

Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting
From: **Outside Works**
Date: May 7, 2018
Subject: Tree Policy
Recommendation: **THAT Council adopts Urban Forest Policy #1105.**

Background

The Urban Forest Policy regulates the management of trees on City property, for example, on roads, parks, and boulevards. It covers the reasons for maintaining an urban forest, risk assessment, species at risk and habitat, tree donations, and removal criteria. The policy covers the broad criteria for planting, pruning, or removing trees and vegetation. It allows Council to set targets for staff to follow, for example, replacing every removed tree with two new trees where possible.

The City does not have a current policy that guides tree maintenance. Creating this policy makes sure that the criteria are consistently applied and clarifies the decision making process. It also serves as a values statement by setting the compliance and direction of the City's actions in maintaining green infrastructure and the reasons for managing an urban forest.

Committee of the Whole discussed the draft policy at the April 9, 2018 meeting. The main concern raised was the ratio of trees planted to replace a tree removed. Staff subsequently reviewed the policy structure and made changes to better outline the related documents. The policy draft now presented has an outline of the tree management procedure and the urban forest plan to be developed. The intent of the outline in the policy is so Council can set the main headings (the "what") for staff to consider in the plan and procedure (the "how").

Benefits or Impacts

General

Staff will have increased guidance on tree maintenance decisions. Residents will have a more consistent explanation for why trees are being removed, replaced, or pruned.

Policy/Legislation

This establishes a new policy.

Attachments

Urban Forest Policy # 1105

Recommendation

THAT Council adopts Urban Forest Policy #1105.

Options

1. RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the report.
2. RESOLVED THAT Council does not accept the report.
3. RESOLVED THAT Council refers the matter back to staff for further information.

Report Approval Details

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Document Title: | RFD 2018 - Tree policy RM1.docx |
| Attachments: | - City of Grand Forks Council Urban Forest Policy 1105.docx |
| Final Approval Date: | Apr 30, 2018 |

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

David Reid - Apr 27, 2018 - 2:12 PM

Diane Heinrich - Apr 30, 2018 - 1:53 PM