

Meeting Date: February 7, 2022
Department: Community Services
Report No.: CS-2022-03
Submitted by: Robert Lilbourne, Director of Community Services
Approved by: Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Tree Removal – Fairgrounds Recreation Complex - Tennis Courts”

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report CS-2022-03 titled “Tree Removal – Fairgrounds Recreation Complex - Tennis Courts” for information; and

THAT: Council approve the removal of the trees adjacent to the tennis courts as outlined in this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

***Community Wellbeing** – Residents of all ages in Strathroy-Caradoc will have access to community amenities and activities that are accessible and support active lifestyles and wellbeing.*

***Local Infrastructure** - Households and business in Strathroy-Caradoc are supported by reliable, financially responsible and well-maintained infrastructure networks.*

BACKGROUND:

In 2018 Council approved in the capital budget funds to repair and resurface the tennis courts located at the Fairgrounds Recreation Complex. At that time the courts had significant cracks creating a hazard for participants and accelerating the deterioration of the playing surface, shortening the life expectancy of the facility.

COMMENTS:

Since that time we have had a contractor attend the courts on a number of occasions to do regular minor maintenance to ensure the courts remain in good condition. The contractor has noted some concerns with regards to the row of cedar trees that were planted years ago as a wind break. The contractor has indicated in a report (attached) 4 concerns as well as outlines 3 recommendations.

Concerns

1. **Court Safety:** Shedding from the cedars occurs seasonally with residuals having a significant impact on the court surface. Along with staining, when the residuals breakdown, they can fill the course texture of the court surfacing resulting in a smooth surface which is extremely slippery when damp. This can be hazardous for players on the court.
2. **Drainage:** The cedar shedding residual also accumulates at the base of the exterior fence line. This forms restrictions for court runoff and results in ponding along the court side of the fence line. While the surfacing is very durable to wet conditions, it will quickly degrade if submerged on a continuous basis.
3. **Court Surface Structural Base:** Cedar trees general have a shallow root structure which can radiate out with the potential to damage adjacent structures. While the lateral root system tends to be the fibrous feeder type, there is evidence of minor surface irregularities associated with tree root damage.
4. **Drainage Flows:** As mentioned, drainage flows off the courts towards the cedar trees. To provide the ideal drainage conditions, the crossfall on the adjacent ground should be at least 3%. Currently the grade is 0% (level) with the courts further restricting runoff.

Recommendations

1. Remove all cedar trees along the northwest side of the tennis courts. This should include root removal taking care not to upset the tennis court asphalt pavement and perimeter fence foundations.
2. Grade areas after tree removal to create a grade of at least 3% away from the tennis courts.
3. If required, install fence windscreens to provide wind protection for players on the courts.

To offset the loss of trees at the Fairgrounds Recreation Complex staff will plant an additional 20 trees on the property in addition to the 40 trees planted last fall.

CONSULTATION:

Darren Dowding, Supervisor of Parks and Recreational Facilities
Clive Barry, Just four Tennis

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

\$4,000 to \$6,000 for planting 20 trees. This will come from the operating budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

JFT – Cedar Trees