



<b>Summary of Results</b> <b>WNA Pilot Street Tree Management Plan Questionnaire</b> <b>Public Meeting – Tuesday March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 7:30pm</b>
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(This summary is based on the 72 questionnaires returned to the City by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011)

1. Recognizing that Westmount's street trees are reaching the end of their life cycle – do you support the development of a long-term plan to address this issue?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Answered
86%	13%	1%			

2. Do you support the overall direction of the management plan presented tonight?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Answered
54%	38%	1%			4%

3. The 2011 plan identifies 10 mature Norway maples to be removed this year – considering the big picture. Do you support the removal of these trees?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Answered
44%	44%	6%		4%	1%

4. The 2011 plan identifies 12 small trees to be removed this spring to start correcting long-term issues. Do you support the removal of these small trees?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Answered
42%	47%	7%		1%	3%

5. The 2011 plan will plant 51 new trees. For each new tree a watering bag will be provided and adjacent residents will be encouraged to care for the tree for two years.  
Do you support the planting of these new trees?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Answered
83%	17%				

- 5a) Do you support the development of a community stewardship\watering program?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Answered
74%	22%	4%			

6. Recognizing the economic, environmental and social benefits of the urban forest. Do you support the City investing resources into Kitchener's urban forest?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Answered
75%	24%	1%			

7. The themes and practices recommended in this plan are not currently funded in the City's existing capital and operational budgets. If Kitchener's urban forest, including Westmount's street trees, require additional investments to maximize community benefits in a cost effective manner. Would you support a tax increases to achieve this?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Answered
32%	38%	18%	3%	10%	

8. The WNA Urban Forest Working Group has suggested that residents should be allowed to hire a qualified arborist to carry out work on a City tree to City standards. Would you support changes to the City's Tree Bylaw to permit this?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Answered
32%	29%	25%	4%	3%	7%

9. How important are Westmount's street trees to you?

Very Important	Important	Not Sure	Unimportant	Not Important At All	Not Answered
89%	11%				

10. Have you seen a change in the health of Westmount street trees in recent years?

Yes	No	Not Sure	Not Answered
72%	1%	24%	3%

11. If you answered "Yes" to Question 10 - How would you describe this change?

Health has declined significantly	Health has declined	Health has improved	Not Answered
15%	50%	4%	31%

12. How long have you lived in Westmount?

< 5 yrs	6 – 20 yrs	21 – 40 yrs	40+ yrs	Not Answered
17%	42%	25%	14%	3%

13. What is your age?

< 26 yrs	26-50 yrs	51-65 Yrs	> 65 yrs	Not Answered
	40%	24%	30%	6%

14. Please provide any other comments you may have here, including concerns about specific trees, and your contact information if required. (Personal information and references to specific addresses have been removed)

- Trees are terrific. Our experience with the forest department over the years has been excellent. Our experience with Public Works front line has also been excellent, however the office folks at Public Works have continually reduced budget & effort to help us allow our leaves to be composted. We really appreciate the curb-side leaf pickup in the fall. We had 3 pickups now reduced to one. The Public Work guys want to eliminate the practice. We need the City to help in this function. It is one of the City's most valued services.

- Please keep the curb side leaf collection. We agree with diversifying the species of new plantings. Would you permit us to help with the cost of the tree if we replaced tree with a more substantial tree than the ones that you would normally plant? We are willing to pay.
- Re Ques 5a. Please have a contact name on info\fact sheet so resident has a place to turn to with questions. Or better yet have the contact person call the resident to introduce program and still have the new program. Re Ques 7 Thank you for providing sample figures of budget % tax increase, \$ increase—provide a good context. Re Ques 10—have only lived here 4 yrs.
- As a current member of the parent council at Westmount Public, I know the school would be interested in joining this effort. If you have any interest in, at least, meeting to discuss how we might collaborate.
- Re Quest 8 – but not to remove. We would like to plant an oak tree in front of our house.
- Re Ques 7 – could money be raised from individuals personally contributing vs a tax increase. Re Ques 12 More than 1-2 weeks' notice should be given for trees to be removed. When a tree is removed – there should be a plan for a prompt replacement. Perhaps homeowner would contribute to cost as opposed to a tax increase. Your cost of \$30,000 for 50 trees shows the cost benefit of looking after any trees planted.
- Re Ques 7 – however it may be possible to reallocate funds from other budget areas in order to minimize the need for tax dollars.
- Re Ques 8 – one will inevitably find an arborist who is sensitive to a certain point of view, whatever it might be.
- Re Ques 5 I hope that the tree can be watered on any day, not just the day that has been assigned by the City. I would prefer to water on a Sunday. I would hope that I wouldn't be fined if I watered the tree on a different day than assigned.  
I think this management plan is wonderful. Thank you. You have my absolute support.
- Re Ques 8 – assuming a list of approved arborists is established
- Thanks for the great work
- Re Ques 7 – yes, as long as it can be assured that the monies raised would not be put into the general operation budget\revenue.
- Do not agree with tax increase however strongly agree with reallocation of exiting tax dollars to increase funding for urban forest.
- Re Ques 11 – marked health has improved and health has declined
- What about looking at alternatives to grass in the boulevard? Will this measure improve soil structure? What about the impacts of road salt to the health of the trees?
- The trees define the Westmount neighbourhood. Your management plan is extremely important.
- Re Ques 10 – weather damage – downed limbs, etc. If there is room/space for a new tree(s) in front of a property – can the owners contribute or purchase a tree from the City? There appears to be a spot on Claremont that could support a new tree – would be willing to contribute to get a new tree planted (where non currently exists) There is also a “sickly” tree on Claremont between our home and nieghbhours – will it be removed? I think it should be – it is infested with insects.
- Re Ques 7 – Yes if cost effective & fair compared to other neighbourhoods. We love the Ginkgo trees on Union Blvd. When replanting new trees please consider those that flower in spring\summer\fall or those which leaves change colour in fall. That would make the seasons even more beautiful. Thanks.
- Taxes in this area are exceptionally high.
- Re Ques 5a – if no tax increase. Re Ques 7 ..... City has proven to misbudget. I would rather do a onetime donation or fund raise.

- Re Ques 8 – see answer 7 – increase taxes. Why are trees different from say recreational facilities like hockey rinks or soccer fields? How many hockey or soccer parents pay to maintain the rinks or fields? The measure of a civilization is its willingness to plant trees under the shade of which the planters will never sit.
- I think that this plan\proposal is a great idea. I appreciate that I live in a neighbourhood where this is being piloted. I would be slightly concerned, however, if necessary tree removals would pose a risk to my yard/property for instance, our brand new exposed aggregate driveway has been built around a declining Norway maple – would the stumping process damage my driveway.
- Over ten years significant removal of trees on Earl St, greatly diminishes the value, beauty and uniqueness of this street and neighbourhood. In the 20 years I have lived there the city has never done any maintenance on these trees. Now we go from that to cutting trees down. What a shame!
- Might be over managing relying on projections of health\longevity. Why don't we start with maintenance and wait for trees to die a natural death before re-planting. Can we rely on the City to implement\support a coherent approach over 10+ years. Not sure the majority of the urban forest on private lands is managed in such a "rationale" manner.
- Tree knocked down Rusholme & Westmount south side. Ugliest specimen planted (gnarley) on Rusholme, new tree on Rusholme not doing well despite watering.
- This is an important environmental and health issue. This is a good place to put money and other resources. I hope a successful pilot project would spread to all parts of Kitchener. Thanks for your work on this.
- Re Ques 5a – good for children to be involved, re Ques 7 we are a corner lot and are already doing our fair share of mowing, shoveling, and leaf removal of city boulevards. Re Ques 9 trees obstruct views, damage sidewalks & driveways, roots get under houses and interfere with drain pipes. Re Ques 12 1) Why do some boulevards have other plants or have been naturescaped and some not? I would like to plant flowers on ours. 2) Why are there so many squirrels in this area? Nuisance and damaging houses. 3) Are we making something monumental with wood from trees that get cut down? Reuse wood make benches? 4) Are you consulting with individual homeowners to see if this might be an opportunity to consider a better spot for a new tree in case there are projected renovations like a driveway, other road works or some visibility issues?