



Agenda  
Green Committee

September 22, 2021

5:30 pm

Video Conference

Click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEI8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

3. **AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the September 22, 2021 Green Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

None.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

3

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the June 23, 2021 Green Committee minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and Committee Secretary.

6. **STRATEGIC ITEMS - PROGRESS UPDATE**

7

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the September Green Committee Strategic Priorities Table be received for information.

7. **REPORTS**

**7.1. PW 64-2021 Naturalized Areas Invasive Species Pilot Project**

9

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT PW 64-2021 Naturalized Areas Invasive Species Pilot Project report be received; and,

THAT the Green Committee recommend to Council:

THAT Council consider the Naturalized Areas Invasive Species Pilot Project during the 2022 budget deliberations.

**7.2. PW 72-2021 Town of St. Marys Forestry Management Policies**

13

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT PW 72-2021 Town of St. Marys Forestry Management Policies report be received for information.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

**9. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

October 27, 2021 at 5:30 pm (Virtual)

November 24, 2021 at 5:30 pm (Virtual)

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT this meeting of the Green Committee adjourn at            p.m.



## Minutes

### Green Committee

June 23, 2021

5:30 pm

Video Conference

Click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEI8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Member Present	Lynette Geddes, Chair Councillor Pridham Fred Stam John Stevens David Vermeire
Staff Present	Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works Morgan Dykstra, Committee Secretary

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### 2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

#### 3. AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Resolution: GC-2021-06-01**

**Moved By** John Stevens

**Seconded By** David Vermeire

**THAT** the June 23, 2021 Green Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

**Carried**

#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Krysanne C Klassen re: St. Marys' Canopy Trees

**Resolution: GC-2021-06-02**

**Moved By** Fred Stam

**Seconded By** John Stevens

**THAT** the correspondence from Krysanne C. Klassen regarding St. Marys' Canopy Trees be received; and

**THAT** staff report back to the Green Committee regarding the items discussed in the correspondence, and,

**THAT** the Chair send a letter to Krysanne C. Klassen informing her of the Committee's next steps.

**Carried**

#### 5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

**Resolution: GC-2021-06-03**

**Moved By** David Vermeire

**Seconded By** Fred Stam

**THAT** the May 26, 2021 Green Committee minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and Committee Secretary.

**Carried**

#### 6. STRATEGIC ITEMS - PROGRESS UPDATE

Morgan Dykstra spoke to the Strategic Priorities Table for June and responded to questions from the Committee.

**Resolution: GC-2021-06-04**

**Moved By** Councillor Pridham

**Seconded By** Fred Stam

**THAT** the June Green Committee Strategic Priorities Table be received for information.

**Carried**

#### 7. REPORTS

7.1 PW 51-2021 Green Initiative Education Program Framework

Morgan Dykstra spoke to the report and responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee was of the consensus that the title of the program should be changed from Green Initiative Education Program to Green Initiative Awareness Program.

**Resolution: GC-2021-06-05**

**Moved By** Fred Stam

**Seconded By** John Stevens

**THAT** PW 51-2021 Green Initiative Education Program Framework report be received: and,

**THAT** the Green Committee recommend to Council:

**THAT** Council approves the Green Initiative Awareness Program Framework;

**THAT** the program launches in February 2022; and,

**THAT** as it relates to the Green Initiative Awareness Program, Council names the Green Committee as its designate.

**Carried**

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**9. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

September 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm (Virtual)

October 27, 2021 at 5:30 pm (Virtual)

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution: GC-2021-06-06**

**Moved By** Councillor Pridham

**Seconded By** Fred Stam

**THAT** this meeting of the Green Committee adjourn at 5:58 p.m.

**Carried**

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Lynette Geddes, Chair

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Morgan Dykstra, Committee Secretary

