

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2016

Item 11, Report No. 24, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 7, 2016.

11 THE 2016 UPDATE TO THE FORESTRY OPERATIONS TREE REPLACEMENT STRATEGY ALL WARDS

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, dated May 31, 2016:

Recommendation

The Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Communications, recommend:

1. That a tender be issued for the removal of 2,500 trees to facilitate the 2016 Tree Planting Strategy, utilizing its unused funds;
2. That a tender be issued for the planting of an additional 1,800 trees, to facilitate the 2016 Tree Planting Strategy; and
3. That the above tenders, including all contingency allowances, applicable taxes and administration recovery be funded from Capital Projects RP-6700-15 Tree Planting Program-Regular, RP-6739-15 Tree Planting Program-EAB, RP-6755-15 Ice Storm Tree Replacement Strategy and RP-6762-16 Tree Planting Program-Supplementary.

Contribution to Sustainability

The City's 2016 update to the tree replacement strategy will provide Council with the decision process to be implemented in the 2016 operating season.

This report is consistent with the Green Directions Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, specifically, Goal 2, Objective 2.2: "To develop Vaughan as a City with maximum green space and an urban form that supports our expected population growth by providing strategies for achieving our urban forest targets which include; planning, maintenance, species and planting recommendations."

Economic Impact

There are no immediate budgetary impacts resulting from the adoption of this report.

On March 1, 2016 (COW, Item 6, Report No.12), Council awarded the 2016 tree planting contracts for 5,970 trees (T15-425 and T15-596), at a total cost of approximately \$ 2.9M (including HST, contingency, and administrative recovery). The contract costs represent substantially better pricing than in past years which has resulted in a remaining balance in the approved capital projects RP-6700-15, RP-6739-15, RP-6755-15 and RP-6762-16 of approximately \$1.3M

Based on pricing received from the two most recent tender awards for tree plantings, it is estimated that the remaining balance in the above mentioned capital projects will be sufficient to fund the removal of approximately 2,500 additional dead and/or hazardous trees and the planting of approximately 1,800 additional trees. The actual number of trees to be removed and planted will be dependent upon the tender results.

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Communications Plan

Working in collaboration with the Corporate Communications department, a communications plan has been developed to raise awareness and inform the citizens about the City's tree replacement strategy.

Tactics will include a write-up in the printed Public Works newsletter delivered to every household in June, website content (including information on the tree replacement plan, FAQs, streets receiving trees this year, and information on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and planting your own tree), ongoing social media posts, eNewsletter and City Page Online content, messages for Councillor eNewsletters, and media outreach.

Purpose

To provide Council with an information report outlining the strategy chosen for prioritizing the existing City-wide planting locations for the 2016 season and future operating seasons.

Background - Analysis and Options

The awarded tenders T15-425 and T15-596 reduced the average cost of planting a tree by 12.57% from 2015 and 36.22% from prior to implementing the tree replacement strategy, resulting in a cost saving of \$ 1,262,105.

On March 1, 2016, Council awarded the 2016 tree planting contracts for 5,970 trees, at a total cost of \$ 2,855,773 (including HST, contingency, and administrative recovery). The contract costs which represent substantially better pricing than in past years resulted in a remaining balance of \$1,262,105 in the City's 2016 budget tree replanting accounts.

The existing planting program will allow for approximately 45% of all residential trees to be replaced. The cost savings allow for the planting of an additional 1,800 trees increasing the residential tree recovery to 59%.

As part of the 2016 tree replacement strategy 6,300 dead and/or hazardous trees have been identified to be removed to address safety concerns and provide planting opportunities.

The costs saved, resulting from the tree planting tenders T15-425 and T15-596, will allow the removal of 2,500 dead and/or hazardous trees to address safety concerns and provide planting opportunities.

Residential areas are the highest priority.

The 2016 strategy is a continuation from the previous year, focuses the City's replanting program on residential areas as its highest priority. Boulevard trees in commercial and industrial areas and trees in parks and open spaces will be focused on in future years, once the needs in residential areas have been addressed. The criteria for the tree species selection for each site will also remain the same, acknowledging physical restrictions and diversification requirements.

