SUBJECT: Tree Removal Request - Jerseyville Road Left Turn Lane to the Old Ancaster Landfill Soccer Pitch (PW08058) - (Wards 12 and 14)

RECOMMENDATION:
That the necessary existing trees be approved for removal (refer to Appendix “A” to Report PW08058), to facilitate the implementation of the capital project, which includes the construction of left turn lanes to the soccer pitches on the former Ancaster Landfill site, located on Jerseyville Road, approximately 450 metres west of Shaver Road.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
The removal of trees is needed to facilitate the construction of a left turn lane to the proposed soccer pitches located on the former Ancaster Landfill Site south of Jerseyville Road, approximately 450 metres west of Shaver Road. Access to the pitches are provided via Jerseyville Road and a westbound left-turn lane will be required at the site entrance as a result of the limited visibility caused by the existing horizontal and vertical constraints. An inventory of all the trees within the road right of way was undertaken and the impacted trees are identified and are shown in Appendix A and noted as Tree Inventory Plan. Trees designated to remain are identified. Due to the grading works required, about 50 trees which are in fair to good condition will be affected and will have to be removed. Council approval is being sought at this time to remove the trees in order to facilitate the proposed construction in accordance with Hamilton Tree By-law Number 06-151.
Forestry has been consulted to provide their review and comment on the existing trees to be removed. Some of the trees were on slopes which are eroding and would pose hazard if not removed.

**BACKGROUND:**

The information/recommendations contained within this report primarily affect Wards 12 and 14.

Totten Sims Hubicki Associates (TSH) was retained in November, 2006 by the City of Hamilton to undertake a traffic impact study for the proposed development of three soccer pitches within the Community of Ancaster, and complete the functional design of required improvements to Jerseyville Road. Access to the pitches is provided via Jerseyville Road. The existing access to the site has limited horizontal and vertical site lines which make access and egress hazardous. A westbound left-turn lane is required at the site entrance to provide increased visibility. Several alternatives were considered to improve the sight line issues. The alternative which requires improvements to the vertical curvatures to improve the sight line is recommended for implementation.

Totten Sims Hubicki Associates was hired to do the detailed design and tender of the proposed alternative. A tree inventory was prepared and the trees impacted by the proposed works were identified. These plans are attached as Appendix A.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

Design of proposed works has been undertaken considering the best arboriculture industry techniques in an effort to minimize tree damage and removal during construction related activities when feasible.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

In order to avoid the removal of the trees we would have to eliminate the construction of the turn lane and vertical curvature improvements. The elimination of the proposed works would, result in a potentially unsafe condition for vehicles entering and exiting the site and we would not support this alternative.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

**Financial**

The removal and replacement of trees will be funded from the Capital Budget appropriation allocated to the project. There is sufficient funds within the Capital Budget account. Appendix A outlines where the trees will be removed. Location for the replacement of trees will be chosen such as not to compromise safety. The net total value for the trees affected by capital projects are reviewed yearly to determine the replacement value. The removal and replacement of trees is ongoing with the annual Capital Budget and the net impact is reviewed and signed off by the respective Divisions in Public Works.

**Staffing**

No additional staffing required.
Legal

No legal implications.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

Council approval is being sought in accordance with the provisions of the City of Hamilton Tree By-law Number 06-151.

Pursuant to the Public Works Strategic Plan, communities are enhanced as this measure will allow for the use of the adjacent recreational facility promoting and supporting a healthy lifestyle in area youth and also providing for the safety of the travelling public accessing this site.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**

Operations & Maintenance Division, Forestry & Horticulture Section and Ward 12 and 14 Councillors.

**CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:**

The trimming and removal of the trees will facilitate the implementation of the programmed Capital projects which include the construction of the left turn lane and vertical curvature improvements. This will assist achieving Council’s strategic goal of a healthy, safe and green City by improving the current road geometrics to accommodate the new sports fields for area residents.

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

- **Community Well-Being is enhanced.** ☑ Yes ☐ No
  Public services and programs are delivered in an equitable manner, coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.

- **Environmental Well-Being is enhanced.** ☑ Yes ☐ No
  Human health and safety are protected.

- **Economic Well-Being is enhanced.** ☑ Yes ☐ No
  Hamilton’s high-quality environmental amenities are maintained and enhanced.

**Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?**

☑ Yes ☐ No

There is a trade-off between removing roadside vegetation to provide for a safe access to a new sports field facility.

**Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?**

☐ Yes ☑ No