

Private Tree Protection By-law Update

Council Presentation

Committee of the Whole: March 5, 2024

Agenda

- Purpose of presentation and report
- Strategic Plan alignment
- Timeline and progress
- Key findings
- Update options
- Financial implications
- Next steps

Why are we here

- Seek support for four recommended bylaw update options
- The Key Issues and Options Report is a culmination of all the work to this point including background research, data analysis and community engagement

Strategic Plan alignment

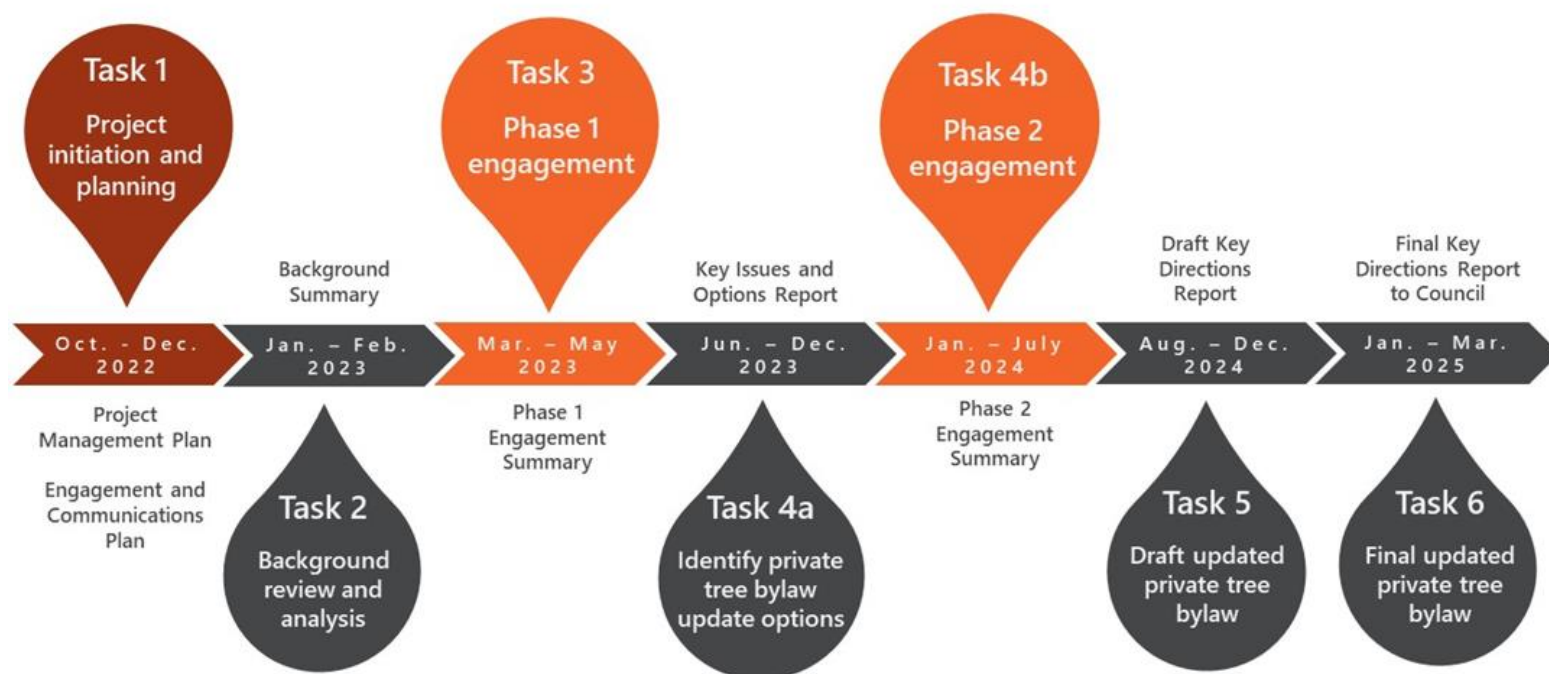
Increase the City's ability to effectively regulate the destruction and injuring of trees

Future Guelph Theme: Environment

Future Guelph Objective: Be a leader in climate action

Specifically, mitigating the impact of climate change by increasing canopy cover, supported by the update of the Private Tree Protection By-law.

