

Past Reports on Tree Protection on Private Property

Discussion around tree protection on private property initiated as early as August 2005, resulting in a variety of approaches and recommendations for policy, programs, and processes, and in some cases, bylaws (See Table 1). On June 27, 2016, Council approved changes to the Zoning Bylaw with regards to minimum tree and shrub planting requirements and incentives for retaining trees on private property in mature neighbourhoods. The effectiveness of these changes are outlined in Attachment 2 (Inventory and Effectiveness of Current Practices and Resources).

Table 1: Past Reports Chronology				
Date	Report	Committee	Purpose	Outcome
August 15, 2005	Recent Heritage Valley Incidents 2005PDP079	Executive Committee Item D.2.b.	This is an information report regarding the authority of the City of Edmonton to regulate the removal of trees on public and private lands. Approaches used by other cities to regulate the removal of trees on public and private lands are described.	This report presented three different amendments that could be considered to control the removal of trees on private property: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amend the Municipal Development Plan; • amend the Zoning Bylaw to address natural tree stands; or • amend Zoning Bylaw to address individual trees
August 18, 2005	Natural Areas – Trees 2005PDP080	Executive Committee Item D.2.b.	This is an information report regarding the tree stand bulldozed in Heritage Valley and outlines the history of the action, the authority of the City to protect natural areas and options for the City to consider that could prevent similar actions from occurring in the future.	This report presented a number of measures that the City could investigate for their utility in limiting the loss of woodland and other natural areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amendments to the Zoning Bylaw • amendments to the Municipal Development Plan • expansion of current natural areas acquisition practices • request changes to provincial

				legislation
December 12, 2007	Bylaw for the Protection of Trees: Progress Report 2007PW4540	Executive Committee E5	This information report summarizes the progress on Administration's work to find a legal and effective way to protect natural area tree stands on private property.	<p>This report presented challenges with protection of natural tree stands on private land, recommending that Administration not pursue this matter further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • difficulties in effective implementation and enforcement; • potential jurisdictional issues; • absence of supporting evidence that a stand-alone tree protection bylaw has a valid purpose as required by the Municipal Government Act.
August 18, 2015	Development Permit Options and Incentives for Preserving Trees on Private Residential Properties CR_2368	Executive Committee Item 6.2	This report outlines the options and incentives related to development permits aimed at preserving existing trees on private property in mature neighbourhoods.	<p>This report presented three options for consideration, with Option 1 as the preferred and approved approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: Create a Minimum Planting Requirement for All Low Density Residential Zones • Option 2: Develop Planting Ratios and Require Mandatory Landscape Plans • Option 3: Include Tree Protection in the Zoning Bylaw <p>This report also considered incentivizing the retention of existing trees through granting variances to Zoning Bylaw 12800 regulations.</p>
March 22, 2016	Commercial and Industry Property Incentive to Retain Mature Trees, Increase Planting and Provide Drainage Enhancements	Executive Committee Item 6.6	This report provides information on possible incentive programs to encourage green infrastructure on private commercial and industrial properties.	<p>This report presented options for green infrastructure incentive programs for commercial and industry private properties, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing stormwater credits to retain mature trees • subsidies or grants to increase tree

	CR_2851			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> planting expedited permit processes for projects that include green infrastructure
June 27, 2016	Bylaw 17672 - Text Amendment to Zoning Bylaw 12800 to Amend Landscaping Requirements for Low Density Residential Development and Introduce Incentives for Preserving Existing Trees and Shrubs CR_3711	Public Hearing Item 3.10	To implement minimum tree and shrub planting requirements for low density residential development city-wide and create incentives to preserve mature trees and shrubs by crediting preserved landscaping towards required landscaping.	<p>This report presented Bylaw 17672, with the following amendments proposed and adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimum tree and shrub planting requirements for single detached, semi-detached, duplex, row housing, and stacked row housing, not part of a multi-unit project development, based on site width; incentives to encourage the retention of existing trees and shrubs submission of a signed Construction Management Acknowledgement Form