SUBJECT: Tree Removal Request - Various Capital Projects (PW06038) (Wards 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the necessary existing trees be approved for removal to facilitate the implementation of Capital Projects which include the construction of escarpment stairs, watermain, sewer, road, sidewalk and streetscaping on:

(a) Ferguson Avenue: Main Street East to Grange Street
   Relating to Contract PW-06-02(HSW); (See Appendix ‘A’),

(b) Upper Wellington Street: Mohawk Road to Fennell Avenue
   Relating to Contract PW-05-49(HSW); (See Appendix ‘B’),

(c) East Hamilton Stairs: Escarpment Rail Trail to top of escarpment
   (See Appendix ‘C’),

(d) Parkdale Avenue: Lawrence Road Bridge to Bridge link
   Relating to Contract PW-06-23(W); (See Appendix ‘D’); and

(e) Edgemont Street North: Cannon Street to Main Street East
   Relating to Contract PW-06-18 (HSW); (See Appendix ‘E’).

E. (Beth) Goodger
Acting General Manager
Public Works
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The removal of trees is needed to facilitate the implementation of various programmed Capital projects which include the construction of escarpment stairs, watermain, sewer, road, sidewalk and streetscaping. These trees are in a varied state of health. Council approval is being sought at this time to remove the trees in order to facilitate the proposed construction in accordance with former Hamilton tree By-law number 92-155. Where possible, Forestry have provided their review and comment on the condition of the existing trees to be removed and determined the value of compensation according to the existing replacement policy. Removal costs and applicable compensation value is borne by the corresponding Capital Budget account for the project requiring the removal. The total number of trees being removed is thirty-one (31). The total removal costs and replacement compensation values will be as per the established protocols and values as determined by the Forestry section.

BACKGROUND:

The information/recommendations contained within this report primarily affect Wards 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Contract PW-06-02(HSW) on Ferguson Avenue (see Appendix ‘A’): Main Street East to Grange Street, includes watermain replacement, storm relief sewer, road and sidewalk construction. This co-ordinated watermain, sewer, streetscaping and road construction project will serve to upgrade deficient watermain infrastructure, thereby improving the supply of potable water to area residents. In addition, the storm relief sewer construction will reduce the risk of future flooding in the area. The location of three (3) trees is in direct conflict with the proposed works and require removal. There is no removal cost or replacement compensation value associated with this contract as 24 new trees are proposed to be planted as part of the Streetscaping works.

Contract PW-05-49(HSW) on Upper Wellington Street (see Appendix ‘B’): Mohawk Road to Fennell Avenue, includes watermain, sanitary sewer, road and sidewalk construction. This co-ordinated watermain, sewer and road construction project will serve to upgrade deficient watermain infrastructure, thereby improving the supply of potable water to area residents. In addition, the sanitary sewer replacement will reduce the risk of future flooding in the area. The location of one (1) tree is in direct conflict with the proposed works and requires removal. City forestry staff has provided a condition review of the affected trees and are in agreement with the removal recommendations in this report. City Forestry staff has provided a condition review of the affected tree and is in agreement with the removal recommendations in this report. Forestry staff has not yet provided a replacement compensation value.

The East Hamilton Escarpment Stairs (see Appendix ‘C’) being proposed will connect the Escarpment Rail Trail and top of the escarpment in the vicinity of Mountain Brow Boulevard and Margate Avenue. This construction project will serve to complete the pedestrian and cyclist route initiated in PW-04-54(M) which connected Kimberly Drive to the Escarpment Rail Trail. The locations of six (6) trees are in direct conflict with the proposed works and require removal. City forestry staff has provided a condition review of the affected trees and are in agreement with the removal recommendations in this report. The removal costs would be borne by the contract and a replacement compensation value of $15,210.00 has been identified by Forestry.
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Contract PW-06-23(W) on Parkdale Avenue (see Appendix ‘D’): Lawrence Road will provide the necessary link between the water mains across the Lawrence Rd. This watermain replacement project is being undertaken to rectify the water quality issues in this neighbourhood. Eight (8) trees are in direct conflict with the proposed works and require removal. The City Forestry staff has not provided a removal cost and replacement compensation value.

Contract PW-06-18 (HSW) on Edgemont Street North (See Appendix ‘E’): Cannon Street to Main Street East includes watermain, sanitary sewer, road and sidewalk construction. This co-ordinated watermain, sewer and road construction project will serve to upgrade deficient watermain infrastructure, thereby improving the supply of potable water to area residents. In addition, the sanitary sewer replacement will reduce the risk of future flooding in the area. The locations of thirteen (13) trees are in direct conflict with the proposed works and require removal. Forestry staff has not yet provided a removal cost and replacement compensation value.

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 three (3) trees in Contract PW-06-02(HSW) we would have to eliminate the proposed storm sewer and the opportunity to replace one tree with two trees in a landscaped area.

In order to avoid the removal of the one (1) tree in Contract PW-05-49(HSW) we would have to eliminate the reconstruction of the sidewalk and road.

In order to avoid the removal of the six (6) trees in the construction of the East Hamilton Escarpment Stairs we would have to eliminate building a completion to this pedestrian and cyclist route as shifting of the current alignment would result in the removal of the endangered Butternut trees in the surrounding area.

In order to avoid the removal of the eight (8) trees in Parkdale Avenue we would have to eliminate the proposed watermain link and the opportunity to eliminate the water quality issues.

In order to avoid the removal of the twelve (13) trees in Edgemont Street North we would have to eliminate the proposed sanitary sewer, water main replacement and sidewalk reconstruction.

Financial/Staffing/Legal Implications:
Financial
The removal and replacement of trees will be funded from the Capital Budget appropriation allocated to the respective projects. There is sufficient budget in each project Capital Budget account.
Staffing
No additional staffing required.

Legal
No legal implications.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:
Council approval is being sought in accordance with the provisions of the former City of Hamilton Tree By-law number 92-155.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:
The following were consulted in preparation of this report:
Public Works, Operations and Maintenance, Forestry & Horticulture

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:
The trimming and removal of the trees will facilitate the implementation of the programmed Capital projects which include the construction of escarpment stairs, watermain, sewer, road, sidewalk and streetscaping. This will assist achieving Council’s strategic goal of a healthy, safe and green City by investing in safe water for today and tomorrow to ensure reliable and safe sources of drinking water for area residents. It will also prevent basement flooding due to inadequate sewer capacity. Beautification and the placement of additional trees also support this strategic initiative.

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

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☐ Yes ☑ No
Upper Wellington Street

Tree To Be Removed

Location of Proposed West Sidewalk and Curb

City of Hamilton
Ward 7
Upper Wellington Street
Proposed Road Reconstruction

CITY OF HAMILTON
Public Works Department
General Manager, Scott Stewart

DATE: February 10, 2008