## Green Committee Strategic Priorities Status (September 2021)

Priority	Item	Status	
Forestry Management	Revise tree species list	Complete	
	Engagement and education opportunities	A new Forestry Management webpage has been created, outlining the contents of the Forestry Management, Town Operations, Tree Donation Program and Natural Areas.	Complete
	Tree donation policy	Revised Tree Donation Program Policy was approved by Council on June 8, 2021. Program will launch is TBD.	Implementing
	Seedlings transplant area	Council approved the Committee's recommendation. The Town will not establish a seedlings transplant area.	Complete
	Gypsy Moth Infestation	Information campaign completed.  Information being provided to the Committee at its September 22, 2021 re: a potential pilot program to address the invasive species.	Complete
Naturalization	Public Engagement re: naturalization	The Town is implementing the Sparling Bush Management Plan.	Implementing
	Recommend areas for naturalization		
	Recommend policies to establish natural areas and how to maintain areas	Sparling Bush Management Plan items for 2021 have been incorporated into the 2021 Capital Budget. 15 trees, and 130 bushes planted in May to encourage internal growth, collaboration between Town, UTRCA and Rotary.	Complete
	Investigate the feasibility of creating a wildflower meadow	Pollinator Garden/Wildflower Meadow planted on June 4, 2021. New webpage created to feature the garden, and social media campaign to begin. Depending on the success the Town will seek to submit a second application to TD FEF to increase the pollinator garden.	
	Meadowridge Park Naturalization Project	Project approved by Council.  Constructing new trail section in September. Planting 450 trees with UTRCA and the Rotary the week of October 25, 2021. Using private donation funds, and Rotary donation.	Implementing
Active Transportation Master Plan	Review existing active transportation network	Capital Item Budget for 2022 to hire a Consultant to draft an Active Transportation Master Plan.	Implementing
	Seek public feedback re: active transportation network	Public Survey	Complete

	Recommend an Active Transportation Master Plan	Request to Green Committee to include procuring the services of a Consultant in its 2022 Capital Budget. Report to Committee in September.	Research
<b>Waste Reduction &amp; Diversion</b>  (Following the Waste Reduction and Diversion Assessment)	Review Solid Waste Management By-law		Complete
	Textile recycling program	RFP in spring 2019 deemed incomplete.  This project has been deferred until the Environmental Assessment Process for the landfill site.	Pause
	Mattress and box spring diversion	Green Committee recommended (June 2019)  Incorporated in Solid Waste Management By-law (Fall 2019)  Develop policy and review other municipal programs. Might be a component of the Environmental Assessment Process once the Town has received approval for expansion.	Pause
	All other recommendations from WRDA	Awaiting approvals from the Ministry of Environment for the Town of St. Marys Landfill Site. Once approvals have been completed the review of existing program at the site can be reviewed.	Pause
	Green Initiative Awareness Program	Approved by Council at the August Council Meeting. Intending a February 2022 launch date. Discuss themes and groupings at the October 2021 Green Committee.	Implementing
	Waste Reduction Week		Complete
	Municipal Hazardous Waste Program	Municipal Hazardous Waste Program has transitioned to depot event delivery model. When dates are available, they will be circulated to the public.	Complete



# FORMAL REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee

**Prepared by:** Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works

**Date of Meeting:** 22 September 2021

**Subject:** **PW 64-2021 Naturalized Areas Invasive Species Pilot Project**

## PURPOSE

To facilitate a discussion around a proposed pilot project for the control of invasive species within the Town's urban canopy, specifically targeted at residential complaints of Gypsy moth control, garlic mustard and Strangling dog vine.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** PW 64-2021 Naturalized Areas Invasive Species Pilot Project report be received; and,

**THAT** the Green Committee recommend to Council:

**THAT** Council consider the Naturalized Areas Invasive Species Pilot Project during the 2022 budget deliberations.

## BACKGROUND

Since 2017 staff have received various complaints and observed invasive species such as Gypsy Moth, Garlic Mustard and Strangling Dog vine in various locations including the parks system, naturalized areas, and the municipal road allowance.

### Gypsy Moth

European Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) is an invasive pest that was first recorded in Ontario in 1969. Its population fluctuates in relation to seasonal conditions and control efforts.

Gypsy Moth has four life stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa and adult. The caterpillar is the most destructive stage to the tree canopy. At this stage of the life cycle, larvae feed on tree leaves for a period of about seven (7) weeks. A tree can be quickly defoliated in relation to the size of the infestation. Even light levels of defoliation up to about 30% of the leaf area of an individual tree are noticeable and will cause added stress to the tree.

The Town has experienced flairs ups of Gypsy Moth population in areas of the urban canopy, specifically municipal trees located in the road allowance. Residents are looking for assistance with invasive control on municipality owned trees located within their respective frontages.

Natural Gypsy Moth outbreaks may last from 2 to 4 years before natural biological controls or cold weather cause Gypsy Moth populations to crash. Common control efforts involve manual hand removal of Moth during stages of the life cycle or much more costly and broad aerial spray programs of which effectively attaches to the tree leaf as the primary food source.

### Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*)

Garlic mustard is an edible herb native to Europe. Since its introduction in North America, garlic mustard has spread rapidly throughout Ontario. It can thrive in a wide range of habitats and has vastly propagated along roadsides, trails, and fence lines. Garlic mustard is particularly aggressive in naturalized areas and threatens native species biodiversity of established woodlots. Within a few years, garlic mustard can enter an area, establish itself, and become the dominant plant in the forest floor. Further concerning traits of is the dispersion of chemicals within the soil of the mature plant that will prevent the growth of native species. Removal of the plants is critical before the seed pods mature and split as the seeds will generally fall near the source.

### **Dog-strangling Vine (DSV)**

Dog-strangling vine (DSV), is found in parts of Ontario, and southern Quebec. Grows rapidly by wrapping itself around trees and other plants aggressively seeking sunlight up to 6' foot height. DSV forms dense clusters that overwhelm and crowd out native plants, shrubs, and young trees. This aggressive growth can interrupt regeneration of native species.

Dog-strangling vine is a restricted species under the Ontario Invasive Species Act.

Control efforts for DSV are more difficult, straight clipping of the plant will only slow the spread, chemical application is effective, but it is a wholistic kill approach and destroys native species. Trapping of areas to choke out light source of dense clusters then replanting with native species in subsequent years.

### **Removal Efforts to Date**

Several staff & volunteer removal events for Garlic Mustard have been coordinated since 2018 but are subject to staff availability. The plant is generally easy to remove by hand, and is bagged, and placed in a location removed from light sources. After several days the plant is dead, and disposed of at the landfill site.

Strangling Dog Vine is much harder to remove by hand, staff have engaged UTRCA and have completed several tarping projects to date. The affected areas are tarped with a water permeable ground cloth, the working theory is to remove access to sunlight. After several years the area is replanted with native species.

Primarily efforts have been focused on Sparling Bush which has shown that moderate physical effort can improve the biodiversity, support native species and in general improve the overall health of the area.

To date the town has not assigned any staff resources aside from a citizen engagement for Gypsy Moth caterpillar removals.

## **REPORT**

Since 2017 staff have received various complaints and observed invasive species such as Gypsy Moth, Garlic Mustard and Strangling Dog vine in Parks, Naturalized areas, and the urban canopy in the municipal road allowance.

Staff have discussed the proliferation of invasive species at length. Chemical control is possible, but offers several challenges such as public perception, affects to native species and, the financial resources required to deploy chemical control far exceeds the Town's annual forestry operations budget. Furthermore, staff's perception, based on previous conversations is that the Committee is opposed to the use of chemical methods, and prefers more natural methods.

Given the considerations above and the successes of existing physical removal efforts, Town staff are proposing a pilot program to address the proliferation of invasive species, to take place between May and August of 2022. The program is largely reliant on manual labour.

The details of the pilot project is as follows:

- Hire two (2) seasonal summer students for the duration of the project (May to August)
- Students to complete an invasive survey of municipal trees in the road allowance, parks, naturalized areas, and storm water management facilities
- Upon identification of invasive species, develop a plan to remove or mitigate the invasive species impact, using the following methods:
  - Complete burlap banding of municipal trees during the Gypsy Moth Caterpillar stage
    - Burlap wraps around tree trunks, collection and daily removal and destruction of the caterpillars that are caught under the burlap; or,
    - Deploy pheromone traps or lures to catch male moths.
  - Complete hand removals of Garlic Mustard and Dog Strangling vine
  - Complete vegetation removal from curb face sidewalk expansion joints via string trimmer
    - To be completed as additional duties as scheduling allows.
  - Deploy pheromone traps or lures to catch male moths

The intent of the program is to consider additional approaches to managing the invasive species in Town.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Staff are proposing two seasonal summer student staff at 35 hr work week between May 1st and Aug 31<sup>st</sup> which would provide an additional 1200 manhours. Staff are estimating this would be 93% increase to current staff time allocations for invasive removals.

Labour	\$ 28,229.59
Material Costs	\$ 2,500.00
Transportation (rental)	\$ 2,500.00
Total 2022 Pilot	
Project Cost	\$ 33,229.59

Total pilot project cost is projected at \$33,229, which includes transportation, materials for trapping Gypsy moth and tarping invasive dog vine clusters.

## **SUMMARY**

A report proposing 2022 budget consideration of a pilot project to focus on invasive species concerns from residents. The implementation will largely rely on manual labour in target areas based on seasonal complaints. Staff have endeavored to design a project that was fiscally feasible while working within the preferred methods of the committee.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Not applicable to this report.

