

Appointment of the 2021 Weed Inspectors and Dutch Elm Disease Inspectors

ISSUE

The annual appointment by City Council of weed inspectors under section 6(2) of *The Weed Control Act* and the designation of a category of employees as Municipal Inspectors under section 8.2 of *The Forest Resources Management Act* and regulations are required for 2021. In addition, to streamline this process in the future and to relieve City Council of the burden of making these routine annual appointments, it is requested that City Council consider amendments to Bylaw No. 8174, The City Administration Bylaw, 2003, to delegate this appointment power to City Administration.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Mr. Dave McKee, Mr. Nolan Ramler, and Ms. Melissa McHale of the Parks Department, Community Services Division, be appointed as the City of Saskatoon's 2021 Weed Inspectors, in accordance with the provisions of *The Weed Control Act*;

1. That the following positions within the Parks Department be designated as City of Saskatoon Municipal Inspectors, in accordance with provisions of *The Forest Resources Management Act*:
 - Superintendent, Urban Biological Services;
 - Supervisor, Urban Biological Services;
 - Parks Technician 14, Urban Biological Services;
 - Entomologist, Urban Biological Services; and
 - Parks Technician 10, Urban Biological Services;
 - Weed Inspector, Urban Biological Services;
2. That the City Clerk be requested to notify the Minister of the Environment of these appointments;
3. That proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 8174, The City Administration Bylaw, 2003, as outlined in this report, be approved; and
4. That the City Solicitor be directed to prepare the necessary amendments to Bylaw No. 8174, The City Administration Bylaw, 2003.

BACKGROUND

The Weed Control Act provides for the control and eradication of designated weeds in the province and authorizes a municipality, under section 6(2), to appoint any person it considers qualified as a Weed Inspector to enforce *The Weed Control Act* and regulations within the municipality. Section 6(7) of the act states that a Weed Inspector holds office until December 31 of the year in which the appointment is made. Accordingly, annual appointments of persons to this position are required. These annual appointments are validated upon submission to the Ministry of Agriculture, Executive Director Crops and Irrigation Branch.

The Forest Resources Management Act provides for the control of designated diseases and insects affecting trees in the province, and authorizes a municipality, under Section 8.2, to designate, among other things, any category of employees as Municipal Inspectors to exercise the powers granted under *The Forest Resources Management Act* and regulations (including the Dutch elm disease regulations).

The Parks Department coordinates Dutch elm disease (DED) prevention programs within Saskatoon, including inspection services for detection of DED and violations of the DED regulations. As part of this program, the Parks Department requires designated DED Inspectors so that enforcement of *The Forest Resources Management Act* and DED regulations can be applied within the municipality.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Weed Inspector Appointment

Section 6(2) of *The Weed Control Act* authorizes a municipality to appoint municipal Weed Inspectors. It is recommended that Mr. Dave McKee, Urban Biological Services Supervisor; Mr. Nolan Ramler, Urban Biological Services Technician 14; and Ms. Melissa McHale, Weed Inspector, be appointed as the Weed Inspectors for 2021.

DED Inspector Appointment

Section 8.2 of *The Forest Resource Management Act* authorizes a municipality to designate a category of employees as municipal DED Inspectors to enforce the provisions of *The Forest Resources Management Act* and the DED regulations. It is recommended that the following positions within the Urban Biological Services program of the Parks Department be designated as Municipal Inspectors:

- Superintendent;
- Supervisor;
- Park Technician 14;
- Entomologist;
- Park Technician 10; and
- Weed Inspector.

Delegation of Future Weed and DED Inspectors

Currently, all Weed and DED Inspectors are appointed by City Council. Typically, these appointments are brought forward annually for City Council consideration in the month of March or April. The requirement for City Council approval of inspector appointments has resulted in situations where vacant inspector positions or additional inspectors in response to a pest or disease is delayed until the next meeting of City Council.

The City's Act states, in part, that:

“A council may delegate any of its powers or duties to an employee, agent or committee appointed by it.”

To streamline the inspector appointment process, amendments to Bylaw No. 8174, The City Administration Bylaw, delegating authority to the City Manager or designate for future Weed and DED Inspector appointments are recommended. Timely appointments

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are necessary to help ensure inspection response service levels can be maintained throughout the growing season.

As required by *The Weed Control Act*, an annual report is provided in Appendix 1 that highlights 2020 weed inspection activities of the City's Municipal Weed Inspectors.

Note that the ongoing DED response following identification of a DED positive elm tree in Montgomery in September 2020 consists of a communications campaign and annual monitoring of the area for symptomatic trees and elm material until September 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of this report; work of the Weed and DED Inspectors are included within the approved budget.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no options, policy, privacy, or Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) implications or considerations; public and/or stakeholder involvement is not required. A communication plan is not required at this time.

NEXT STEPS

By legislation, the Municipal Weed Inspector's Annual Report that highlights weed inspection activities for the past year is required to be submitted to City Council. In the future, this will be submitted to City Council as an attachment to the Parks Annual Report.

Pending approval, the City Solicitor would bring forward necessary bylaw amendments outlined in this report for consideration and approval at a future meeting of City Council.

APPENDICES

1. City of Saskatoon 2020 Annual Weed Inspection Report

REPORT APPROVAL

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Reviewed by: Darren Crilly, Director of Parks

Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services

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