of tree preservation and the requirements of Policy 611 and Bylaw 1831, and how to notify the City when they believe the Policy and Bylaw are being contravened. [R13] Staff will investigate increased communication to residents.
11. Establish International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification as the sole and exclusive credential required for a business licence as an arborist. [R16(a)] Staff will do this.
12. Develop amendments to Planning Procedures Bylaw 2234 to require that all corporate and Advisory Design Panel reports and recommendations to Council regarding planning and development on private lands include a description of implications for tree protection and canopy enhancement. [R18(b)] To be addressed as part of Bylaw 1831 report.

13. Develop revisions to City policies and procedures, including Policy 611, to prescribe that:

- (i) All corporate reports and recommendations presented to Council regarding works to be conducted on City lands include a section describing any implications for tree protection and canopy enhancement. If Council directs, this can be made part of the report template.
- (ii) All members of Council be informed at least 14 days before the proposed removal of any “City tree”. The EAC agreed that this would not apply to hazardous or dead tree removal.
- (iii) Any member of Council objecting to measures arising under subparagraphs (i) and (ii) may request a Council discussion and decision on the matter. [R18(c)]

Decides to:

- 1. Monitor progress in achieving canopy recovery targets and tree planting goals through annual Tree Canopy Reports to Council that include statistics regarding tree permit applications; actions taken by the City in the management of tree on City lands including the use of revenues from tree permits and tree protection securities; and an analysis of trends and implications for the effectiveness of the City’s tree protection and enhancement efforts. [R2(b), R14(b) R18(d)] If Council directs, a report can be made; however, reference is made to the comments in Section 2 above.
- 2. Conduct, on an annual basis, a public discussion of Tree Canopy Reports prepared by staff. [R18(d)]