



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

To: Mayor and Members of Council

Prepared by: Mark Beggs, Manager of Roads and Parks

Department: Public Works

Date of Report: June 6, 2022

Report Number: PW-10-2022

Subject: Request for Tree Planting Policy

Recommendation

That the report of the Manager of Roads and Parks dated May 2, 2022 (PW-10-2022) regarding the request for Tree Planting Policy be received;

And that, the Tree Planting Policy be approved.

Report

Background

As requested through Council, Public Works has developed a Request for Tree Planting Policy.

Included as part of the request for the tree planting policy, it was suggested that a resident have the ability to request that a tree be planted on their private property. The initial idea suggested that the costs for the new tree would be paid for by the Town or the tree be provided at a reduced cost to the resident.

After some consideration of these ideas; it was determined that to eliminate confusion of who the owner of the tree would be, and who would be responsible for maintenance of such tree on private property in the future would be, it would be more suitable to plant the requested tree on the Town owned Right of Way. With this proposal, the Town would purchase, plant, maintain and own the requested tree. This would help to eliminate any confusion in the future.

The intent of the policy is to introduce new trees to areas where street trees were not originally planted, or areas that would benefit from additional street trees, as well as

address requests from residents as to being able to request a tree be planted. The new policy addresses these.

As such, the Tree Planting Policy would allow a Town of LaSalle landowner to request that a tree be planted on Town property in the boulevard area, adjacent to the owned property. All costs for the tree would be with the Town for supply, planting and future maintenance, as the tree would remain property of the Town.

This policy will be administered by Public Works, specifically the Roads department.

Summary of the policy:

- Requests will be made to the Public Works department for consideration.
- Requestors must be the owners of the property where the request is being made.
- Town staff to meet requestor to determine location. – Location is at the sole discretion of the Town. Locations where there are site line issues, utility conflicts, space concerns etc. will be evaluated as part of the location process.
- Each request will typically receive one tree per location. The Town reserves the right to all more than one tree be planted as space warrants. This decision is at the discretion of the Town.
- Tree species will be chosen from current Town approved street tree list. Species is at sole discretion of the Town. Homeowners are not able to choose species.
- The number of trees planted annually will depend on the number of requests received, and operational budgets.
- Annually, the cutoff date for a tree request will be first week in September, prior to annual planting. Any requests received after September would automatically be placed on a following years planting list.

The budget for this program for the remainder of the 2022 season will come from the annual operation budget for tree replacements currently in Public Works. This budget is also used to replace trees that are damaged or decayed and need to be removed throughout the year. It is anticipated that approximately 10 requests could be processed within the current budget for 2022, at an approximate cost of \$5,000. (\$500/tree)

Public works will monitor the volume of requests that come in, and if necessary, future increases in budget for the program will be requested through the budget process for 2023 and the future. It is anticipated that an annual operating budget will need to be developed to fund this project in the future.

It is recommended that Council approve the Tree Planting Policy to be implemented for the remainder of 2022, and that future budget requirements be developed for the 2023 budget.

Consultations

Roads, Parks, Finance and Engineering Departments

Financial Implications

Budget for this program from existing operating budgets to fund the remainder of 2022. Depending on the popularity of the program, additional operating budget may be required annually through the budgeting process.

Prepared By:



Manager, Parks and Roads

Mark Beggs

Link to Strategic Goals

1. Enhancing organizational excellence - Yes
2. Strengthen the community's engagement with the Town - Yes
3. Grow and diversify the local economy - Not Applicable
4. Build on our high-quality of life - Yes
5. Sustaining strong public services and infrastructure - Yes

Communications

None

Notifications

None

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	PW-10-2022 Tree Planting Policy.docx
Attachments:	- Tree Planing Policy 2022-1.docx
Final Approval Date:	Jun 17, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Jonathan Osborne
Director, Public Works

Jonathan Osborne



Joe Milicia
Chief Administrative Officer

Joe Milicia