

COUNCIL MEETING - NOVEMBER 8, 2004

FREE-MULCH GIVEAWAY

Recommendation

Councillor Bernie Di Vona in consultation with the Asian Long-horned Beetle Intergovernmental Task Force and the Manager of Parks and Forestry recommends:

1. That staff and resources be allocated to support a free-mulch giveaway in the Asian Long-horned Beetle regulated zone; and,
2. That \$1,000.00 be approved, which will be absorbed within the Parks Forestry Department's 2004 operating budget.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval to host a *Free Mulch Giveaway* to residents in the ALHB infested and regulated zone on Saturday, November 20, 2004, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Asian Long-horned Beetle Intergovernmental Task Force meeting of September 23, 2004, Councillor Bernie Di Vona recommended that *City of Vaughan staff investigate the opportunity to have a free-mulch giveaway day* to residents in the ALHB infested and regulated zone. The following information was provided at the November 3, 2004 Asian Long-horned Beetle Intergovernmental Task Force meeting to address the feasibility of this initiative.

The City of Vaughan Parks and Forestry section has an extensive mulching program that recycles all woody brush removed from pruning trees and shrubs, as well as the removal of dead trees. Mulch is applied by staff around trees on non-residential boulevards and in shrub beds throughout our parks and boulevards.

There are many benefits to mulching which includes:

- Increased moisture retention around trees
- Lessens trunk damage from grass cutting mowers and weed eaters
- Recycles wood brush instead of paying for unnecessary disposal
- Improves soil fertility
- Controls weeds around the base of trees
- Enhances the appearance of trees

The Intergovernmental Task Force approved this initiative as it would encourage our mulching program to residents in the ALHB infested and regulated zone. The community would be invited to a self-serve "free-mulch day" on Saturday, November 20, 2004 at the Woodbridge Yard located on Langstaff Road between Pine Valley Drive and Islington Avenue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To ensure appropriate notice is given to the public, staff is seeking permission to advertise on the City of Vaughan's newspaper *City Page*, as well as the corporate web site and local community centres. Equipment for loading mulch, mulch, containers (bags) for transporting and three staff members are required to run this event for a total cost of \$1,000.00.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

Providing free-mulch and educating the public on the benefits of tree mulching has direct impact to providing service delivery excellence to our Vaughan Citizens.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and not approved.

Conclusion

With the devastation to our trees due to the Asian Long-horned Beetle in Vaughan, our urban forest has been gravely impacted. The longevity of trees can be greatly enhanced by the application of mulch and is an example of Vaughan's commitment to an ongoing program to protect our trees.

The Intergovernmental Task Force approved this initiative, as it would encourage our mulching program to residents in the ALHB infested and regulated zone.

Attachments

None

Report Prepared By

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Respectfully submitted,

Bernie Di Vona
Councillor - Ward 3