



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Engineering Services Division

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	May 22, 2014
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Tree Removal to Facilitate Robb Avenue Storm Outfall and Battlefield Creek Rehabilitation (PW14048) - (Ward 5)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 5
PREPARED BY:	Susan Jacob (905) 546-2424, Extension 2621
SUBMITTED BY:	Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the necessary existing trees be approved for removal to facilitate the implementation of Capital Projects which include the rehabilitation of watercourse and stabilization of valley slopes from the Robb Avenue storm outfall to the confluence with the main channel of Battlefield Creek.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The removal of trees is needed to facilitate the implementation of a programmed capital project which includes the rehabilitation of watercourse and stabilization of valley slopes from Robb Avenue storm outfall to the confluence with the main channel of Battlefield Creek. These trees are in a varied state of health. Council approval is being sought at this time to remove the trees in order to facilitate the proposed construction. Where possible, Forestry have provided their review and comment on the condition of the existing trees to be removed and determined the value of compensation according to the existing replacement policy. Removal costs and applicable compensation value is borne by the corresponding Capital Budget account for the project requiring the removal. The total number of trees being removed is fifty-five (55), thirty-one (31) of which are in fair to good condition and the remaining eighteen (18) dead or in poor condition. The replacement value of the thirty five municipal trees has been determined to be \$85,230 plus HST.

Alternative for Consideration - See Page 2

FINANCIAL - STAFFING - LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The removal and replacement of trees will be funded from the Capital Budget appropriation allocated to the respective projects. There is sufficient budget in the project Capital Budget account.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The project area contains significant valley wall erosion scars and areas of slope instability, deterioration of the storm outfall energy dissipation structure, and significant channel degradation and erosion.

The proposed work is to restore the storm infrastructure, repair the watercourse, and stabilize the adjacent valley slopes. The locations of 55 trees, 35 of which are in good condition are in direct conflict with the proposed works and require removal.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Council approval is being sought in accordance with the provisions of the former City of Hamilton Tree By-law number 92-155.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The Forestry Section of the Environmental Services Division was consulted on this project and the impacts of the tree. The replacement value of the tree and the removal costs will be borne by the Capital Budget account.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority was consulted as the project is within their regulated area and permit for the works are being completed.

The Ward Councillor was consulted and is supportive of the project.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION

Design of proposed works has been undertaken considering the best arboriculture industry techniques in an effort to minimize tree damage during construction related activities when feasible.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

In order to avoid the removal of the thirty five (35) trees in Robb Avenue outfall we would have to eliminate the proposed watercourse rehabilitation and slope stabilization.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 - 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

The removal of the trees will facilitate the implementation of the programmed Capital project which includes the watercourse rehabilitation and slope stabilization. This will assist achieving Council's strategic goal of a Prosperous & Healthy Community by

investing in restoring the storm infrastructure, repairing the watercourse and stabilizing the valley slopes to ensure safety for area residents and assets.

Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Strategic Objective

- 1.1 Continue to grow the non-residential tax base.
- 1.2 Continue to prioritize capital infrastructure projects to support managed growth and optimize community benefit.
- 1.3 Promote economic opportunities with a focus on Hamilton's downtown core, all downtown areas and waterfronts.
- 1.4 Improve the City's transportation system to support multi-modal mobility and encourage inter-regional connections.
- 1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.
- 1.6 Enhance Overall Sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental).

Strategic Priority #2

Valued & Sustainable Services

WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.

Strategic Objective

- 2.1 Implement processes to improve services, leverage technology and validate cost effectiveness and efficiencies across the Corporation.
- 2.2 Improve the City's approach to engaging and informing citizens and stakeholders.
- 2.3 Enhance customer service satisfaction.

Strategic Priority #3

Leadership & Governance

WE work together to ensure we are a government that is respectful towards each other and that the community has confidence and trust in.

Strategic Objective

- 3.1 Engage in a range of inter-governmental relations (IGR) work that will advance partnerships and projects that benefit the City of Hamilton.
- 3.2 Build organizational capacity to ensure the City has a skilled workforce that is capable and enabled to deliver its business objectives.
- 3.3 Improve employee engagement.
- 3.4 Enhance opportunities for administrative and operational efficiencies.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None