

Committee of the Whole (1)

DATE: Tuesday, June 09, 2020

WARD(S): 1 3 4

TITLE: WOODLOT NAMING PROPOSAL

FROM:

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To recommend names for all unidentified municipally-owned woodlots throughout Wards 1, 3 and 4.

Report Highlights

- Of the City's 25 woodlots, 17 do not have recognized names.
- The City's archival records and local historical interest groups were consulted in the naming process to understand historical significance in the area.
- Names have been proposed in accordance with the City's naming policy.
- Proposed signage will be installed to identify each woodlot, using design standards consistent with parks and stormwater management ponds.
- Woodlot locations, including updated names, will be communicated to the Region of York for inclusion in the 911 Emergency Response Program.

Recommendations

1. The Woodlot Naming Proposal, as presented in this report, be approved.
2. The installation of signage be considered in the 2021 capital budget.
3. This report be forwarded to York Region Police and Emergency Medical Services.

Background

Council directed staff to develop a plan for naming municipally-owned woodlots in accordance with the principles for naming parks and storm water management ponds.

At the Council meeting of September 9, 2014, staff were directed to identify the location of each municipally-owned woodlot, and report back to Council with a plan for naming said woodlots. Naming unidentified woodlots was approached similar to that of parks and stormwater management ponds as directed by Council, considering any appropriate historical references that may be identified by the City Archivist.

Additionally, signage to identify the woodlot, will reference previous direction provided, as outlined in Council report Item 1, Report No. 4, of the Finance and Administration Committee on April 17, 2012, "Naming of Stormwater Management Ponds and Associated Signage".

The City has a naming policy that addresses the naming of City-owned assets.

Policy TPF-006 "Naming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community Facilities and Other Municipal Buildings and Properties" includes criteria that may be considered when naming municipally-owned assets, including: adjacent streets, functional use, geographic features, community names or historic significance.

The identification of the City's 17 unnamed municipally-owned woodlots is in line with the City's strategic priorities of Active, Safe, and Diverse Communities.

Delivering on the Active, Safe, and Diverse Communities strategic priority, the identification of woodlots creates a sense of place, and better defines and enhances the concept of community space and belonging.

In support of the Environmental Stewardship strategic priority, promoting the City's green infrastructure, such as woodlots, is outlined in the following sections of the 2019 Community Sustainability Plan - Green Directions Vaughan:

"2.1.2 Promote green infrastructure (e.g., street trees, stormwater ponds, LIDs, woodlots, pollinator habitat, etc.) to build resilience and mitigate the effects of climate change..."

"2.2.1 Manage and improve the urban forest, including increasing overall canopy cover, as an important element of green infrastructure and a critical asset of the City that is a community amenity, improves the health of residents, and provides ecosystem services."

Previous Reports/Authority

[Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2014 - Item 48, Report No. 36 of the Committee of the Whole](#), "Creating Places: Naming of Municipally-owned Woodlots".

[Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2012 - Item 1, Report No. 4, of the Finance and Administration Committee](#), "Naming of Storm Water Management Ponds and Associated Signage".

[Policy Manual, Policy No. TPF – 006, "Policy For Naming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community Facilities and Other Municipal Buildings or Properties"](#).

Analysis and Options

There are 17 City-owned woodlots that do not have assigned names.

The City's 25 woodlots have a total area of 182.62 hectares ranging in size from 1.0 ha to 30.90 ha, and are distributed across Wards 1, 3, 4 and 5 (see Attachment 1). Eight of the 25 registered woodlots have been previously named by the City, as listed in Table 1. The naming of these woodlots was based on the following: in four instances, historical significance; in three instances, adjacent streets; and in one instance, geographic features.

Table 1. Previously Named Woodlots				
Ward	Block #	Woodlots Name	Basis for Name	Location
1	25	Frank Robson Woodlot	Historic Significance	Maple North of Rutherford Rd. West of Keele St. (South-East of Greenock Dr.)
1	41	Stephanie Woodlot	Historic Significance	Kleinburg South-East corner of Pine Valley Dr. & Kirby Rd.
3	32	Vellore Track Woodlot	Geographic Feature	Woodbridge East of Weston Rd. - Vellore Woods Blvd, South of Johnswood Cres.
3	37	Airdrie Woods	Adjacent Street	Woodbridge Corner of Airdrie Dr. & Pine Valley Dr.
3	37	Ansley Grove Woodlot	Adjacent Street	Woodbridge Corner of Ansley Grove Rd. & Blue Willow Dr.
4	10	Sugar Baker Bush Woodlot	Historic Significance	Thornhill North-West corner of Bathurst Str. and Hwy #7
5	8	Promenade Woodlot	Adjacent Street	Thornhill West of Bathurst St. North Side of Clark Ave. at Promenade Cir.

5	9	Graywoods Woodlot	Historic Significance	Thornhill South-West of Bathurst Str. North-Side of Westmount Blvd.
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Staff consulted with various community groups to understand the historical significance of the unnamed woodlots.

