



INFORMATION ONLY COUNCIL REPORT
Engineering / Public Works
For the February 25, 2020 Council Meeting

DATE: February 14, 2020
TO: Paul Gipps, CAO
FROM: Allen Fillion, Director of Engineering & PW
RE: CWK Urban Re-Leaf Program

BACKGROUND:

The City of West Kelowna Park's Department will be piloting an Urban Re-Leaf program this spring. The goal of the program is to increase our tree canopy throughout West Kelowna with a target of 150 trees for the first year of the program. The City will buy trees at a wholesale cost from Bylands Nursery and will pass on the savings to the residents. Residents can purchase one tree per household (10-gallon pot) for \$61.35 to plant in their yards; this cost is approximately half of the retail price. Five deciduous tree species will be available for the public to choose from:

- Autumn Blaze Maple
- Toba Hawthorn
- Sunburst Honey Locust
- Muckle Plum
- Pekin Tree Lilac

Our Communications team will be developing a web page; scheduled to launch in early March, highlighting the program and directing residents to pre-purchase their tree at City Hall. The trees will then be available for pick up on Saturday April 4th starting at 9 AM in the Mount Boucherie parking lot. Parks staff will be assisting with the pick up and will provide information and demonstrations on how to plant the new trees.

The benefits of expanding our tree canopy are many and include:

- Improve air quality
- Mitigating climate change through absorbing carbon dioxide
- Water conservation through absorbing rainfall and reducing runoff
- Energy conservation from shading
- Economic benefits associated with attractive tree cover and landscaping

Figure 1: Typical tree size for Urban Re-Leaf Program



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost to CWK per tree is \$61.35, the same price we will be charging residents. Staff time to deliver the program is accounted for within the Parks operating budget.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Tracey Batten, Deputy CAO/Corporate Officer
Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes ☐ No ☒