

## Attachment 1 - Strategic Urban Forest Management Plan Recommendations – Status Report 2009

Priority	Reference Sections	Recommendation	Current Status & Planned Activity by Department	
			CDDS	Operations

<b>POLICY &amp; GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATIONS (SECTION 3)</b>				
1	3,7	1. The City should ensure that all policy revisions and updates define the urban forest, identify it as a high priority for protection, and describe it as “green infrastructure” which needs to be actively managed.	The Natural Heritage Strategy – includes criteria for protection of woodlots 1ha or greater and linkages. Restoration areas have also been identified. <b>The Natural Heritage mapping and policies will be incorporated into the Official Plan update in 2010.</b>	
1	3,7	2. The City should develop comprehensive City-wide policies and guidelines for tree preservation, replacement and enhancement on both public and private lands (see Section 7).	Phase 3 of the Natural Heritage Strategy Phase involves the development of policies for incorporation into the Official Plan update. <b>Tree Protection Policy &amp; Guidelines to be finalized in 2010.</b>	
2	3,8	3. The City should commit to protecting and, where feasible, enhancing the natural linkages within the City and to the County identified through the City’s Natural Heritage Strategy (see Section 8).	The Natural Heritage Strategy and Official Plan update will address this recommendation as specified in Item 1.	
3	3,5	4. The City’s tree by-law should be reviewed and updated to be consistent with the Municipal Act.	Council approved the work plan for the tree bylaw on July 27, 2009. <b>Tree By-law is currently under development and anticipated to be brought forward in Q3 of 2010.</b>	
3	3,7	5. The City should evaluate if existing staffing is adequate to review and enforce tree protection on development sites once more comprehensive policies are put in place. Should a new Tree Preservation By-law be passed, additional staffing (e.g. an arborist also trained in by-law enforcement) may also need to be considered.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Environmental Planner has been hired to develop and implement policies and guidelines and develop a tree by-law in conjunction with Operations.	

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STRATEGIC PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS (SECTION 4)				
1	4	6. The City should develop a Strategic Urban Forest Management Plan and adopt a 20-year strategic planning approach with 5-year management plans and annual operating plans nested within the 20-year plan.	Funding identified in PL0030 Urban Forest Management Plan in Capital Budget 2009-2014.	
1	4	7. The City should adopt the principle of adaptive management to ensure that management approaches and priorities can be adjusted as new information is obtained.	To be addressed by the Urban Forest Management Plan 2009-2014.	
1	4	8. The City should develop and use a series of criteria and indicators to track progress towards short and long-term objectives.	To be addressed by the Urban Forest Management Plan 2010-2014	
COMMUNICATION RECOMMENDATIONS (SECTION 5)				
1	5,4	9. The City should host workshops or public meetings to get community input into the vision and goals for the Strategic Urban Forest Management Plan (SUFMP).	On April 21 and 29, 2009 CDDS and Operations conducted workshops to test the vision and get feedback on the 25 recommendations of the Framework for the Strategic Urban Forest Management Plan. The results of the workshops were presented to Committee of Council on July 20, 2009.	
1	5,4,3	10. The City should explore options for providing support and coordination of ongoing and potential volunteer activities related to tree planting in the City.		Facilitation of annual volunteer planting events are on-going. 2009 Tree Plantings: 1500 by Guelph Rotary Club, 2000 by OPIRG. Other initiatives include on-going woodlot clean-up, removal of invasives and woodchip trails installation at Norm Jary Park and Marksam Park. Norm Jary activity

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				<p>was performed in conjunction with Onward Willow and the University of Guelph. Operations facilitated new tree plantings and school ground naturalization projects led by Trees for Guelph, with the delivery of wood mulch to numerous school sites.</p> <p><b>Similar participation anticipated for 2010.</b></p>
2	5,4	11. The City should support, and provide the resources for, the creation of an Urban Forestry Management Plan Technical Steering Committee to review and evaluate the status of the SUFMP.	To be addressed in conjunction with the development of the Urban Forest Management Plan.	
2	5,3	12. The City should explore mechanisms for more inter-departmental coordination regarding proper protection and management of the City's green infrastructure (i.e. its trees) and educate about tree protection guidelines, policies and best practices.	The development of the Natural Heritage Strategy and associated policies has been and continues to be done in collaboration with other departments.	On-going discussions with Environmental Planners, Park Planners and Engineering staff re: tree protection, preservation and retention on public and private lands.
1	5,3	13. The City should expand its public education initiatives by (a) updating and enhancing its on-line urban forestry resources, (b) consider offering urban forestry workshops for residents, and (c) exploring other educational opportunities with other partners (e.g. the University of Guelph).	CDDS staff (Environmental Planner) participated in the 2009 Ontario Urban Forest Council Conference and informed the participants of the role of the City regarding the protection of the urban forest.	<p>Forestry display and informational brochures on tree health care offered as part of annual Operations Department open house.</p> <p>Operations staff also attended the 2009 Ontario Urban Forest Council Conference.</p>

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**INVENTORY RECOMMENDATIONS (SECTION 6)**