## **OTHERS CONSULTED**

John Hahn, Parks Operator A – Team Lead

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.

## **REVIEWED BY**

### **Recommended by the Department**

Jed Kelly  
Director of Public Works

Morgan Dykstra  
Public Works & Planning Coordinator



# FORMAL REPORT

<b>To:</b>	Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Morgan Dykstra, Public Works and Planning Coordinator
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	22 September 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>PW 72-2021 Town of St. Marys Forestry Management Policies</b>

## PURPOSE

The management and protection of the St. Marys urban forest and its canopy is an active topic of discussion throughout the St. Marys community. The Town of St. Marys has established policies regarding the enhancement, management, and protection of the urban forest.

The purpose of this report is to bring forward those existing policies to ensure that they continue to reflect the current needs of the urban forest, and to discuss comments and recommendations that have been received by the Town by members of the community.

## RECOMMENDATION

THAT PW 72-2021 Town of St. Marys Forestry Management Policies report be received for information.

## BACKGROUND

In June, members of the community expressed concerns related to the removal of trees on private lands, this event led to a robust public conversation on social media discussing the St. Marys urban forest, and how the Town intends to maintain, enhance, and protect the urban forest. Letters have been submitted to both Council, and the Green Committee outlining members of the public's concerns and providing recommendations to the Town regarding how the Town can address their concerns. The purpose of this report is to breakdown those concerns into thematic areas, discuss the concerns and determine if further evaluation is required with respect to the Town's policies regarding the urban forest.

The next section of the report will outline the strategic and operational documents the Town of St. Marys utilizes for Forestry Management. Each document governs different aspects of the Town's urban forest, those documents, and content highlights will be provided below.

### Town of St. Marys Official Plan

The Town of St. Marys Official Plan is the Town's senior planning document and speaks to the planning policies for the Town including goals and general principles; land use designations and the objectives and policies for each; the division of land; transportation services; and community improvement.

The existing Official Plan addresses the management of the urban forest as it relates to planning several times:

- Creating Natural Heritage Areas for significant wood lands, and noting that they should be protected
- Acknowledging all unique natural assets, including topographic features of vegetation such as groves of trees, and mature individual trees, should be preserved to the greatest extent possible when considering Plan of Subdivision Applications.

- Imposing approval conditions for Consent to Sever Applications requiring the Application to enter into an agreement with the Town to plant a sufficient number of trees to compensate for any trees lost or removed as a result of the proposed use of the parcel to be severed

The Town's Official Plan is currently undergoing an update, the Draft Plan includes additional policies regarding the protection of trees in St. Marys.

### Town of St. Marys Forestry Management Plan

As per the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the Town is required to have a policy with respect to the manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality. Furthermore, the Town of St. Marys Strategic Plan defined implementing a forestry and tree management policy as a priority.

In 2018, the Town of St. Marys Council approved the Forestry Management Plan (FMP). The Town's FMP only addresses trees on public property, Council decided to not move forward with regulating trees on private lands. The FMP can be found on the Town's website: [Publications, Reports and Plans - Town of St. Marys \(townofstmarys.com\)](http://townofstmarys.com/Publications, Reports and Plans - Town of St. Marys)

The FMP is broken into three sections: (1) the maintenance of trees, (2) the enhancement of the urban forest and the (3) protection of the urban forest. Each section details how the Town will achieve these goals.

Some key highlights from the FMP:

- Maintenance:
  - Implementation of a quadrant pruning program, the benefits of implementing a cyclical maintenance schedule include:
    - Maximization of life span and associated benefits of the tree by performing an assessment on a four-year rotation;
    - Reduce the impact of severe weather events;
    - Lower liability risks associated with hazardous trees that may cause bodily harm or property damage
  - Routine Maintenance Activities
    - Frequent inspections of all Town areas to monitor for dead or dying trees;
    - Significant maintenance of young trees, including staking, water, wrapping and pruning;
    - Minor pruning to ensure sightlines and overhead clearances are maintained;
    - Storm damages clean up.
  - Inspection Requests
    - Address concerns from residents via the Work Order System.
- Enhancement:
  - There is an emphasis that the Town will plant more trees, and employs a 3:1 replacement ratio
  - Efforts will be made to ensure the right tree is selected for each location, providing consideration to determinants like tree function, form and size, site condition and human activities
  - Creating assigned tree-planting areas to maximize the benefits of maintenance activities for a young tree