The planting strategy prioritizes entire streets rather than single addresses. Completing the tree replacement and stumping work in one season will help to minimize disruption to the neighborhood.

Prior to the implementation of the tree planting strategy, trees were replaced based on a "*First Come First Serve*" basis for individual residential locations. The new strategy of "*Do it Once*" will

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select entire streets and replace all trees and stumps within it. This approach will help to minimize disruption within a neighborhood while expediting the re-establishment of the neighborhood canopy.

The planting strategy is a reflection of the existing conditions of all City-wide plantable locations, taking into consideration tree loss severity and geographic distribution.

The 2016 planting strategy considers all neighborhoods equally, ensuring that the severity of tree losses is the key consideration while ensuring that all residential areas of the City that have been affected are being represented. The prioritization of streets is based on the following principles:

- Tree Loss Severity of Groups of Streets
- Geographic Distribution by Street Length
- Tree Loss Severity of Individual Streets

An existing program offers residents the opportunity to plant their own tree on City boulevards at their expense in order to expedite the replacement of their tree.

It is anticipated that even with an accelerated planting strategy, it will take several years for the City to replace all of the residential street boulevard trees.

Some residents may prefer not to wait for the City to replace the tree and may want to plant their own tree. Similarly, residents may prefer to plant a larger caliper tree in the boulevard. To accommodate these requests, a process has been established to allow residents to replace their own trees, based on meeting certain criteria, as follows:

- The location must be approved and prepared by City staff.
- Species are selected in accordance with the City's current diversification mandate.
- The City will facilitate the co-ordination, planting.
- The resident will be responsible for all associated costs.
- The normal 12 month warrantee on the tree must be signed over to the City.

Although this program has been in place for a number of years, the number of requests has increased substantially since the ice storm.

Future annual planting lists will reflect updated tree loss information and the extent of previous neighborhood replanting.

The City will continue to experience increased tree mortality through the EAB infestation as well as from other natural causes, adding to the existing list. Conversely, the previous year's planting program will have resulted in establishment of tree canopies in neighborhoods. Annual strategies will continually reflect these changes while continuing to prioritize on the basis of entire streets and equitable neighborhood distributions.

Relationship to Term of council Service Excellence Strategic Map (2014-2018)

The recommendations contained in this report support the following Term of Council Priorities:

- Re-establish the urban tree canopy
- Invest, renew and manage infrastructure and assets
- Continue to cultivate an environmentally sustainable city

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Regional Implications

The Region is responsible for all trees planted within the Region's road allowance. As such, there are no implications on trees maintained by the Region as a result of this report.

Conclusion

The issuance of tenders are issued for the removal of an additional 2,500 trees removal and the planting of an additional 1,800 trees in 2016, funded by the remaining funds in RP-6700-15 Tree Planting Program-Regular, RP-6739-15 Tree Planting Program-EAB, RP-6755-15 Ice Storm Tree Replacement Strategy and RP-6762-16 Tree Planting Program-Supplementary, will help to address safety concerns and accelerate the re-establishment of its tree canopy..

Attachments

1. Map outlining all residential removal locations.
2. Map outlining 2016 planting locations.

Report prepared by:

Joerg Hettmann, Manager of Forestry, Ext. 6139

Zoran Postic, Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, Ext. 6137

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

**THE 2016 UPDATE TO THE FORESTRY OPERATIONS TREE REPLACEMENT STRATEGY
ALL WARDS****Recommendation**

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Contribution to Sustainability

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Conclusion

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Planting Program-Regular, RP-6739-15 Tree Planting Program-EAB, RP-6755-15 Ice Storm Tree Replacement Strategy and RP-6762-16 Tree Planting Program-Supplementary, will help to address safety concerns and accelerate the re-establishment of its tree canopy..