Staff consulted with City Archives and local historical interest groups, including the Thornhill Historical Group, Thornhill Heritage Foundation, and the Society for the Preservations of Historic Thornhill. Staff also engaged with the citizens that live in the last old-standing home on Teston Road (see Attachment 2).

City-owned woodlots will be identified by signs with a design that is consistent with those used for parks and storm management ponds.

Signage provides recognition of the woodlots to the community. The design of the signs will be consistent with the signage at parks and stormwater management ponds (see Attachment 3) and will be placed at the main entrance of each woodlot (see Attachment 4), in a publicly visible location.

Historical reference was the primary criteria considered when selecting the names for the 17 woodlots.

In situations where woodlots are in close proximity to each other or have the same historical background, geographic descriptions and associated street names have been proposed to further establish a unique reference for each woodlot (see Attachment 5).

The proposed names are listed in Table 2. Woodlot locations are shown in Attachment 1.

Table 2. Proposed Names for Unnamed Woodlots				
Ward	Block #	Woodlot Name	Basis for Name	Location
1	18	Cook Woods	Historic Significance	Maple North of Rutherford Rd., between Keele Str. and Dufferin Str. East of Canadian National Rail and West Side of Peter Rupert Ave. and Halo Crt.
1	18	Peter Rupert Woods	Adjacent Street	Maple North of Rutherford Rd. between Keele Str. and Dufferin Str. East Side of Peter Rupert Ave. & Grand Trunk Ave.
3	39	Pine Valley Woods	Geographic Feature	Woodbridge South of Major Mackenzie Dr. - Via Campanile North of Grandvista Cres.

3	39	McCarter Woods	Historic Significance	Woodbridge South of Major Mackenzie Dr. - Via Campanile and Davos Rd.
3	39	Pierre Berton Woodlot	Community Name	Woodbridge South of Major Mackenzie Dr. - Corner of Via Campanile & Maria Antonia Ave.
3	39	Woodend Place Woods	Adjacent Street	Woodbridge South of Major Mackenzie Dr. East of Pine Valley Dr. and North of Via Teodoro Way
3	39	Rutherford Woodlot	Adjacent Street	Woodbridge North of Rutherford Rd. West of Via Campanile and Beauvista Crt.
3	40	Millwood Woods	Adjacent Street	Woodbridge North of Major Mackenzie Dr. at the end of Millwood Crt.
3	40	Poetry Woods	Adjacent Street	Woodbridge North of Major Mackenzie Dr. at the corner of Headwind Blvd.
4	10	Thornhill Woods	Geographic Feature	Thornhill North of Hwy #7 North-West corner of Summeridge Dr. and Thornhill Woods
4	10	Apple Blossom Woodlot	Adjacent Street	Thornhill West Side of Thornhill Woods Dr. South of Apple Blossom Dr.
4	10	Autumn Hill Woods	Adjacent Street	Thornhill East Side Thornhill Woods Dr. North of Autumn Hill Blvd.
4	10	Bathurst Glen Woodlot	Adjacent Street	Thornhill North of Hwy #7 West Side of Bathurst Glen Dr. (attached to a park and school)
4	10	Yellowwood Woodlot	Adjacent Street	Thornhill North of Hwy #7 East Side of Dufferin Str. at Yellowwood Cir.
4	11	Dufferin Woods	Adjacent Street	Maple North of Rutherford Road East Side of Dufferin Str. connected to open space & a park
4	12	Redelmeier Woods	Historic Significance	Maple East of Dufferin Str. North of Major Mackenzie Dr. South Side of Lady Valentina Ave. connected to Open Space (beside Maple Nature Reserve Trail)
4	12	Heintzman Woods	Adjacent Street	Maple East. of Dufferin Str. North of Major Mackenzie Dr. South Side of Heintzman Cres. connected to Open Space & a park

Financial Impact

The total capital cost for the proposed signage is estimated at \$93,500 + HST, based on the sign design. (see Attachment 3).

The estimated capital cost will be included in the 2021 Parks, Forestry and Horticulture budget request.

Broader Regional Impacts/ Considerations

The locations and names of the identified woodlots will be communicated to the Regional Emergency Response Team to be included in the 911 Emergency Response protocol. This information will support emergency response staff in responding to requests for assistance.

Conclusion

In response to Council's direction, it is recommended that the proposed names and signage for the 17 unnamed woodlots, throughout Wards 1,3 and 4, be adopted.

Installation of signage is conditional on the approval of the 2021 Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations capital budget request, in consideration of affordability and prioritization.

For more information, please contact:

Nadia Paladino, Director, Parks, Forestry and Horticulture, ext. 6146

Attachments

1. Map of Woodlot Locations, January 2020
2. Stakeholder Consultation, January 2020
3. Exterior City-Wide Park Entrance Signage Detail, August 2019
4. Woodlot Maps with Entrance Sign Locations, January 2020
5. Summary of Woodlot Names and Background Information, January 2020

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