- Create an updated tree species list to ensure a heterogenous urban forest as a means of reducing the impact of species specific diseases and invasive insects that can adversely affect the health of trees
- Protection
  - Establishing parameters for when a tree may be removed, the Town will only remove a tree under the following circumstances:
    - The tree is dead or dead;
    - The tree causes a hazard and needs to be removed to mitigate risk;
    - Emergency work;
    - Installation or reconstruction of Town infrastructure; or,
      - As a note, during the pre-construction process staff are to consider alternative approaches limiting the removal of trees
    - At the discretion of the Director of Public Works, or their designate.
      - This clause is to only be used in the most limiting of circumstances. This clause has not been used since the adoption of the FMP.
- The FMP also addresses Natural Areas, noting that a policy focused entirely on natural areas, their locations, and maintenance practices needs to be created.
- How to address Invasive Species
- Community Engagement Programs like Tree Donations (policy has been amended) and public requests for boulevard trees
- Inclusion of a recommendation of developing a tree inventory to create a more data driven Forestry Management Plan (i.e., determine biodiversity and overall health of the existing urban forest, assess canopy cover etc.)

The FMP is the key document regarding trees on public property, since its adoption, supplemental policies to support the FMP have been created. The Green Committee has been an active participant in the creation of said policies:

- Sparling Bush Management Plan, 2019-2021
- Revised Tree Species List
- Tree Donation Policy.

## **REPORT**

The purpose of the report section is to breakdown the public's concerns into thematic areas, and discuss those concerns to determine if further evaluation is required with respect to the Town's policies regarding the urban forest. For the September 22, 2021 Green Committee meeting, a PowerPoint presentation with discussion questions will be provided to help facilitate the conversation.

### **Theme 1: Regulation of Trees on Private Property**

The *Municipality Act, 2001* confers various powers to a municipality with respect to trees:

Subsection 135(1), the authority to prohibit or regulate the destruction or injuring of trees on public and private lands

Subsection 135(7), the authority to implement processes that require permits be obtained to injure or destroy trees, and impose conditions to a permit, including conditions relating to the

manner in which destruction occurs and the qualifications of persons authorized to injure or destroy trees.

Furthermore, pursuant to the *Planning Act, 1990*, the Town may make comments on trees on private lands when considering a planning application, such as a Plan of Subdivision, Site Plan Agreement, Minor Variance etc., the Town may require the Applicant to create a tree conservation and management plan which will determine which trees will be maintained, which trees will be removed and how compensation plantings will be achieved.

While developing the Forestry Management Plan, the Strategic Priorities Committee discussed enacting a by-law to regulate the destruction and injury of trees on private lands, and how permit systems can be designed. At the time, the Strategic Priorities Committee chose to not move forward with a by-law regulating trees on private property, while maintaining its powers to regulate trees when considering planning applications.

Through various pieces of correspondence, members of the public have expressed concerns related mass removals of trees on private lands, which reduces the Town's canopy cover. Those members are advocating that the Town adopt a by-law regulating the destruction and injury of trees on private property, with some requesting that the Town adopt a moratorium on tree removals until a firm set of severe criteria and a permit process can be developed, applied, and enforced.

## **Theme 2: Enhancement of the Urban Forest**

The Town's Forestry Management Plan details how the Town will continue to enhance the urban forest, the plan details an aggressive planting ratio (3:1) and planting methods that encourage the long-term viability of a young tree to ensure the continued growth of the urban forest on Town-owned lands. It is imperative that when considering proposals to increase planting requirements that the resources, both labour and material, are available to ensure the long-term health of the tree.

To address the Forestry Management Plan's requirements, the Town of St. Marys has increased the tree planting budget year over year, emphasizing the purchase of more mature trees to improve viability. On average, the Town and its partners plant approximately forty (40) boulevard trees, and one hundred (100) trees in natural areas or park settings. However, these averages will be exceeded in 2021, with the overall tree planting count to be approximately five hundred (500) trees. The Town is able to achieve this planting outcome via its own financial resources, grant funding from the TD Tree Days program, and donations from a private donor and the Rotary Club of St. Marys. The intention is to maintain the 2021 tree planting momentum in consequent years by leveraging community partnerships and launching the tree donation program.

Members of the public have offered the following recommendations to continue the enhancement of the urban forest, the methods include both community engagement methods and amendments to existing Town policies.

