



Subject: Grape Vine Removal

Report Number: RCP 24-051

Committee Name: Parks, Beautification & Cemeteries Committee

Submitted by: Margaret Puhr

Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, October 21, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT report titled “Grape Vine Removal” be received as information; and
- B. THAT Council reject the recommendation of the Parks, Beautification & Cemeteries Advisory Committee as follows:

THAT the Parks, Beautification & Cemeteries Committee recommend that Staff explore the option of cutting the stump and Roundup application to remove the invasive grapevine species.

BACKGROUND

Although varieties of wild grape vine are native to locations all over the globe including North America, it is very aggressive to native flora. Wild grape vine is present throughout Canada, and is common along disturbed sites such as roads, trails, riverbanks, forest edges, and fencerows. These vines produce forked tendrils that wrap around and climb over objects for support or form large understory mats, both formations choke out existing vegetation. Wild grape vines are aggressive growers that smother out new plantings while stealing sunlight and nutrients from nearby vegetation. The Association for Canadian Educational Resources classifies grape vine as a *low priority species of concern*.

At their September 24, 2024 meeting, the Committee passed the following resolution:

Resolution # 4

Moved By: Pete Luciani

Seconded By: Martha Kirkpatrick

THAT staff explore the option of cutting the stump and roundup application to remove the invasive grapevine species

Carried

DISCUSSION

The Parks, Beautification & Cemeteries Trails Subcommittee advised the committee that the invasive species of grape vine is beginning to dominate parts of the elevated trail – the Trans Canada Trail section from Quarterline Road to Tillson Avenue.

The subcommittee has done research and provided four approaches to the removal:

- Can be easily cut with an axe or small chainsaw. Results are immediate, but regrowth follows almost as fast. Needs continuous upkeep.
- Cut close to the ground and cover the stump and surrounding area with a tarp that keeps darkness below. (Paul Gagnon, LCPRC)
- Apply a very low amount of the chemical Garland RTU around the base. Do not cut the vines. This would require an operator with a chemical application license. (Eric Giles, Giles Restorations)
- Cut stump of the vines, immediately apply Roundup to the remaining stump. Chemical requirement is very low and would need an operator with a chemical application license. (Paul De Cloet)

The subcommittee proposes, and the committee supports the fourth option.

Currently, there are no Town staff licensed to work with Roundup. At this time Staff were unable to find a contractor licensed in invasive species removal to obtain quote for this work to be carried out. Therefore, Staff does not recommend this course of action.

CONSULTATION

This report was prepared in consultation with the Parks, Beautification and Cemeteries Advisory Committee, the Supervisor of Parks and Cemeteries and the Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks.

FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

There is no financial impact to rejecting the motion. Should Council decide to direct Staff to pursue the chemical removal further, it cannot be done in-house, therefore financial impact is unknown.

CORPORATE GOALS

How does this report support the corporate goals identified in the Community Strategic Plan?

- Lifestyle and amenities
- Customer service, communication and engagement
- Business attraction, retention and expansion
- Community growth
- Connectivity and transportation
- Not Applicable

Does this report relate to a specific strategic direction or project identified in the Community Strategic Plan? Please indicate section number and/or any priority projects identified in the plan.

Goal – N/A

Strategic Direction – N/A

Priority Project – N/A

ATTACHMENTS