

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE      **DATE:** 2020 November 10

**FROM:** DIRECTOR ENGINEERING      **FILE:** 52000-01  
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURAL SERVICES

**SUBJECT: NEW BOULEVARD TREE PLANTING - #TREE4FREE**

**PURPOSE:** To seek Council authority to approve a new boulevard tree planting program

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Financial Management Committee recommend Council approve a new boulevard tree planting program as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report is provided to the Environment Committee.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report is provided to the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission.

### REPORT

#### INTRODUCTION

Boulevard trees are a strong part of a Climate Action Strategy and Climate Adaptation Strategy, contributing toward lower carbon emissions, improved air quality, reduced stormwater impact, and improved health and resilience.

Burnaby plants new boulevard trees as a part of development approvals, with capital projects such as the sidewalk expansion program, and through the Local Area Service program. However, there is another opportunity to plant even more boulevard trees – free tree planting by the City upon request by adjacent property owners.

Similar free boulevard tree planting programs exist in municipalities across Canada.



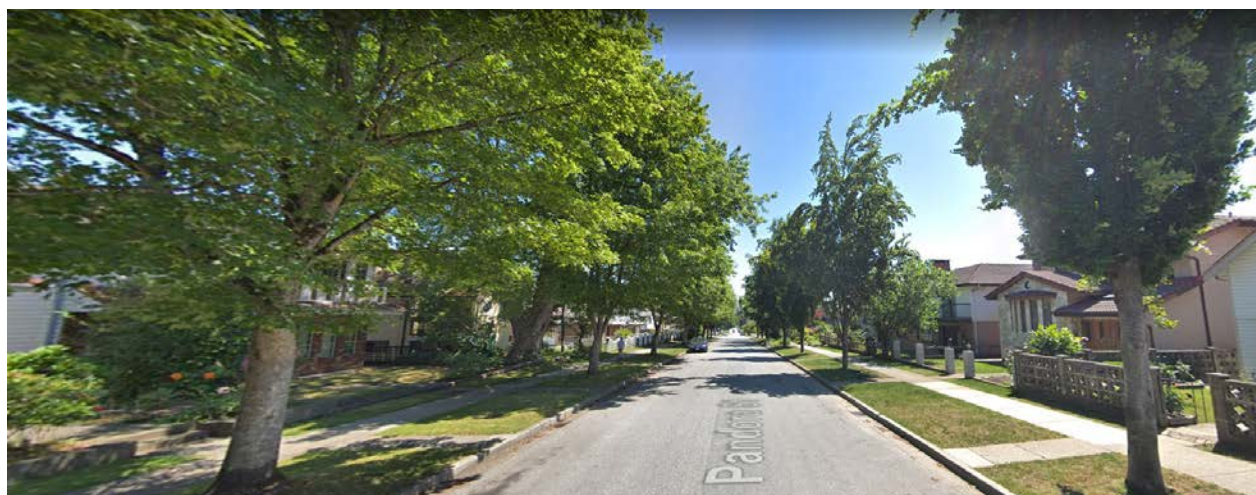
To: Chair and Members Financial Management  
Committee  
From: Director Engineering  
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural  
Services  
Re: New Boulevard Tree Program - #tree4free  
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## POLICY SECTION

The #Tree4Free program is aligned with the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the Plan.

### Goal

- A Safe Community
  - Transportation safety –  
Make City streets, pathways, trails and sidewalks safer
- A Connected Community
  - Social connection –  
Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
- An Inclusive Community
  - Create a sense of community –  
Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging
- A Healthy Community
  - Healthy environment –  
Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability
- A Dynamic Community
  - Community development –  
Manage change by balancing economic development with environmental protection and maintaining a sense of belonging



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Services

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## DISCUSSION

The Climate Action Framework has identified increased boulevard tree planting as a key quick start to support the Climate Emergency Declaration. Some of the benefits related to additional boulevard trees include:

- Improved health and resilience of City greenspace
- Reduced storm water impact
- Shaded public spaces for respite during summer heat events
- Reduced energy use for cooling in summers
- Improved public health and equity
- Additional biodiversity (food and habitat for wildlife)
- Improved air quality
- Beautify and enhance neighbourhoods
- Lower carbon emissions

A 'Tree 4 Free' program (#tree4free) has been proposed to quickly increase the boulevard tree canopy adjacent interested properties. This program would enhance the ongoing boulevard tree planting associated with capital projects like the sidewalk expansion program, the Local Area Service Program, and development projects.

The 'Tree 4 Free' program would allow property owners to request free boulevard trees to be planted by the City adjacent their property, and the City would include these new trees in the regular City tree maintenance program. The program will start with an annual \$200,000 budget, which would allow for approximately 300 new trees per year. The budget would be adjusted in future years depending on the level of interest in the program.

The City would receive calls or emails from interested property owners (residential, commercial, and industrial), and assess for feasibility, suitable tree species, and number of potential trees. The following general timeline that would continue annually:

- **Program promotion** - Nov 2020 to March 2021
- **Receive applications** – Jan 2021 to March 2021
- **Confirm 2021 tree locations** – April 2021
- **Plant 300 new trees** – Oct 2021 to Feb 2022



To: *Chair and Members Financial Management  
Committee*

From: *Director Engineering  
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural  
Services*

Re: *New Boulevard Tree Program - #tree4free*

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Additional boulevard tree planting is a quick action to support Burnaby's Climate Action Strategy. Planting through property owner request also ensures direct and local support.

It is recommended that the Financial Management Committee recommend Council approve this new #tree4free program with an annual budget of \$200,000 and that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment Committee and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.



Leon A. Gous, P.Eng., MBA  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING



Dave Ellenwood  
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION, AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES

JWH/ac

Copied to: City Manager  
Director Corporate Services  
Director Finance  
Director Planning and Building