Timeline and progress



Key findings

Background review and tree canopy data analysis

- Guelph's tree canopy cover provides valuable services
- Guelph's private tree bylaw is an important tool for protecting and maintaining tree canopy cover
- There are some overarching best practices for private tree bylaws
- The current private tree bylaw is not fully resourced
- Most of Guelph's trees are relatively small /young (78 per cent smaller than 20 centimetres in diameter)
- More than two thirds of Guelph's tree canopy cover is on private land
- Half of the tree canopy cover in Guelph is regulated by the current private tree bylaw
- Expanding the scope of the private tree bylaw would potentially regulate and up to 69 per cent of the tree canopy cover
- There is broad support from the community for the efforts to protect and preserve trees but differing perspectives on the approach
- There is lack of knowledge in the community about the private tree bylaw

How do we get there

Screening criteria

1. Proportion of trees regulated
2. Proportion of tree canopy cover regulated
3. Level of protection compared to the current private tree bylaw
4. Alignment with community perspectives
5. Level of complexity
6. Impact on City resources

Recommended options

Option 1: Current private tree bylaw scope - Regulation of trees at least 10 cm diameter on private lots greater than 0.2 ha.

Option 2: Current private tree bylaw tree size on smaller private lots - Regulation of trees at least 10 cm diameter on lots greater than 0.1 ha rather than 0.2 ha.

Option 3: Trees at least 20 cm diameter on all private lots - Regulation of trees slightly larger than what is currently regulated (20 cm rather than 10 cm diameter and greater) but with the scope expanded to all private lots across the city.

Option 4: Current private tree bylaw scope plus trees at least 50 cm diameter on all private lots - Regulation of (a) trees at least 10 cm diameter on lots greater than 0.2 ha, plus (b) trees at least 50 cm diameter on all private lots.

Comparison of options

Option	Description (scope)	Number of lots captured	Area of land captured (hectares)	Approximate canopy cover captured (per cent)
1	Current scope - Trees at least 10 cm diameter on private lots greater than 0.2 (ha)	1,929	4,036	50
2	Trees at least 10 cm diameter on private lots greater than 0.1 ha	3,882	4,287	55
3	Trees at least 20 cm diameter on all private lots	37,187	5,914	69
4	Current scope (trees at least 10 cm diameter on private lots greater than 0.2 (ha)), plus trees at least 50 cm diameter on all private lots	37,187	5,914	50 to 69

Additional recommendations

Seek input on the following opportunities through the phase 2 engagement process:

1. Regulation of replacement trees through the private tree bylaw
2. Options for updating the approach to tree compensation (in accordance with the approved 2019 Tree Technical Manual)
3. Options for offsetting potential tree compensation costs for residents (if the private tree bylaw scope is expanded to more private lots).

Financial implications

Option	Description (scope)	Operating Cost (estimate)	Funding gap (estimate)
1	Current scope - Trees at least 10 cm diameter on private lots greater than 0.2 (ha)	\$29,000	\$0
2	Trees at least 10 cm diameter on private lots greater than 0.1 ha	\$58,000	\$0
3	Trees at least 20 cm diameter on all private lots	\$340,000	\$235,000
4	Current scope (trees at least 10 cm diameter on private lots greater than 0.2 (ha)), plus trees at least 50 cm diameter on all private lots	\$218,000	\$113,000

Next steps

- Phase 2 community engagement (May 2024)
- Phase 2 engagement summary
- Confirm scope for updated private tree bylaw
- Draft private tree bylaw (summer 2024)
- Internal review and finalization (fall 2024)
- Presentation of updated private tree bylaw to Council (targeting March 2025)

Thank you for your consideration