

## DRAFT Tree Committee Proposal 1/20/22

### Summary:

The OSEC Tree Issues subcommittee met to discuss a draft proposal for a potential Tree Technical Advisory Committee. This recommendation was made due to an increase in concern regarding the removal of trees, maintenance of trees, and the need for more oversight when replacing trees.

This is a **draft** of the purpose and general functions of such committee.

### Purpose:

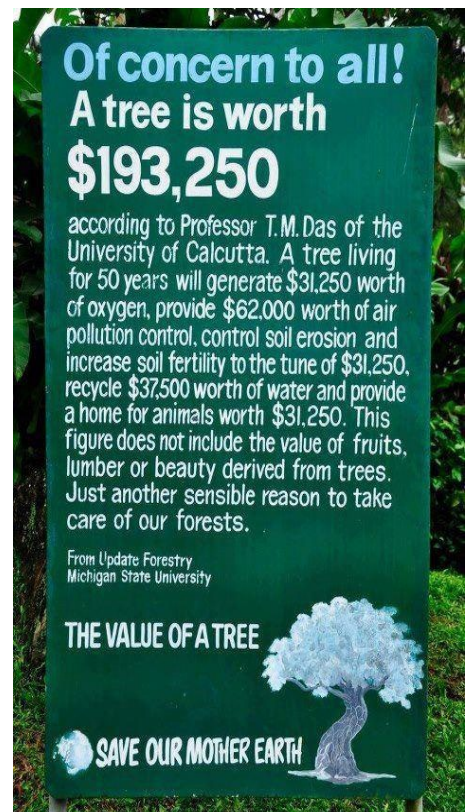
The Brisbane Tree Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) main purpose is to advise City Council/Public Works/Planning Department and citizens on the planting, selection, care, maintenance, replacement and/or removal of all trees within city limits.

**Trees are excellent filters for urban pollutants and fine particulates. Trees absorb pollutant gases and filter fine particulates such as dust, dirt or smoke out of the air by trapping them on leaves and bark. Trees are extremely important to the environment and public health benefits. Trees provide habitat for wildlife, reduce storm-water runoff, and sequester carbon from the atmosphere, which helps to mitigate climate change, reduce summer cooling loads, counter act the heat island effect and add to property values as well as a sense of well being.**

**Many trees have been removed on several streets and properties within Brisbane and have not been replaced resulting in a dramatic loss of our urban canopy. Brisbane cannot sustain the current level of tree loss long term. One of the goals of the TTAC is to understand why trees are not being replaced and through an Urban Forestry plan, identify areas where our urban forest can be restored without increasing fire risk.**

### The TTAC shall:

- Review and make recommendations regarding urban forestry policies, ordinances, and guidelines and expand their documents where needed and see that they are fairly applied throughout the city.
- Shepard a forestry master plan and tree inventory and leverage results to ensure set goals are met.
- Curate a “Best Management Practices” – i.e. Crown management, root protection, avoiding bark beetles and tree diseases, tool sanitation, drought protection, watering and feeding, spacing, setbacks from structures and best times to plant for success.
- Network with other agencies and community residents.



- Act as a general information resource and promote volunteerism.
- Provide community education on the benefit of trees and their crucial ecological functions.
- Ensure recommendations from North County Fire Authority are incorporated into all guidance documents.
- Review tree removal permits, plus city tree planned removals - identify other solutions where possible (review may be by email and does not require a meeting).
- Review arborists for credentials, references, and potential conflict of interest.
- Provide resources to those considering tree removal - i.e., alternatives.
- Monitor the establishment of newly planted trees to whatever extent possible (oversight).
- Review, identify, and/or adjust timing of general tree maintenance schedules to ensure the general health of our urban forest.
- Provide recommendation of type of tree species that are conducive to the environment and locale (currently a function of OSEC).
- Establish “Tree Help” resources for residents.

**The Committee will be comprised of seven (7) members from the following:**

1 Member from Open Space & Ecology Committee

1 Member from Parks & Recreation Commission or Staff

1 Member from Public Works Staff

1 Member from Planning Department Staff

1 Independent Member – Certified Arborist or Tree Scientist

2 Independent Members – Brisbane Residents

The Tree Technical Advisory Committee will meet on an as needed basis.