### Community Engagement Methods

- Coordinated Tree Planting Campaigns:
  - Memorial tree plantings (coordinate with nearby hospitals, funeral homes, churches, and businesses)
  - Honourary tree plantings for living contributors to St. Marys
  - Neighbourhood tree planting programs
  - Contests with tree prizes
  - Subsidized tree programs with utilities like Festival Hydro and Quadro
- Tree Fundraising Campaigns:



- Placement of collection boxes at all Town events and locations, and commercial businesses
- Campaigns addressed to homeowners and businesses
- Contests with tree prizes

#### Amendments to Existing Town Policies

- Re-consider existing replacement ratios, such as 10:1, 20:1, or 100:1 depending on the years of tree growth lost
- Mandated tree replacements on private property:
  - All newly developed residential lots, and existing lots<sup>1</sup> should install a minimum of,
    - Two trees in the front yard (Town)
    - Two trees along the side yard or rear yard
    - Entrances to new developments should be considered for tree planting
  - Town to consider mandated trees on commercial and industrial properties based on the size of the lot, with emphasis given to the front yard for planting
- Consider amendments to the Forestry Management Plan’s “Appendix E: Tree Planting Locations” to consider existing residential areas with a reduced amount of shading, such as:
  - Church Street, south of Park Street
  - Elgin Street East and West
  - George Street between Park Street and Victoria Street
  - Jones Street and the area east of Kingsway Lodge
  - Ontario Street South, up to Elgin Street West
  - Station Street from Church Street up to Egan Avenue
  - Salina Street South
  - Tracy Street, south of Victoria Street
- Reconsider the criteria for removing a Town tree to be more restrictive:
  - The tree is dead or dying, only if,
    - All measures to save have been exhausted
    - There is some real threat to people if it remains in place that cannot be managed with a warning sign
    - It threatens the life and health of a nearby tree.
  - The tree causes a hazard and needs to be removed to mitigate risk
    - Hazard needs to be better defined and demonstrated that it cannot be managed
  - Emergency Work
    - Much more definition required
  - Installation or reconstruction of Town infrastructure

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<sup>1</sup> Town Staff are unaware of any provincial legislation that provides the Town with the authority to mandate trees on existing properties without the existence of a planning application, or a tree removal by-law which includes replanting as a condition of the removal.

- Much more definition required
  - At the discretion of the Director of Public Works or their designate
    - Should be removed, as it is too open to abuse

### **Theme 3: Improved Maintenance Practices for Public Trees**

The Town’s Forestry Management indicates that the Town needs to “maintain better”, by employing a range of maintenance activities to ensure the health of trees.

The community members have asked the Town to consider the following when maintaining trees, especially when they near their end of life:

- Understand that dead and dying trees still provide benefits to the environment and other healthy trees and wildlife
- Wait until the last possible moment before removing a tree
  - Be creative about sustaining it until replacements are established
  - Don’t be too quick to solve any problems that arise by removing a tree any more than you would tear down a house because the roof was bad, or the foundation sprang a leak
  - Consider that the value of a mature tree is beyond calculation; less expensive to move the sidewalk or install a traffic obstacle or light.

In response to these comments, in natural areas dead and dying trees are maintained, and often remain untouched when dead to ensure they provide the natural benefits to the that natural environment. Alternative considerations are provided when dead or dying trees are in a location where they may cause harm to human life, when a dying tree poses a danger, like falling limbs that can cause harm, the tree must be removed. The removal of a tree is not taken lightly, and maintenance activities are considered before the removal. There is a cost to the removal of each tree in both environmental and budgetary impacts.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications at this time.

## **SUMMARY**

The Town has received comments and recommendations from members of the public regarding the Town’s management of the urban forest on both public and private lands. The report outlines the conversation themes. The Green Committee will discuss the recommendations being provided, and, if, any recommendations to Council are necessary.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

- ☒ This initiative is supported by the following priorities, outcomes, and tactics in the Plan.
  - Pillar #4 Culture and Revreation:
    - Outcome: St. Marys’ parks are not only a prized asset, they are also a natural gathering place that can be optimized and incorporated into enhancing the cultural profile of St. Marys
    - Tactic(s): Investigate implementing a forestry and tree management policy for the Town.

## **OTHERS CONSULTED**

None.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.

## **REVIEWED BY**

### **Recommended by the Department**

Morgan Dykstra  
Public Works & Planning Coordinator

Jed Kelly  
Director of Public Works