




Hamilton

# INFORMATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	March 10, 2020
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	2019 Tree Planting Update (ES20003) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Craig Murdoch Director, Environmental Services Division Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

The City of Hamilton's Forestry Section provides tree planting and tree maintenance services throughout the municipality. Tree planting is a major focus that involves funding from several sources as well as engagement from community groups who assist in the various planting programs.

## Tree Planting

In 2019, the Forestry Section planted 8,857 trees on City of Hamilton (City) property, across all programs. The following table provides details for each of the programs that contributed to this total:

Program	Trees Planted	Description
Street Tree Planting	1748	Includes replacements for trees removed through maintenance activities and trees planted in road allowances requested by residents through the free street tree program.
Subdivision/ Development Planting	900	Fees received through development of new subdivisions funds planting of street trees with 1 being installed in each lot and 3 on corner lots.

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Hard Surface Planting	95	Trees planted in 2019 were replacements where stumps were removed, and a new tree was installed in areas that are concrete or paver stones (i.e. sidewalks).
Emerald Ash Borer Replacements	3409	2019 was year 7 of 10 of the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan with a target of 1:1 replacement for trees removed.
Volunteer Planting	855	Through engagement with community groups, approximately 100 volunteers planted trees in 2 separate events. The Forestry Section supplied the native trees and equipment/materials for the volunteers.
Government Grant Program	1850	The 50 Million Trees program received funding from the Provincial government until 2018. In 2019 the Provincial Government eliminated the funding source. The Forestry Section continued independent of this funding in 2019 with Beverley Community Park being the location chosen. Federal government funding has been established for 2020 onward.

### Young Tree Mortality

In 2018, Forestry staff began formally monitoring the mortality of newly planted trees by visually assessing the health of a random sample of trees that were planted in 2017. The tree health review provides Forestry staff insight into the success of the tree planting season as well as identifying any areas for improving health and survival of the trees.

The 2019 mortality survey was completed on the same sample of trees from the 2018 study (planted in 2017). Additionally, another 5% of the trees planted in 2018 were randomly assessed.

The following are the key results from the tree survey completed in 2019:

Of the trees planted in 2017:

- 85% good condition
- 5% fair condition
- 3.3% poor condition
- 6.7% dead

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Of the trees planted in 2018:

- 72.9% good condition
- 16.4% fair condition
- 3.2% poor condition
- 7.5% dead

The mortality rate over the past two seasons of tree planting averaged 7.1%, which is within the 5 - 10% target of municipal comparators. All trees identified being in poor health or dead have been investigated and planned for remedial action or replacement in 2020.

As a result of analysis of the tree survival data collected in 2018 & 2019, staff have implemented improvements associated with the tree supply, installation and post-planting care and monitoring. A continuation of the implementation of best practices and further data collection and analysis will facilitate ongoing improvements in survival data in future years.

To further monitor the mortality rate in newly planted trees, a review will be completed in 2020. The 2020 survey will include the trees which were planted in 2018 and assessed in 2019, as well as a new sample group of trees planted in 2019. The data collected in the 2020 review will be provided to Council in the 2020 Tree Planting Information Update.

#### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Not Applicable.

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