

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: February 28, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Jim Gordon, P.Eng., Director, Engineering & Municipal Operations

SUBJECT: Tree Protection, Canopy Enhancement and Management on City Lands Policy 611 - Update

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the updates to Policy 611 as presented in this report to be incorporated in an updated Policy 611, attached as Appendix A.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 20, 2021, Council approved changes to the Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611 as recommended by the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). The recommendations are attached as Appendix B. One of the approved changes was to rename the policy to “Tree Protection, Canopy Enhancement and Management on City Lands Policy 611” (Policy 611).

This report is in follow up to Council discussion and recommendations at the September 20, 2021 meeting and aligns Policy 611 with City of White Rock Tree Protection Bylaw 2407 (Tree Bylaw) adopted by Council on December 14, 2021, which Bylaw is attached as Appendix C, and addresses feedback from members of Council and the EAC.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

Motion # & Meeting Date	Motion Details
2021-323 September 20, 2021	<p>That Council directs the following items be addressed and there be a report back:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 5: Investigate and report to Council on means to prevent the removal of or interference with trees, and to facilitate the planting of trees, by the City and BNSF on BNSF lands. • Item 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 licenses are suspended or revoked; and

<p>2021-324 September 20, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 1 Page 63: 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 trees 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. <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried (7 to 0)</p> <p>THAT Council approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The revised Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611 shown as Appendix B; and 2. Adding a section to the Corporate Report Template to include implications for tree preservation and tree canopy enhancement where applicable. <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried (7 to 0)</p>
<p>2021-457 November 22, 2021</p>	<p>THAT Council receive for information the corporate report in regard to the proposed City of White Rock Tree Protection Bylaw, 2021, No. 2407</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried (6 to 0) Absent (1) Councillor Fathers</p>
<p>2021-471 November 22, 2021</p>	<p>THAT Council give first, second and third reading to “White Rock Tree Protection Bylaw, 2021, No. 2407”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried (6 to 0) Absent (1) Councillor Fathers</p>
<p>2021-493 December 13, 2021</p>	<p>Recommendation #1 To Rescind Readings as the Bylaw Contained and Error.</p> <p>THAT Council rescind first, second and third reading given to “White Rock Tree Protection Bylaw, 2021 No. 2407” at their November 22,2021 Regular Council Meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried (5 to 0) Absent Councillors Fathers and Manning</p>
<p>2021-494 December 13, 2021</p>	<p>Recommendation #2</p> <p>THAT Council give first, second and third reading to “White Rock Tree Protection Bylaw, 2021 No. 2407” as circulated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried (5 to 0) Absent Councillors Fathers and Manning</p>
<p>2021-505 December 14, 2021</p>	<p>THAT Council give final reading to “White Rock Tree Protection Bylaw, 2021 No. 2407”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried (5 to 0) Absent Councillors Fathers and Manning</p>
<p>2021-506 December 14, 2021</p>	<p>THAT Council rescind Council Policy 510 “Criteria for Type 2 Tree Removal Requests on Private Land” recognizing that the related</p>

	content has been incorporated into the City of White Rock Tree Preservation Bylaw 2021, No. 2407. Motion Carried (5 to 0) Absent Councillors Fathers and Manning
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INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

On September 20, 2021, Council approved changes to Policy 611. Recommended further updates to the Policy are discussed:

a) Reconcile Policy 611 Tree Replacement fees with Tree Bylaw Tree Replacement fees

Current Policy 611 fees for tree replacement are as shown below with reconciliation to Tree Bylaw No. 2407 shown in red:

- (a) 6 – 50 cm DBH tree removed - \$2,000 **(\$3,000)**
- (b) 51 cm to 65 cm DBH tree removed - \$9,000 **(\$4,500)**
- (c) 66 cm to 75 cm DBH tree - \$12,000 **(\$6,000)**
- (d) 76 cm to 85 cm DBH - \$15,000 **(\$7,500)**
- (e) Greater than 85 cm DBH tree - \$18,000 **(\$9,000)**

b) Two members of the EAC followed up the September 20, 2021 Council report with suggestions that are outlined below. Staff included these for Council approval in an updated version of Policy 611 attached as Appendix A. The suggestions are consistent with discussions at EAC meetings:

- i)* Add a clause that “All members of Council will be informed at least 14 days in advance of the proposed removal of any non-hazardous ‘City tree’ and any member of Council objecting to measures arising from this may request a Council discussion and decision on the matter.” This clause is inserted as a new sub-para 3(f) of Policy 611.
- ii)* Add a clause that “When the City is evaluating initiatives that might result in tree removal on City lands, all possible ways to protect the trees should be considered, and ambitious replacement requirements for trees that must be removed should be applied.” This clause is inserted as a new sub-para 3(e) of Policy 611.
- iii)* Amend Sec 6.3 (a) to change “30 metres” to “100 metres.”
- iv)* Add a clause that “City Arborists will visit and inspect all sites under consideration for a tree permit.”

Following is an update on other tree matters discussed by Council and the EAC:

a) Item 5: Investigate and report to Council on means to prevent the removal of or interference with trees, and to facilitate the planting of trees, by the City and BNSF on BNSF lands.

Staff reached out to BNSF by email in December 2021 but haven’t heard back yet. Staff are not aware of any BNSF removal plans but will discuss the potential for tree planting in White Rock.

b) Item 9: Maintain a record of contractors that contravene Bylaw 1831 (now Bylaw 2407) 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 licenses are suspended or revoked.

Staff are working to set up a process to record contravening contractors and to ensure that they are not hired by the City.

- c) Item 1 Page 63: 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 trees 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.

Annual Tree Canopy Report will be scheduled every Fall.

- d) 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.

This process will be undertaken.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The fees in Policy 611 will be adjusted to align with the fees in Bylaw 2407 and may result in an overall loss of tree replacement revenue; however, this is not expected to be significant.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The new Policy 611 establishes different policies for managing trees on City right-of-ways and more closely aligns with Bylaw No. 2407. It is not anticipated that there will be significant new legal implications.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The changes to Policy 611 are based on the community involvement from the EAC Committee Members.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

The Engineering & Municipal Operations Department and the Planning and Development Department worked together with the EAC in making the proposed changes.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

More trees and a greater tree canopy have positive climate change implications.

IMPLICATIONS FOR TREE PRESERVATION AND TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT

Positive implications are the intention of the changes to Policy 611.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This aligns with "Our Environment and Our Community" strategic priorities.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following alternative option is available for Council's consideration:

1. Council not approve Policy 611 changes recommended in this report, however this would not be consistent with the recommendations of the EAC, nor enhance the White Rock tree canopy.

CONCLUSION

On September 20, 2021, Council approved changes to Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611 as recommended by the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). One of the approved changes was to rename the policy “Tree Protection, Canopy Enhancement and Management on City Lands Policy 611” (Policy 611).

The recommendations in this report and updated Policy 611 attached as Appendix A reflect Council discussion and recommendations at the September 20, 2021 Council meeting, aligns Policy 611 with City of White Rock Tree Protection Bylaw 2407 (Tree Bylaw) adopted by Council December 14, 2021, and addresses feedback from members of Council and the EAC.

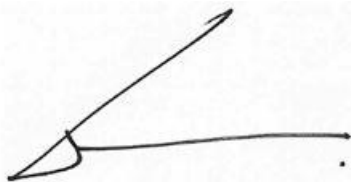
Respectfully submitted,



Jim Gordon
Director, Engineering & Municipal Operations

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

I concur with the recommendation of this corporate report.



Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: Proposed Amended Policy 611
Appendix B: Recommendations of the Environmental Advisory Committee
Appendix C: Tree Protection Bylaw 2407