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Joerg Hettmann, Manager of Forestry, Ext. 6139

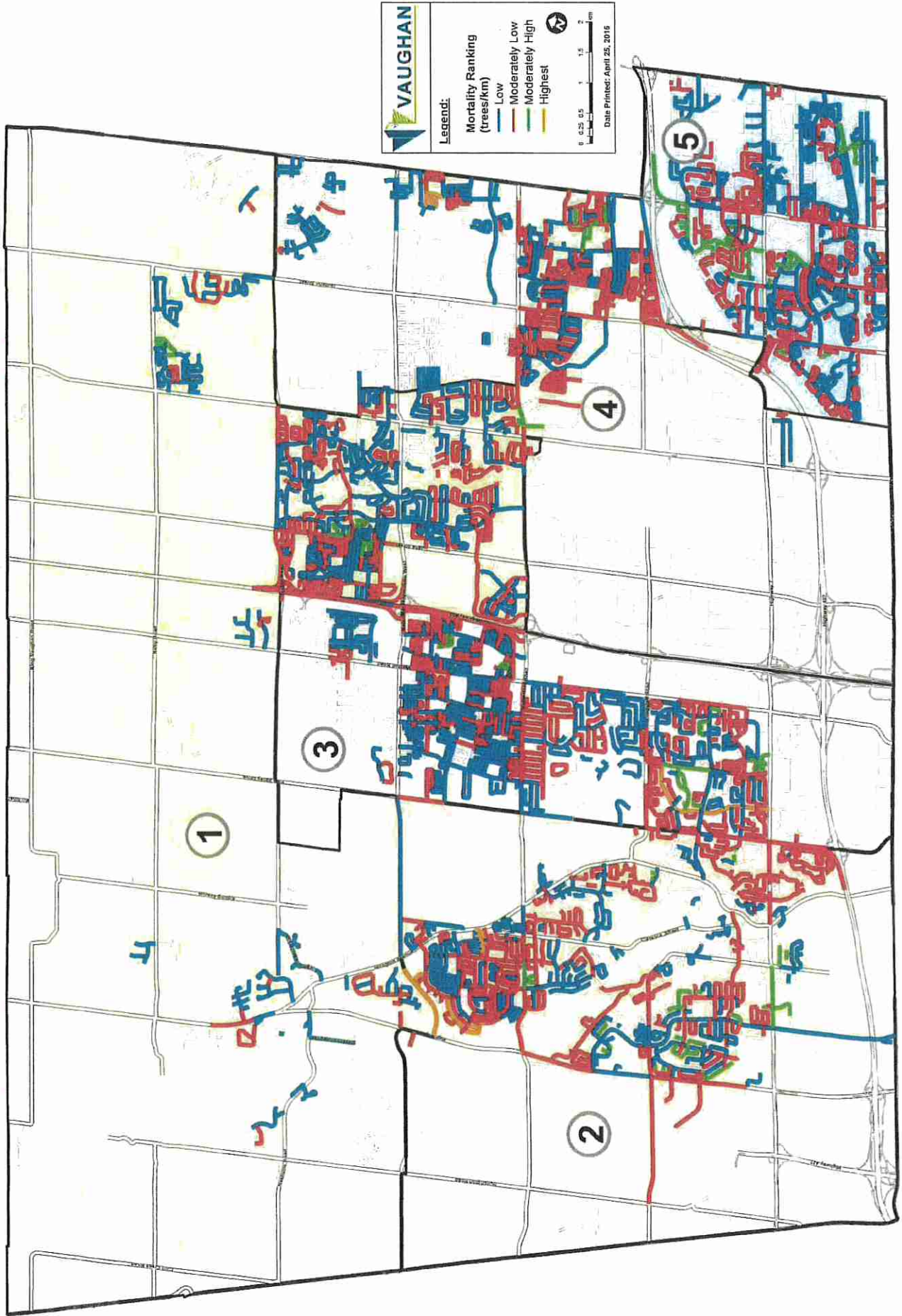
Zoran Postic, Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, Ext. 6137

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Jankowski,
Deputy City Manager of Public Works

Zoran Postic,
Director of Transportation Services,
Parks and Forestry Operations

ATTACHMENT 1
2016 PLANTING STRATEGY
All Residential Street Locations by Mortality Ranking (13,260 Sites)



ATTACHMENT 2
2016 PLANTING STRATEGY
Residential Streets To Be Planted (5,970 Sites)

