

Supplementary Report - Modernizing Chapter 489, Grass and Weeds to Streamline Processes and Support Biodiversity

Date: June 7, 2021

To: Planning and Housing Committee

From: Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This is a supplementary report for Item PH24.3 Modernizing Chapter 489, Grass and Weeds to Streamline Processes and Support Biodiversity. This report, written in partnership with Parks, Forestry and Recreation, recommends amending the proposed list of prohibited plant species to be added as a new Schedule in Chapter 489. It is recommended that Common burdock (*Arctium minus*) and Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) be removed from that list.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards recommends that:

1. Planning and Housing Committee amend Recommendation 1, Part 5, of the report (May 6, 2021) from the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, which proposes adding a new Schedule A with a list of prohibited plant species to Chapter 489, by removing Common burdock (*Arctium minus*) and Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) from that list.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no current or known future year financial impacts arising from the recommendation contained in this supplementary report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

DECISION HISTORY

On May 20, 2021, Planning and Housing Committee deferred consideration of Item PH23.11 Modernizing Chapter 489, Grass and Weeds to Streamline Processes and Support Biodiversity until the June 11, 2021 Special Meeting of the Planning and Housing Committee.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.PH23.11>

COMMENTS

Following the Planning and Housing Committee's decision to defer consideration of Item PH23.11 until June 11, 2021, staff in Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) and Parks, Forestry and Recreations (PF&R) reviewed all written communications submitted on the item. Staff also continued to engage with key stakeholders, including Indigenous community members. Based on feedback received, staff are recommending that Common burdock (*Arctium minus*) and Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) be removed from the proposed list of prohibited plant species for the reasons outlined below.

While considered invasive, Common burdock (*Arctium minus*) and Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) do not pose the same ecological and human health and safety threats as other plant species included on the proposed list. Neither plant is on the noxious weeds list designated under the Provincial Weed Control Act. Additionally, Common burdock is an edible plant with medicinal uses.

Removing these two species from the proposed prohibited plants list responds to feedback from a number of stakeholders who have advocated for a lean and enforceable list that focuses on the most harmful plant species within the City of Toronto. The proposed change establishes a targeted list, while supporting ecological and human health and safety in city neighbourhoods. It is still recommended that staff review the list on an ongoing basis, in consultation with experts to ensure accuracy and relevance.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE



Carleton Grant
Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards