

Highlights of this service change in 2025 include naturalization of sites at O'Connor Park, Jack Darling Park, Churchill Meadows, Windrush Woods, Creditview Wetland, Huron Park and Paul Coffey Park. Activities to maintain naturalized sites include monitoring and inspections, invasive species removal, wetland restoration and naturalization plantings. Tree plantings take place citywide, in parks and along boulevards, and include trees in newly developed or re-developed parks and those with amended boulevard treatments.

From 2026 to 2028, approximately 8,600 caliper trees are to be planted and 117 hectares (289 acres) of existing areas will be naturalized. This budget request will be adjusted annually, as required, to allow for any changes beyond 2025 as the plan continues to evolve.

In order to maintain these assets, an operating budget of \$74,000 has been requested for 2025. Staffing needs are assessed using a forestry growth model which considers the increased volume of trees and natural areas, what they require to be sustainable long-term and what existing resources are available.

Service Impact

Funding for labour, materials, equipment, contractors and supplies is required to maintain service levels suitable for the trees and naturalized areas. By providing the needed resources, staff can ensure that these assets are maintained at the expected and approved level of service to be sustainable and safe long-term and to contribute to growing the City's tree canopy. If resources are not available, City standards will not be met and a reduction in service levels for existing trees and naturalized areas will be needed in order to absorb the service required for the new assets. This could create a potentially hazardous situation and the City's goal to grow the tree canopy could be jeopardized.

BR #12129 – Park Sanitation Services

Description of Budget Request

This is a net-zero request to convert existing temporary staff budgets to permanent FTEs to better support the Park Sanitation Program and provide enhanced service 12 months of the year. By replacing the current two-vehicle system for waste pickup with a single vehicle that has a dual compactor, Parks can reduce the number of operators required to fulfill this service while satisfying the growing need to now provide this service throughout the year versus the traditional peak summer season.

Why Staff Recommend this Initiative

This initiative ensures that service is being delivered effectively, using minimal resources, while providing the service year-round to meet park user demand. It ensures consistency and reliability with garbage collection services due to familiarity with routes, neighbourhoods and specific requirements of each area for sanitation. Additionally, there is an added environmental benefit by reducing the number of trucks by half, and the number of single-use plastic bags required for separate bins.