

DISTRICT OF
OAK BAY



REPORT TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Ray Herman, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture

DATE: April 18, 2017

RE: Urban Forest Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The District is in receipt of the final report of the Urban Forest Management Strategy from Diamond Head Consulting. The Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission has reviewed the report and has recommended that Council endorse the report

BACKGROUND

The creation of an Urban Forest Management Strategy was a directive from Council to the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission in 2013. A Request for Proposal process was undertaken with Diamond Head Consulting being awarded the project work. A thorough consultation process included interviews with staff from several departments, stakeholder meetings, two public meetings, a booth at the Oak Bay Street Market, a public survey and presentations to the Commission and Council. After significant levels of feedback from many sources, the final copy of the report has now been produced.

ANALYSIS

The final report has incorporated the majority of feedback received and is representative of the views of those who participated in the process. The Strategy will be an important document in providing guidance to Oak Bay in its efforts to protect, and enhance, the urban forest over the next fifteen years.

STRATEGIC IMPACT

The Urban Forest Management Strategy will support Council's goal to take an active role in building a safe, livable community. The development of a phased implementation plan for the Strategy is currently included in Council's Strategic Priorities for 2017-2018.

OPTIONS

1. That Council endorse the Urban Forest Management Strategy as provided by Diamond Head Consulting and dated March 24, 2017.
2. That Council receive the Urban Forest Management Strategy for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

A number of the Strategy's recommendations have a financial impact, some small and some more significant. An implementation plan will be developed for presentation to Council as part of the 2018 budget cycle. Funding for specific recommendations will be subject to Council approval when requested.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the Urban Forest Management Strategy as provided by Diamond Head Consulting and dated March 24, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Herman, Director of Parks, Recreation
and Culture

With respect to the Financial Impact described in this report, I concur with the recommendation of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Debbie Carter, Director of Financial Services

I concur with the recommendation of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Helen Koning, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT