

Subject: 2021 Tree Maintenance Program Summary Report**Recommendation:**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2021-0207 – 2021 Tree Maintenance Program Summary Report, for information.

Background:

In 2021 Council approved the Tree Maintenance Policy S802-01 to provide a process that addresses the maintenance and use of trees in municipal parks, municipal rights of way and other municipal owned lands with a goal of promoting a healthy and robust tree canopy within the Town of Pelham.

This report serves to fulfill the requirements of the Policy S802-01 inform Council of the results of the Tree Maintenance program including the status of tree works and pruning programs, tree removals, tree planting, opportunities and emerging issues.

Analysis:

In 2021 the total approved Beautification Division Operating Budget for Tree Maintenance in the Town of Pelham is \$300,000. The two largest components include \$150,000 allocated to the Gypsy Moth Management Program, and \$125,000 allocated to Tree Maintenance which includes: planned pruning, tree removals, stump grinding, ISA tree inspection, emergency response, and equipment rental. The remaining \$25,000 is allocated to tree planting. The total Beautification budget for 2021 is \$937,707, of which 32% is directly related to tree maintenance.

The Town of Pelham's contracted service provider completed the pruning of one hundred eight (108) boulevard trees on Woodstream Boulevard, between Pancake Lane and Spruceside Drive and Welland Road, between Haist Street and Pelham Street. Three (3) large diameter trees on Church Street were also pruned as required.

A total of one hundred (100) International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment Qualification inspections (ISA TRAQ) were completed on College Street, Emmett Street, and Maple Street between Canboro Road and Sandra Drive. These areas represent the highest density of large diameter silver maple trees in Pelham. An additional five (5) ISA TRAQ inspections were completed through homeowner request.

Municipal staff completed three hundred twelve (312) resident pruning requests as well as completing the pruning of fifty five (55) trees on Milburn Drive and Fern Gate. Other works by municipal staff included stump grinding at twenty five (25) locations, removal of hazardous limbs along the unopened road allowance west of Beckett Crescent, and completing 1/3 of the urban tree inventory utilizing an ArcGis data collector application.

Fifteen municipal trees were removed in 2021. Two of the trees removed were 800mm in diameter at breast height, the remainder were under 400mm. The total number of trees required to be planted according to the Tree Maintenance Policy S802-01 based on their diameter is thirty two (32). At the time of authoring this report twenty four (24) trees have been planted. An additional twenty five (25) trees have been purchased and are scheduled to be planted by municipal staff prior to the end of 2021 depending on weather.

Trees removed during construction projects are not included in this report and are replaced as part of the capital project as per contract.

In 2022, tree pruning will focus on College Street, Emmett Street, Maple Street and Garner Avenue as prescribed in the 2021 ISA TRAQ inspections. Municipal staff will continue pruning activities on Millbridge Crescent, Fallingbrook Drive, and Brookbank Crescent. To date, five (5) trees have been identified for removal through the inspection process including one (1) on Pelham Street (north of Elm Street), two (2) on Maple Street, and two (2) on Garner Avenue.

The periodic LDD Moth infestation continues to threaten the tree canopy within the Town of Pelham. The results of upcoming egg mass surveys and 2022 defoliation forecasts will be communicated to Council as per Policy S802-03.

Financial Considerations:

There are no financial considerations attributed to this report. Requests for additional budget allocation for tree maintenance activities have been communicated in previous reports and have been included in 2022 operating budget for Council approval.

Alternatives Reviewed:

No alternatives were considered in the authoring of this report. The requirement to prepare an annual information report to Council outlining the results of the Tree Maintenance Program is dictated in section 4.7 of the Tree Maintenance Policy S802-01.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Strong Organization

The tree canopy within the municipal boundary is vital to the high quality of life within the Town of Pelham.

Consultation:

The Supervisor of Beautification contributed to the drafting of this report.

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

Tree Maintenance Policy S802-01

Public Works Report 2021-0159

Public Works Report 2021-0128

Public Works Report 2021-0115

Public Works Report 2021-0097

Prepared and Recommended by:

Ryan Cook, Dipl. M.M., CRS
Manager of Public Works

Jason Marr, P. Eng.
Director of Public Works

Prepared and Submitted by:

David Cribbs, BA, MA, JD, MPA
Chief Administrative Officer