

City of Ottawa Tree Policies

Martha Copestake, Forester – Planning

February 26, 2020

Presentation Outline

- Ottawa's Urban Forest Management Plan
- Tree By-law Review
- Tree Conservation Reports
- Tree Protection

Putting Down Roots for the Future: Ottawa's Urban Forest Management Plan

- A 20 year strategic Urban Forest Management Plan for Ottawa, 2018-2037
- Recognizes the value of the City's urban forest
- Supports community's commitment to continued and improved stewardship
- A structured approach to protecting and enhancing the services provided by the urban forest

UFMP Implementation

- 26 Recommendations to be implemented over the first two management periods
- To be jointly implemented by Forestry (PWES) & Natural Systems (PIED)



UFMP Projects

- Urban Forest Canopy Cover Study
- Forested Areas Maintenance Plan
- Tree Planting Guidelines and Review Tree Planting Programs
- Tree By-law Review



Tree By-law Background

- *Municipal Act* allows City to enact by-laws to prohibit or regulate the destruction or injury of trees
- Two tree by-laws:
 - Municipal Trees and Natural Areas Protection By-law, 2006-279
 - Urban Tree Conservation By-law, 2009-200



Tree Loss and Valuing the Urban Forest

- Cumulative impact of single tree loss
- Over nine years, 30 to 58% of trees lost in inner urban neighbourhoods
- Inconsistent with Official Plan and Urban Forest Management Plan
- Urban forest plays central role in public health, urban design and climate resiliency
- Retaining trees builds climate resilience to adapt to a warmer future

Tree By-law Review

- Integrated approach to protect Ottawa's urban tree canopy
- Maintain and increase diversity of urban forest over time by revising tree by-laws and processes
- Transparent tree permitting and compensation requirements

