


TORONTO Committee Report
Report Item

Parks and Environment Committee

PE18.4		Adopted		Ward:All
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Toronto's Strategic Forest Management Plan

City Council Decision

City Council on February 20 and 21, 2013, adopted the following:

1. City Council adopt the report entitled "Sustaining and Expanding the Urban Forest: Toronto's Strategic Forest Management Plan - 2012-2022" appended to the report (January 11, 2013) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation.
2. City Council forward this Item to the Planning and Growth Management Committee and request the Committee to recommend a new policy to City Council by June 2013, to promote and provide pet care facilities in all new mid-rise and high-rise developments.
3. City Council appoint Councillor Sarah Doucette as Toronto's Tree Advocate to promote urban forestry policies to ensure that the City of Toronto achieves its goal in the area of urban forestry management of a sustainable urban forest on the understanding that this honorary title carries no additional compensation or increased office budget.

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends that:

1. City Council adopt the report titled "Sustaining and Expanding the Urban Forest: Toronto's Strategic Forest Management Plan - 2012-2022" appended to the report (January 11, 2013) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation.
2. City Council direct that this report be forwarded to the Planning and Growth Management Committee with the request that the Committee recommend to City Council a new policy, by June, 2013, to promote and provide pet care facilities in all new mid-rise and high-rise developments.
3. City Council appoint Councillor Sarah Doucette as Toronto's Tree Advocate to promote urban forestry policies to ensure that the City of Toronto achieves its goal in the area of urban forestry management of a sustainable urban forest, on the understanding that this honorary title carries no additional compensation or increased office budget.

Committee Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee requested the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back to the Committee on the following:

1. what the City of Toronto is doing to protect heritage designated trees by the Province of Ontario when it comes to utility companies either needing to prune or dig near trees; and if nothing is being done, to report on what the City can do to protect these trees, and also explain in this report how the City respects a heritage tree and what a heritage tree is; and
2. report further on what the City is doing to educate residents about emerald ash borers when it comes to trees on their private property.

Origin

(January 11, 2013) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Summary

The purpose of this report is to introduce and seek approval for "Sustaining and Expanding the Urban Forest: Toronto's Strategic Forest Management Plan." The urban forest faces many challenges, ranging from insect infestation and the effects of climate change to pressures associated with human habitation and activities. The Plan identifies Toronto's specific challenges and identifies actions for achieving the City's objectives and goals for a healthy urban forest that can be sustained and enhanced for future generations.

The Strategic Forest Management Plan is informed by the results of the tree canopy study as documented in "Every Tree Counts: A Portrait of Toronto's Urban Forest," which was released in 2010. In developing the Plan, staff reviewed similar plans prepared for other jurisdictions and consulted with other City divisions, agencies external to the City, as well as other interested parties.

The Strategic Forest Management Plan covers a 10-year period and includes criteria and indicators of success against which achievements and progress will be measured. The plan will be reviewed after 10 years to determine if goals are on target, ensure new issues affecting the urban forest are addressed, and to revise the plan accordingly.

Background Information (Committee)

(January 11, 2013) Report from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation - Toronto's Strategic Forest Management Plan

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-55257.pdf>)

(January 11, 2013) Attachment 1 - Sustaining and Expanding the Urban Forest: Toronto's Strategic Forest Management Plan

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-55258.pdf>)

(January 29, 2013) Presentation from Parks, Forestry and Recreation on Toronto's Strategic Forest Management Plan

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-55601.pdf>)

Communications (Committee)

(January 29, 2013) E-mail from Karen Buck (PE.New.18.4.1)

Speakers

Karen Buck

Michael Black, Ward Captain, Cycle Toronto

*Submitted Tuesday, January 29, 2013
Councillor Norman Kelly, Chair, Parks and Environment Committee*