



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG  
OFFICE OF ENGINEERING & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

*MISSION STATEMENT: Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.*

Author's Name: Eric Chamberlain	Report Date: April 5, 2024
Author's Phone: 519 736-3664 ext. 2312	Date to Council: May 2, 2023
Author's E-mail: echamberlain@amherstburg.ca	Resolution #:

To: Amherstburg Environmental Committee

Subject: 2018-2023 Tree Planting Program

---

1. **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that:

1. The report from the Manager of Roads and Fleet dated April 5, 2024, regarding the 2018-2023 Tree Planting Programs **BE RECEIVED as information.**

2. **BACKGROUND:**

At the March 27, 2023, the Environmental Committee passed the following motion:

*"That historical tree planting data for the past 5 years inclusive of 2023, including map & grow data and other accessible data such as parks and right of way data, **BE PROVIDED** to the Environmental Advisory Committee at the May 2, 2024 Committee Meeting."*

3. **DISCUSSION:**

The Tree Planting Program attempts to plant a tree for every tree removed. In addition, this program also plants trees for any resident that requests a tree in their front yard. The Town's Tree Planting Program ensures the tree is planted on Town's right of way which will ensure that the tree is protected by the Town's Public Tree By-Law.

In addition to the Town’s Tree Planting Program, the Town has changed the method to which developers of subdivisions manage the tree plantings in newly created subdivisions. The developers are required to provide a deposit in the value of a tree per lot to cover the cost of purchasing and planting. The developer plans and plants the trees has specified by the Town’s Contract Arborist. The Town releases the Developer’s deposit after the 1 year maintenance period. The monies collected cover the cost of planting trees once the entire subdivision is built out.

The following table outlines the number of trees that have been planted over the past 6 years within the Town’s right of way through the Town’s Tree Planting Program or Development Tree Plantings:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Town Tree Planting (Street and Parks)</b>	<b>Map and Grow Initiative</b>	<b>Earth Day Planting Event</b>	<b>Development Tree Plantings</b>	<b>Total Tree Planting</b>
<b>2023</b>	Roads – 0* Parks - 5	200	100	154	459
<b>2022</b>	Roads – 120 Parks - 51	169	50	226	616
<b>2021</b>	Roads – 58 Parks – 40			164	262
<b>2020</b>	Roads – 39 Parks - 40			113	192
<b>2019</b>	Roads – 100 Parks - 0			134	234
<b>2018</b>	Roads – 56 Parks - 0			51	107

Notes - \* denotes the 2023 Tree Planting Program is planned for the spring of 2024. The Town has 105 trees being planted by mid May. The 2023 Tree Planting Budget was carried forwarded to 2024.

In 2021, Council approved an increase to 2 plantings for each tree removed as recommended through the Amherstburg Environmental Advisory Committee and this directive took effect in the 2022 operating year. Further to the 2 for 1 planting, in 2021 the contract Arborist spent time identifying and mapping locations along the right of ways that would be appropriate for a tree planting. The future tree planting locations are provided on the Town Future Tree Planting Plan. The Town utilized this plan to plant the additional 60 trees as per the 2 for 1 Tree Planting initiative. The areas covered in 2022 were Alma Street to Simcoe Street and from the Detroit River to Victoria Street South.

**4. RISK ANALYSIS:**

The Tree Maintenance Program provides the Municipality with a proactive program which demonstrates the Town’s due diligence in preventing damage to properties and personal injury as a result of tree failure. Without an appropriate tree maintenance program, the health of the street tree population may be negatively impacted. Routine maintenance will also help to maintain the health of the Town’s street tree population.

**5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The financial impact of the 2023 Tree Maintenance Program is as follows:

<b>Public Works Budget Centre – Operations Budget</b>	
2024 Tree Planting	2023 - \$50,000 2024 - \$50,000

It should be noted that the change to the policy to plant two trees for every tree removed will have significant budgetary impacts in future years as these trees reach maturity, related to their maintenance and removal. This will continue to compound, year over year with increasing plantings, as trees are removed necessitating increased investment.

**6. CONSULTATIONS:**

The Manager of Parks and Naturalized Areas and Director, Parks, Recreation, Facilities & Culture were consulted.

**7. CONCLUSION:**

The Tree Maintenance Program improves the overall health of the Town’s trees as well as demonstrates the Town’s due diligence in preventing damage to properties and personal injury because of tree failure.

---

Eric Chamberlain  
**Manager of Roads and Fleet**

**Attachments:**

Future Trees – Core Amherstburg  
Future Trees – North and South Urban Areas