RETAIN

REPLACE

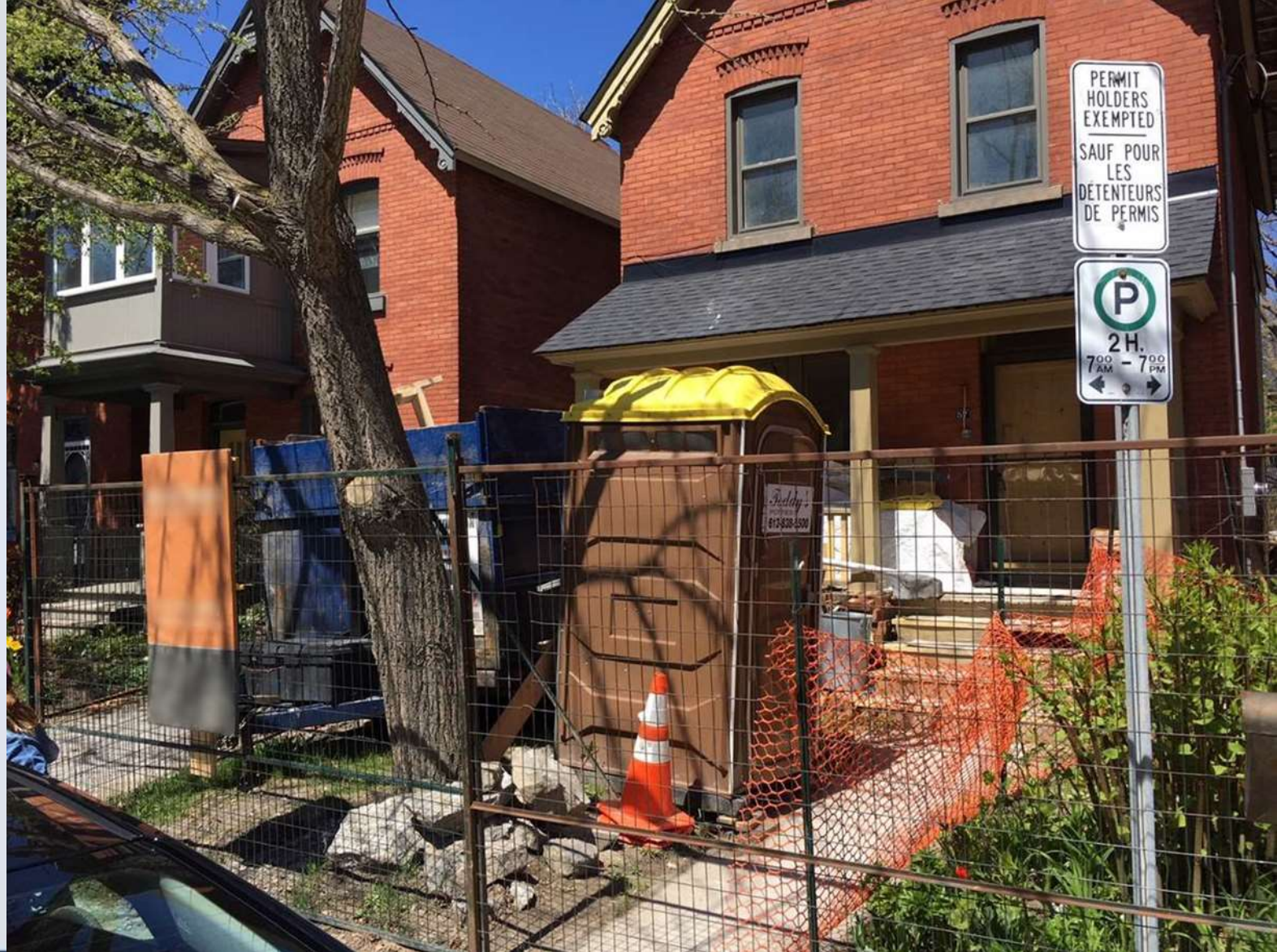
RENEW

Phase 1 Tree By-law Changes

- Harmonized Tree By-law, effective May 2020
- Improved tree protection requirements
- Formalized tree compensation requirements
- New application fees for cost recovery
- New special fine
- Improved information requirements for distinctive tree permits

Phase 2 Changes

- Lower distinctive tree size from 50 cm to 30 cm
- New permit to work around trees



- On City property, permission is required prior to removing any tree, city-wide.
- On urban private properties greater than one hectare **and for any Site Plan or Plan of Subdivision application**, a permit is required to remove any tree 10 cm or greater in diameter.
 - TREE CONSERVATION REPORT REQUIRED
- For smaller urban private properties (1ha or less), a permit is required to remove trees 50 cm or more in diameter.
 - TREE INFORMATION REPORT REQUIRED

Tree Conservation Report (TCR)

