

COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE
NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

no. 2022-D06

To Board of Directors

For: INFORMATION

Date 2022-06-23

Topic/Title

NCC Forest Strategy – Implementation

Summary

- The trees and forests on federal lands contribute to the quality of life of residents and visitors and are one of the most powerful tools for adapting to climate change. The NCC Forest Strategy seeks to improve the NCC’s tree conservation and maintenance practices. Further to approval of the Forest Strategy, the new forestry team from the Centre Expertise developed an approach for implementing this strategy. This approach involves setting up projects, programs and partnerships in order to achieve the objectives of the Forest Strategy and the various measures identified.
- Presenting the implementation approach to the Board of Directors will enable the urban forestry team to continue developing projects, programs and partnerships for urban forest development on NCC lands, thereby contributing to the survival, vigour, longevity, and diversity of the trees under our jurisdiction.

Overview of the Risk

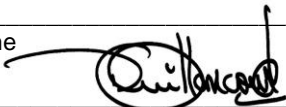
- Implementing the Forest Strategy will contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives in the context of the Sustainable Development Strategy.
- Implementing urban forestry practices could help facilitate land maintenance and management operations.

Recommendation

- N/A

Submitted by: Pierre Vaillancourt, VP, D&C

Name _____

Signature  _____

1. Strategic Priorities

- The Forest Strategy arises from the NCC's Sustainable Development Strategy and has the primary objective of improving the NCC's urban forest practices, including maximizing its contribution to climate change adaptation. The Forest Strategy is also perfectly consistent with:
 - the NCC's mandate
 - the Plan for Canada's Capital (2017–2067)
 - the Capital Urban Lands Plan (2015)
 - Canada's Capital Core Area Sector Plan (2005)

2. Authority

- N/A

3. Context

- The NCC lands include a huge number of trees and forest stands. The urban forest has many environmental, social and economic benefits and is essential to the perception and reputation of Canada's capital as a picturesque and rich place. In addition, the urban forest is considered by many to be an important infrastructure for adapting to climate change, a priority under the NCC's Sustainable Development Strategy.
- However, the urban forest is subject to a number of major stresses: soil compaction, de-icing salts, air pollution, mechanical injuries to trunks, drought events, light pollution, fire, insect pests and diseases, invasive plants, hydro line maintenance, construction sites, etc.
- With the recent adoption of its Forest Strategy, the NCC has defined its commitments, objectives and action plan to better protect, maintain, expand, and diversify its urban forest. The next step is to implement this strategy by carrying out programs and projects related to the various measures identified in the 2021-2016 NCC Forest Strategy, starting with those that have been identified as priorities.

4. Analysis of the Options

- It was determined that the implementation of the Forest Strategy would be led by the forestry team from the Design & Construction Centre of Expertise, in cooperation with the portfolios that are responsible for land management.

5. Financial Details

- N/A

6. Opportunities and Expected Outcomes

- Implementing the Forest Strategy involves launching a number of projects, programs and partnerships that will improve the NCC's practices with respect to the trees and forests on NCC lands:
 - Increase knowledge of our trees and forests by updating the tree canopy inventory and urban tree inventory.
 - Protect the existing tree canopy by developing guidelines for protecting heritage trees, protecting trees near construction sites, and managing invasive alien species.
 - Plant the right trees in the right places, aiming to plant 100,000 trees by 2026, identifying the right species for the capital's future climate, and adopting guidelines to improve planting practices and maintenance of young trees.
 - Manage for resilience, safety and efficiency by improving compliance of operations to guidelines, better integrate tree protection into project management procedures and establishing a systematic maintenance program
 - Engage with partners and the community, including coordinating tree-planting projects with community organizations and with both cities to maximize resources and benefits.
- Improving our tree management will have a positive impact on multiple aspects of the NCC's mission, including the landscape experience of users and visitors to our sites and adaptation to climate change. Improving the survival rates of planted trees will have a positive impact on all infrastructure construction and rehabilitation projects by reducing the costs of replacing dead plants.

7. Risks and Mitigation Measures

- A risk analysis will be conducted for every action/measure to be developed.

8. Consultations and Communication

Stakeholder	Date	Objective
City of Ottawa & Ville de Gatineau	2021-11-15	Start collaboration on a new forest canopy study
Capital Planning	2022-03-29	Validate that the implementation approach remains consistent with the intent of the author of the Forest Strategy
Capital Stewardship	2022-03-30	Share the implementation approach with the Greenbelt & OUL portfolio

9. Next Steps

- Develop more detailed financial estimates to budget each action in a detailed five-year financial plan.
- Present this detailed five-year financial plan to the Executive Management Committee (EMC) in fall 2022.
- Continue the efforts undertaken to implement the priority actions identified in the Forest Strategy.
- Identify other actions to be carried out over the next few implementation years.

10. List of Appendices

- N/A

11. Authors of the Proposal

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