

Urban Forest Strategy Recommendation

- That the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to provide **semi-annual verbal or written updates**, ideally in May and November, to the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) with respect to the Urban Forestry Strategy and its implementation



Park & Street
Caliper Tree
Watering

Jan. 18, 2016

"Balled & Burlapped" Trees



B&B trees have lost up to 2/3 of their roots, but still have all their leaves and branches to support

Park & Street Caliper Tree Planting in London

- Planted by contractor (annual bids)
 - ~\$225 - \$250 / tree (vs. up to \$450 for residents)
- **Warranty:** 2 year
- **Watering:** In theory, responsibility of the contractor awarded the planting contract – **but not actually referenced in contract** (only obligation to replace if failed)

Park & Street Caliper Tree Watering

- No monitoring of watering by City staff (just warranty replacement checks)
- For contractor: replacing tree - less expensive than watering
- Result: trees in poor condition, esp. in parks (no homeowners)
- After replacement, still no watering, and 2 years of lost growth
- After 2 years: no tree?

White Oaks Park, Carling Heights

- **White Oaks Park:** ~90% mortality in stand of about 15 caliper trees planted by fence along Renny Cres.
- **Carling Heights:** ~50-60% mortality in row of about 10 caliper trees along McMahan Street



Street & Park Tree Planting in 2014

| Type of Planting | # of Caliper Trees Planted | Cost (Est., based on \$250/plant) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Street Trees - Infill | 2,305 | \$576,250 |
| Street & SWM Trees – New Subdivisions | 1,680 | \$420,000 |
| Park & Commemorative Trees | 650 | \$162,500 |
| TOTAL | 4,635 | \$1,158,750 |

Watering

- One **City-owned truck** goes around to do some watering in summer
 - Downtown trees
- No **watering contracts**
- **Homeowners** *may* water street trees (park trees: out of luck)
- **Climate change** will exacerbate problem (2.7 °C commitment in Paris = ~ 5.4 °C increase in Canada)

Recommendation

That:

- That Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to explore the development of a **City-planting watering program** for spring 2016 implementation, including:
 - a) the use of a planting contractor, separate watering contractor and/or City (summer) staff;
 - b) proposed costs, warranty impacts and long-term benefits; and
 - c) a program monitoring process to ensure adequate watering is taking place.