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Boulevard Tree Protection By-law



Trees & Forests Advisory Committee
September 26, 2018
Sara Rowland – Urban Forestry Planner



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Overview

We Are “The Forest City”

Urban Forest Strategy (2014) “Protect More, Plant More”

Tree Canopy Cover Goal 34% by 2065

Update Boulevard Tree Protection By-law

The London Plan – Walkable, attractive, shaded streets and neighbourhoods



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What is the purpose?

- Protect City tree on the boulevard from the actions of others
- Process to remove a street tree that is not a hazard
- Fees to recover our costs
- Not about restricting maintenance, day to day operations
- Boulevard = portion of every road allowance not used as sidewalk, driveway, travelled roadway or shoulder



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Background – Previous Report

February 2015 – Public Participation Meeting to repeal, replace Boulevard Tree Protection By-law

Directed Civic Administration to report back

Report delayed by Tree Protection By-law development



Issues with the current By-law

No Part I set fines – no ability to issue “tickets”

Part III Laying of an Information

1. Charge
2. Summons
3. Court (or Early Resolution)

Consensual Removal fee insufficient



Public Comments (2015)

- Allow easier planting of tree = without permission of City
- Reconsider fees, consensual removal
- Implications for developments requiring tree removal?



2018 Public Engagement

Building and Development Liaison Forum

Urban Agriculture Steering Committee

1. Evaluate public land for “foodscaping”
2. Edible trees – where safely maintained, long-term (rarely on boulevards)

Other initiatives underway:

- map edible trees on City lands
- identify suitable community orchard sites
- promote adoption of existing apple orchard



How we addressed concerns

Street tree planting

- Down from 6 years (2013) to 1 year (in most cases) – Emerald Ash Borer
- Proactively identifying plantable spots
- Homeowner requests – City plants in next planting season for “free”
- Consider edible trees - where appropriate



Main Changes Proposed

- Improve language of By-law
- Tool for efficient enforcement – Part I or Part III
- Increase fees for removal and replacement of boulevard tree where City Engineer agrees
- Tree replacement 1 tree:10 cm DBH removed - replacement tree(s) may go elsewhere
- Fee includes interim boulevard repair e.g. stumping, seed



Remaining Unchanged

- City Engineer's By-law
- Forestry Operations will administer and enforce
- Scope of By-law – trees on boulevard
- Persons wishing to plant a tree require consent of City Engineer

City Engineer has broad authority to manage trees on boulevard, or adjacent trees threatening public safety



What We Propose to Do Next

- Receive, consider and, if appropriate, incorporate suggestions from public
- Consult Trees and Forestry Advisory Committee
- Finalize By-law
- Return with By-law to appropriate Committee, first quarter of 2019

