

1. Urban Forest Action Plan and Protection for Mature Trees

MOVER: Commissioner Sharma

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. Trees play an important role in mitigating and adapting to climate change, managing stormwater, supporting native biodiversity and access to nature, and providing food;
2. Vancouver's trees are a significant financial asset having an assessed value, using standards of the International Society of Arboriculture (2004, Farr), of over \$500 million;
3. the Park Board is committed to implementing the Greenest City Action Plan and its goals of planting 150,000 new trees;
4. the Park Board is currently developing a food asset plan to promote and enhance local food security in the parks and recreational system;
5. the Greenest City Action Plan commits the Park Board City to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan in conjunction with City of Vancouver;
6. there are policy gaps that need to be addressed to provide the Urban Forest Management Plan with clear direction and a higher chance of success in meeting the goals of mitigating and adapting to climate change, supporting native biodiversity, protecting existing trees, improving access to nature and food production;
7. Mature trees provide greater social and environmental benefits to neighbourhoods but the existing Protection of Trees Bylaw does not distinguish between mature and younger trees in allowing the removal of one healthy tree on a property;
8. An Urban Forest Management Plan should include full life cycle management as wood waste is costly for the city to manage while at the same time there is a high demand from artisans for a local supply of hardwood

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Urban Forest Action Plan be completed by September 2013, and include the following:

- Recognize the desire for considerably more food-bearing and native trees while maintaining the goals of mitigating climate change, promoting biodiversity and increasing access to nature, and taking into account public health issues such as allergies to specific tree species

- include a community engagement process to consider input from the public regarding the management of local trees
- include comprehensive life-cycle management of existing and new trees
- Include soil quantity requirements that use the Toronto's Green Development Standard
<http://www.toronto.ca/planning/greendevlopment.htm> as a minimum for trees on private and public land to ensure the myriad health, ecological and economic benefits that urban trees can provide, including the significant stormwater management benefits;
- Provide options for the Board to consider regarding making wood from trees that must be removed available to local artisans or put to other sustainable uses
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back to the Board with options for protecting healthy mature trees;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Park Board work with the City to establish a Landmark Tree Program to celebrate trees of particular significance.