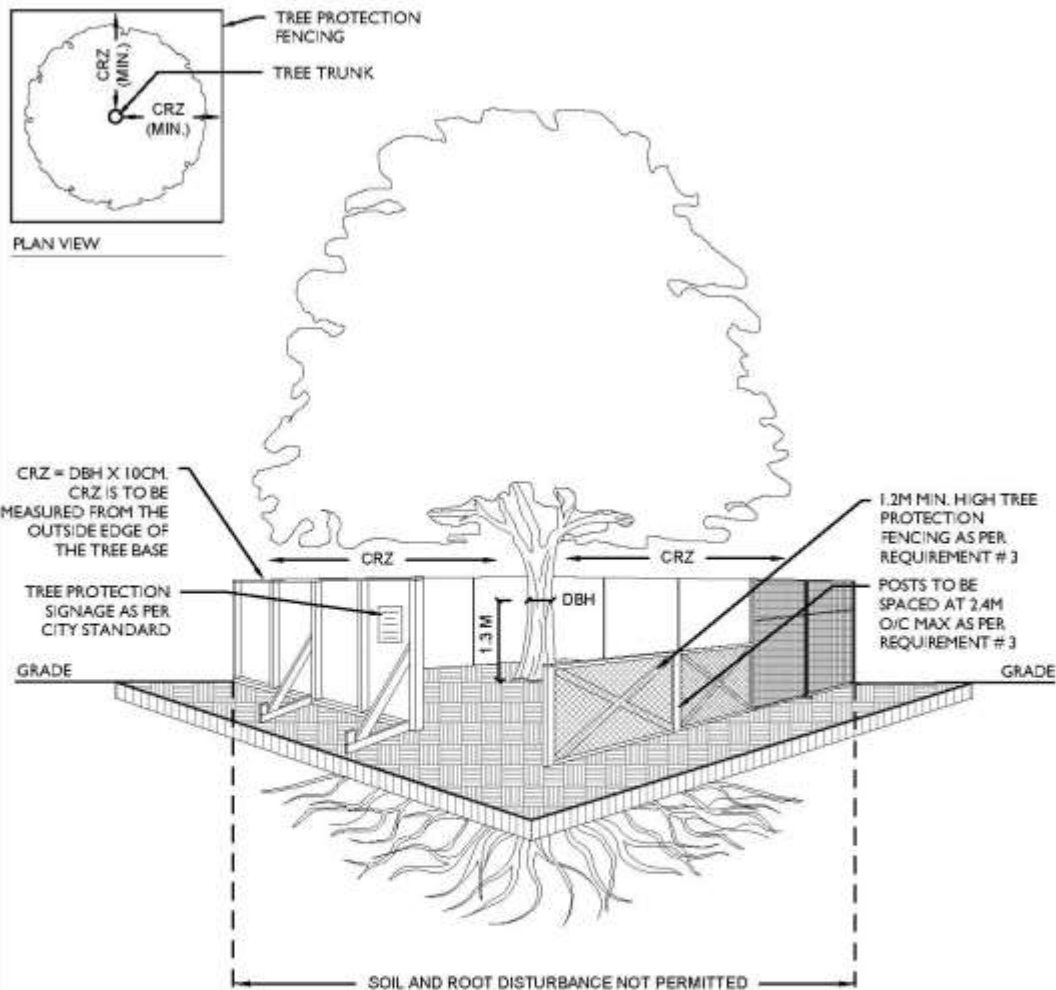
- TCR Guidelines are a schedule to the Tree Protection by-law and can be found on the City's website at www.ottawa.ca/urbantree
- Important elements:
 - What is currently on site?
 - What is proposed for removal and what is proposed for protection?
 - How will the protected trees be protected?
- The tree permit will be based on the approved TCR for the site and it will usually be issued in conjunction with development approvals.

Tree Conservation Reports cont'd

- TCR must list all trees on site by SPECIES – DIAMETER – HEALTH CONDITION
 - Stands of trees may be combined using sampling methodology
- Must include all trees on the subject site and trees adjacent to the subject site
 - If only part of the site is being developed any tree in close proximity to the development area or the staging areas must be included in the TCR
- Must include all City trees within the ROW adjacent to the site
- Jointly owned or “boundary” trees are considered co-owned by both property owners and cannot be impacted without the permission of both property owners
- TCR must clearly indicate the reason why any trees must be removed

Tree Protection

- All retained trees must be clearly shown as retained on the plans
- Retained trees must be protected as per the City's guidelines (next slide)
- The following must be shown on the plan:
 - The location of the tree protection fencing
 - The distance from the trunks of the retained trees to the protection fencing
 - The critical root zone (CRZ) of the retained trees
- If any excavation will occur within the CRZ:
 - Show the limits of excavation, and
 - Calculate the percentage of the CRZ that will be disturbed



- TREE PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS:**
1. PRIOR TO ANY WORK ACTIVITY WITHIN THE CRITICAL ROOT ZONE (CRZ = 10 X DIAMETER) OF A TREE, TREE PROTECTION FENCING MUST BE INSTALLED SURROUNDING THE CRITICAL ROOT ZONE, AND REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL THE WORK IS COMPLETE.
 2. UNLESS PLANS ARE APPROVED BY CITY FORESTRY STAFF, FOR WORK WITHIN THE CRZ:
 - DO NOT PLACE ANY MATERIAL OR EQUIPMENT - INCLUDING OUTHOUSES;
 - DO NOT ATTACH ANY SIGNS, NOTICES OR POSTERS TO ANY TREE;
 - DO NOT RAISE OR LOWER THE EXISTING GRADE;
 - TUNNEL OR BORE WHEN DIGGING;
 - DO NOT DAMAGE THE ROOT SYSTEM, TRUNK, OR BRANCHES OR ANY TREE;
 - ENSURE THAT EXHAUST FUMES FROM ALL EQUIPMENT ARE NOT DIRECTED TOWARD ANY TREE CANOPY.
 - DO NOT EXTEND HARD SURFACE OR SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE LANDSCAPING
 3. TREE PROTECTION FENCING MUST BE AT LEAST 1.2M IN HEIGHT, AND CONSTRUCTED OF RIGID OR FRAMED MATERIALS (E.G. MODULOC - STEEL, PLYWOOD HOARDING, OR SNOW FENCE ON A 2"X4" WOOD FRAME) WITH POSTS 2.4M APART, SUCH THAT THE FENCE LOCATION CANNOT BE ALTERED. ALL SUPPORTS AND BRACING MUST BE PLACED OUTSIDE OF THE CRZ, AND INSTALLATION MUST MINIMISE DAMAGE TO EXISTING ROOTS. (SEE DETAIL)
 4. THE LOCATION OF THE TREE PROTECTION FENCING MUST BE DETERMINED BY AN ARBORIST AND DETAILED ON ANY ASSOCIATED PLANS FOR THE SITE (E.G. TREE CONSERVATION REPORT, TREE DISCLOSURE REPORT, ETC), THE PLAN AND CONSTRUCTED FENCING MUST BE APPROVED BY CITY FORESTRY STAFF PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.
 5. IF THE FENCED TREE PROTECTION AREA MUST BE REDUCED TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION, MITIGATION MEASURES MUST BE PRESCRIBED BY AN ARBORIST AND APPROVED BY CITY FORESTRY STAFF. THESE MAY INCLUDE THE PLACEMENT OF PLYWOOD, WOOD CHIPS, OR STEEL PLATING OVER THE ROOTS FOR PROTECTION OR THE PROPER PRUNING AND CARE OF ROOTS WHERE ENCOUNTERED.

BY-LAWS
 ALL CITY-OWNED TREES ARE PROTECTED UNDER THE MUNICIPAL TREES AND NATURAL AREAS PROTECTION BY-LAW (2006-279). WITHIN THE URBAN AREA, PRIVATELY-OWNED TREES GREATER THAN 50CM DIAMETER ON LOTS 1HA IN SIZE OR LESS, AND TREES GREATER THAN 10CM DIAMETER ON LOTS >1HA, ARE PROTECTED UNDER THE URBAN TREE CONSERVATION BY-LAW (2009-200).

ACCESSIBLE FORMATS AND COMMUNICATION SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE, UPON REQUEST



TREE PROTECTION SPECIFICATION

TO BE IMPLEMENTED FOR RETAINED TREES, BOTH ON SITE AND ON ADJACENT SITES, PRIOR TO ANY TREE REMOVAL OR SITE WORKS AND MAINTAINED FOR THE DURATION OF WORK ACTIVITIES ON SITE.

SCALE: NTS

DATE: MAY 2019

DRAWING NO.: 1 of 1

Types of Tree Conservation Reports

- Types of TCRs we receive:
 - Stand alone TCR in report form with maps/plans
 - TCR information overlaid on a Landscape Plan – usually smaller sites with fewer trees
 - TCR/EIS combos
- All information required must still be included
- For TCR/EIS combos:
 - A separate trees section of the report
 - Separate maps/plans to show required tree elements

We are looking for.....

- Healthy trees to be retained
- Design around existing trees – value the existing trees on the site
- Unique design / mitigation features included to protect existing trees
- Adequate protection measures including mitigation measures if work is occurring close to or within the CRZ
- Advice from Certified Arborist or Forester on any work close to trees
- A robust Landscape Plan that offsets the tree loss on the site plus more
 - Includes adequate soil volumes for newly planted trees

Tree Type/Size	Single Tree Soil Volume (m ³)	Multiple Tree Soil Volume (m ³ /tree)
Ornamental	15	9
Columnar	15	9
Small	20	12
Medium	25	15
Large	30	18
Conifer	25	15

ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact Mark Richardson

Mark.Richardson@ottawa.ca

THANK YOU

