

Infrastructure Services | **Tree Policy**

Presented by

Nathalie Mihelchic, P. Eng.,
Manager of Operations
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Background

- Council Committee to review Tree By-law
 - (Councillors Barbeau, Gasparini, and Dutrisac)
- Results of the meetings with Councillors
- Presentation:
 - Previous Tree By-Law
 - New Tree By-Law
 - Recommendations
 - Legal to draft new By-Law



Maintenance of City-Owned Trees

Maintenance of City-owned trees on road right-of-ways involves:

- Inspection / Evaluation
- Removal / Planting
- Pruning
- Protection



Previous Tree By-Law

Deals with the care and maintenance of trees on City right of way frontage of lots on publicly maintained roads.

Previous By-Law created by former City of Sudbury:

- Authorizes Council to expend funds for municipal tree planting and maintenance
- Identifies species to be planted and removed
- Provides protection and maintenance of municipal trees



Previous Tree By-Law

- Remove hazardous and nuisance trees by the authority of the General Manager.
- No mechanism for homeowners to have healthy trees removed unless they are causing structural problems.



New Tree By-Law

Two categories of trees defined:

Non-approved Species:

The City no longer plants these trees for various reasons i.e. large root systems, dropping fruit, brittle, too large, dirty, odour, disease, etc.

–All fruit bearing trees added: i.e. crab-apple tree

Approved Species:

Currently planted by our City crews



New Tree By-Law

A) Healthy trees of a non-approved species may be removed under the following conditions:

- Damage to a house and/or occupant due to proximity, lean and size of tree and causing stress to homeowner; and all other means to save tree have been exhausted.
- Tree droppings on their property which require constant clean -up
- Damage by City tree to house, lawn, vehicles or driveway:
 - the tree will be pruned if applicable and placed on a future priority list for removal and replacement.
 - where damage cannot be mitigated, the tree will be removed and replaced with an approved species.



New Tree By-Law

New By-Law provides a mechanism for residents to apply to the City's Planning Committee if healthy trees of an approved species are causing similar problems as those described in the previous slide.

- Removals will occur within 6-12 months of the review
- Planting of new trees of an approved species



New Tree By-Law

B) Healthy trees of any species may be removed under the following conditions.

- Sewer lines being blocked by roots of the City tree; the City shall have the sewer re-lined at its cost and place the tree on a future list for replacement.
 - extra funds for conservation efforts (Budget 2010)
- Weeping tiles or foundation proven to be damaged by the roots of the City tree; the tree will be removed and replaced with an approved species.



Recommendations

Existing By-Law modified with the following recommendations:

1. Encompasses the entire City of Greater Sudbury
2. “Request for Tree Service” form
3. Healthy trees not removed unless they meet the conditions previously described.
4. Requests for removal of healthy trees of the approved species to be submitted to the City’s Planning Committee for approval.
5. All trees removed will be replaced with an approved species tree. Additional funds to be taken from the Tree Reserve fund.
6. Committee formed to review by-law periodically
7. Budget option for conservation efforts in the 2010 budget .
8. That a formal by-law be prepared by Legal Services

