

REPORT
Regular Council Meeting
1992 October 19

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

Re: Removal and Replacement of Trees in
Greentree Village

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council endorse a tree removal and replacement program for the Greentree Village area.

R E P O R T

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting held on 1992 October 13 received and adopted the attached staff report outlining a work program for solving the infrastructure maintenance problem created by the London Plane trees in the Greentree Village area.

The Committee therefore submits the report on the removal and replacement of trees in Greentree Village to Council for endorsement.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor L. Rankin
Chair

Councillor D.P. Drummond
Member

Councillor D. Evans
Member

Councillor D. Lawson
Member

Councillor C. Redman
Member

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TO: ENVIRONMENT & WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE **DATE: 1992 10 07**

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE: 50-01-13**

SUBJECT: REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF TREES IN GREENTREE VILLAGE

PURPOSE: To outline a work program for solving the infrastructure maintenance problem created by the London Plane trees in the Greentree Village area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Committee endorse a tree removal and replacement program for the Greentree Village area, and
2. THAT this report be forwarded to Council for approval.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Committee at its meeting of 1991 November 12 received a report regarding damage being caused by London Plane trees on Greentree Place and a petition from the residents to remove the trees. The Committee and Council subsequently approved the report and the trees have since been replaced and the infrastructure reinstated accordingly.

Recently, staff have received a petition and requests from residents in the Greentree Village area requesting a similar program to replace the remaining London Plane trees in their neighbourhood. The purpose of this report is to outline a phased program for consideration to resolve the tree and infrastructure problem.

DISCUSSION

The remaining London Plane trees in the Greentree Village area are located in the boulevard area of Garden Grove Drive, Village Drive and Thornwood Place. These trees have a very aggressive root system which, as it grows, spreads out and stays very shallow. Presently, the roots have lifted the sidewalks and curb and gutter causing drainage problems and tripping hazards. As well, the roots have caused damage to private driveways by lifting and cracking the asphalt.

Engineering and Parks staff have examined the conditions of the trees and sidewalks/driveways, and concur with the request of the residents. However, due to the large number of trees (approximately 100) that need to be replaced and the limited funds available within the maintenance budget, staff suggest that a phased program be implemented with priority placed on locations where damage to existing infrastructure is evident and public safety is jeopardized.


It is anticipated that the maintenance and repair costs for the damaged areas would increase as the trees grow in size and the roots spread further. Therefore, it is necessary to replace those trees that have caused damage to the infrastructure and continue with the replacement program on an as required basis. The phased replacement program will, in the long run, reduce the maintenance cost, eliminate potential liability and address the concerns raised by the residents.

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CONCLUSION

Following our initial tree replacement program on Greentree Place, staff have been made aware of the need to replace other London Plane trees in the Greentree Village area. In order to meet budgetary constraints, a phased program to be implemented over a period of 4 to 5 years is recommended. This would allow a gradual replacement of the existing trees with a more suitable type of tree as selected by Parks' arborist and minimize potential liability that may arise due to the damage caused by the existing trees to the City infrastructure. Local residents will be contacted and consulted prior to implementing the replacement program.

Funding for the work will be provided for in the annual maintenance operating budget. It is recommended that the Committee endorse the phased tree replacement program as outlined and forward this report to Council for approval.


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

BCD/LSC:jb

cc: Director Recreation & Cultural Services
Director Finance

