



Community Services Report to
SPC on Community and Protective Services
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CALGARY TREE DISASTER – RECOVERY AND RESTORATION ANNUAL UPDATE

through proper pruning for form, structure and to protect damaged trees from becoming more susceptible to decay, disease and death. This will ensure continued success following the formal end of program funding in 2017. The below sections contain highlights of the work completed within the various elements of the Framework in 2016. A full summary of the 2016 recovery and restoration work as well as the 2017 workplan is included in Attachment 1.

Ensure public safety through effective asset management

Administration continues to utilize an online map that allows citizens to track both the timing and type of tree recovery work in their communities. Additionally, the map system uses an open data set to provide some information regarding tree ownership. From January 2015 to December 2016 this online map has received over 21,000 views. This online map is now the standard platform used to inform the public about the planned tree work in their communities into 2017.

Recovery update – Addressing remaining storm impacts

Over the 2016 season, Calgary Parks Urban Forestry performed work in over 54 communities, including restorative pruning of **94,238 trees** and assessing 34,747 trees. This is approximately a 95 per cent increase in pruning activities than a typical year.

Restoration and Resiliency – Restore and enhance canopy cover

The ReTree YYC program saw continued success in 2016. ReTree Communities are selected based on: available open canopy area, 2014 snowstorm impact, and community interest. The goals of this program are to increase the urban canopy and to engage Calgarians in tree stewardship. These goals are achieved through strategic tree planting and pruning citywide, as well as each ReTree community. In each ReTree community tree planting and pruning take into consideration existing trees in established communities, and as well as providing education around the design of yards in new communities. Planting sites and educational opportunities are tailored to each individual community to ensure a city-wide recovery from the 2014 Tree Disaster.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) recognized the ReTree YYC program for the contribution to Calgarian's knowledge of tree care, and the emphasis on public education and promotion of tree stewardship. The Harry J. Banker Gold Leaf Award was given to the program in October 2016 to acknowledge worthy individuals, organizations or municipalities for projects that have had a significant and long-term impact on a community or region.

Develop a public urban forestry stewardship

Administration has continued to attend public events, host educational forums, and work with industry partners to ensure citizens can easily access the information and resources they need. The ReTree YYC information booth was on site at the Calgary Zoo and Heritage Park numerous times throughout the summer of 2016. Administration will also meet with industry partners in 2017 February to discuss urban forestry trends, explore new ways to support Calgarians and continue to build a tree care culture in Calgary.

Administration is currently developing a series of eLearning modules to promote tree canopy health and encourage individuals and communities to learn and continue to contribute to the recovery. These