1	6,4	14. The City should determine specific goals for a tree inventory and develop a system of data collection and asset management in the SUFMP.	The development of the Urban Forest Management Plan in 2009-2014 will further inform management of the tree inventory.	Forestry has worked with Info. Tech. to develop a tree inventory and analysis system using a wireless laptop with GPS capabilities that links field data to the network and allows for the processing of electronic work orders. In service since June 2007. Trees inventoried to date: 5404.
1	6	15. The City should complete a tree inventory for all trees on City lands outside of natural areas as part of the first 5-year management plan (refer to Section 4).		<b>Tree inventory is on-going.</b>
2	6,7,3	16. The City should collect the tree inventory based on SYNERGEN and use the UTC GIS Toolbox to monitor overall tree canopy cover in the City, and help identify potential planting locations.	Through the Natural Heritage Strategy Phase 2 report determined that natural cover represents 24.5 % of the City. Overall forest cover is estimated to be 12.5%.  Restoration Areas have been identified as part of the Natural Heritage Strategy and will be included in the Official Plan Update.	Operations, in conjunction with IT have commenced this process.
2	6	17. The City should explore options for administering and maintaining their forestry asset management system (e.g. tree inventory software, database, etc.) as it develops.	To be addressed in the Urban Forest Management Plan - 2009-2014	

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3	6,3	18. The City should complete a tree inventory for all municipal woodlands based on accepted forest stand inventory protocols as part of the second 5-year management plan (refer to Section 3).	To be addressed in the Urban Forest Management Plan - 2009-2014	
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### URBAN FOREST STRATEGY & SUSTAINABILITY RECOMMENDATIONS (SECTION 7)

1	7,3,4	19. Comprehensive specifications for tree preservation that can be consistently applied to all projects across the City should be developed and implemented. These should include: (1) requirements for newly planted trees that maximize their growth and lifespan potential, (2) requirements for protecting existing trees, and (3) progressive tree cabling practices, integrated with an inspection cycle, to support the preservation of large canopied trees.	<b>The Tree Protection Policy &amp; Guidelines to be completed in 2010.</b>	To support tree preservations staff introduced in 2008 a student tree watering /mulching crew-a first to the operation. Newly planted and those approaching 3 years old were the focus of Operations.
1	7,6	20. The City should coordinate an inventory of City trees with a risk assessment of this resource, and commit to implementing corrective measures for identified high risk or hazard trees as a high priority item.		Tree risk assessments are currently completed as part of every service request. Prioritized work orders are then generated electronically based on the tree hazard assessment rating. Trees rated as a high hazard are ranked as

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				<p>priority work assignments.</p> <p>The report for the Royal City Park Plant Material Management Plan was received and approved by Council in November 2009. Recommendations are to provide a long term vision for the park's main "soft" landscaping: trees and ground level plant material. The management plan is intended to function as the guide for short term and long term plant maintenance, and for species, timing and locations of removals and new plantings in the park.</p>
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2	7	21. The City should establish a pruning cycle and a grid pruning program for street and park trees to shift from a reactive to a proactive maintenance mode.		Staff initiated a 2 week period of street tree grid pruning during the winter of 2007/2008, as a start to preventative maintenance by addressing the branching structure of the trees while they are still small ~planted approx. 5 yrs. Forestry staff, along with Horticulture staff also performed dormant pruning in city parks to address tree structure, and sightline and equipment access issues. <b>Operations propose to resume this activity during winter of 2009/2010.</b>
2	7,6	22. Once a preliminary City-wide risk assessment has been conducted, the City should implement an inspection protocol for trees that have been identified as having some level of risk possibly in conjunction with pruning activities.		Subject to completing the inventory and assessment of large statured trees, staff monitor the health of trees over 60cm dbh.
1	7,6	23. The City should hire additional qualified staff members to support current operations activities, or consider sub-contracting out to (1) catch up on the backlog of tree pruning / maintenance work, (2) undertake an assessment of risk trees on all City lands and, where required, undertake mitigative measures or removals, and (3) increase the tree replacement ratio.		An additional forestry worker was added in 2009 to the front-line staffing complement. <b>Additional staffing resources have afforded the operation the ability to reduce a 14 month work order backlog to ~4 month</b>

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				<b>backlog as of December 2009.</b> Additional staffing resources will be identified following the approval of the Strategic Urban Forest Management Plan developed in recommendation number 6.
3	7,3,6	24. The City should develop a strategy for the monitoring and control of alien invasive species. Where appropriate the City should coordinate its efforts with agencies such as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Canadian Forest Service, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Grand River Conservation Authority and other area municipalities.	Strategic direction in this regard will be addressed in the Urban Forest Management Plan – Capital Budget 2009-2014.	Operations has been monitoring both the Asian Long-horned Beetle’s and the Emerald Ash Borer’s activities in southern Ontario. In all jurisdictions affected by these parasites, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has provided a leadership role in addressing the infestation. As time permits, staff continues to address the removal of invasive woody material in parks and natural areas, including work with volunteers.

**LANDSCAPE CONNECTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS (SECTION 8)**

3	8,6	25. Once a municipal tree inventory has been undertaken, the City should conduct a study (using GIS) to identify opportunities for reforestation within the City’s urban matrix, and work with the County of Wellington and the GRCA to support linkages to natural areas extending outside the City.	<b>Restoration areas have been identified as part of the Natural Heritage Strategy to be incorporated into the Official Plan in 2010.</b>	
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