



AND THAT staff be instructed to report back to Council during the last quarter of 2020 to provide feedback on the reception of the Tree Preservation Bylaw by the public and contractors and to recommend any amendments based on experiences of applying the terms of the bylaw;

AND THAT staff be instructed to continue with plans for the protection and preservation of our Urban Forest including:

1. Amending the Subdivision and Development Servicing and Stormwater Management Bylaw No. 1175, 2012 to allow for wider road dedications and cohesion with new Tree Preservation Bylaw;
2. Examine establishing a National Healing Forest as part of the Whitetower Pond expansion;
3. Provide a report detailing the next steps in establishing an Urban Forest Master/Strategic Plan.

AND THAT Staff bring back a public consultation plan for the Bylaw for Council review;

AND FURTHER THAT Staff develop a communications plan that encourages voluntary compliance with the spirit of the Bylaw in the community until the adoption of the Tree Preservation Bylaw.

**R2020-336      Tree Preservation Bylaw 1282**

THAT "Tree Preservation Bylaw No. 1282, 2020" be given first and second reading

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the above resolutions and present edits brought forward by members of Council as well as some minor staff edits to the Tree Preservation Bylaw; staff will provide a verbal update to Council regarding the September 14, 2020 Public Hearing.

**DISCUSSION**

**Tree Preservation Bylaw edits**

In response to Council comments on July 7<sup>th</sup>, Staff have made the following amendments to the Tree Preservation Bylaw:

- Added Specimen Tree and removed Significant Tree from Definitions.
- Established an invasive tree species list and excluded invasive species from any regulation, regardless of diameter.
- Streamlined the procedure for dealing with Hazardous Trees.
- Addressed when permits and/permit fees are or are not required

Staff have also made some minor editorial edits, including the removal of some clauses that overlap with Development Permit 1 or 2 regulations.

The above revisions are shown in the attachment as red text (deletions) and blue text (additions).

### **Update on National Healing Forest:**

On August 26, 20, Mayor Beamish and staff met with Samaya Jardey, Director of Language and Cultural Affairs of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw via Zoom.

Staff presented a slideshow titled “Opportunities for the Creation of a Healing Forest in the Spirit of Reconciliation” which included an overview of the proposed Tree Preservation Bylaw, Whitetower Pond expansion and the desire for implementation of a National Healing Forest.

During that Zoom meeting, staff also presented a “Sample of Opportunities for Public Art, Street Naming, and Story Telling in the Town of Gibsons” slideshow, in which staff are looking to engage the Skwxwú7mesh to determine areas of cultural significance/importance that could be opportunities for public art/information.

The presentation was well received by the Director of Language and Cultural Affairs, who expressed her gratitude for Gibsons’ interest in undertaking this work with the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Staff has included information on the Whitetower Park Stormwater Pond webpage about the potential for the upcoming expansion project to be an appropriate site for the establishment of British Columbia’s first National Healing Forest. <https://www.nationalhealingforests.com/>

Additionally, Staff has developed a Communications Plan for the Tree Preservation Bylaw which includes:

- Webpage
- Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)
- Digital Newsletter,
- Newspaper Ad (Public Hearing),
- Direct Mail, and
- Public Hearing

To date, the webpage for the Tree Preservation Bylaw <https://gibsons.ca/services/bylaw-enforcement/tree-preservation-bylaw/> has been created and is being updated as the bylaw progresses. The bylaw webpage is being promoted via social media and the Town’s digital newsletter.

The page includes an easy-to-follow flowchart which helps residents determine whether they need a permit to remove a tree. Property owners are being asked to adhere to these guidelines prior to official adoption of the bylaw. In addition, the tree preservation bylaw page links to a second

webpage on the Urban Forest Plan <https://gibsons.ca/sustainability/natural-assets/urban-forest-plan/>.

Furthermore, a Public Hearing is been held on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Staff will report verbally the summary of the Hearing at the September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Council meeting.

Following the adoption of the bylaw, a postcard will be sent to all Town of Gibsons residents informing them about the bylaw and its key regulations. The postcard will also direct property owners to visit the Tree Preservation Bylaw webpage or contact the Infrastructure Service department, before removing any tree from their property. Key messages will also be communicated via social media and the Town's digital newsletter. A Public Hearing is to be held on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Staff will report verbally the summary of the Hearing at the September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Council meeting.

## **POLICY / PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

### **Strategic Plan Implications**

The draft Tree Preservation Bylaw is consistent with Council's objective of Responding to a Changing Climate.

### **Financial Plan Implications**

The legal review of the bylaw (completed) was budgeted as a line item in the 2020 Financial Plan. Some additional funding has also been allocated towards initial work on the Urban Forest which staff will continue to work on. Staff has made additions of fees, charges and fines related to the Tree Preservation Bylaw (under a separate report) should Council wish to move towards adoption.

Fees and charges as well as fines related to the Tree Preservation Bylaw are being presented in separate reports.

### **Other Policy or Plan Implications**

This bylaw is consistent with the Town's OCP, Asset Management Policy, and Eco Asset Strategy.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Sept 2020 – Adoption of Tree Preservation Bylaw.
- Q4 2020 – Report back to Council with staff and public feedback.
- Q3 2020 - Healing Forest – The staff presentation has been sent to the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw which they will then take to their Council Committee. They will discuss the Nations' interest in the concept of the Healing Forest and identify area of cultural significance/importance that could be opportunities for public art/information. The Committee decides which items go to Council and if that is the case then Staff may be asked to present to the Skwxwú7mesh Council.

- Q4 2020 – Staff are continuing to work on Subdivision and Development Servicing and Stormwater Management Bylaw 1175.
- Q2 2021 - Staff to report back to Council as to the success of the implementation of the Tree Preservation Bylaw and with any recommendations for amendments based on experiences.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / ALTERNATIVES**

Staff recommendations are on the first page of this report. Alternatively, Council may wish to make further amendments to the bylaw before adoption.

### **Attachments**

- Attachment A – edited draft Tree Preservation Bylaw
- Attachment B – clean draft Tree Preservation Bylaw

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dave Newman  
Director of Infrastructure Services

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Michelle Lewis  
Natural Asset Technician

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:**

I have reviewed the report and support the recommendation(s).

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Emanuel Machado  
Chief Administrative Officer