

Here for You

Public Information Session #47

May 24, 2017: 5 to 8 p.m.

Here for You: Re-greening Projects

Public Participation: 29 Residents

Internal Participation: Wood Buffalo Recovery Task Force (RTF), Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee

Partner Participation: Canadian Red Cross

Background:

- The 2016 Horse River Wildfire destroyed thousands of hectares of greenspace within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. On March 15, 2017, Tree Canada presented their pilot program, Operation Re-Leaf, to help replant trees that were lost during the fire. With an upcoming public tree planting scheduled for May 27, this session was designed to allow residents the opportunity to ask questions about where and when trees will be planted.
- This session also provided an opportunity for residents to ask questions about all re-greening projects including Firesmart, Hazardous Tree Removal, Trail Restoration and Firebreak Rehabilitation.

Feedback:

- Overall, the majority of feedback during this session was positive, with many residents asking how to get involved with the tree planting event on May 27.
- Residents continue to have concerns about the rehabilitation of the trail system and how soon work can be completed. Residents mentioned ensuring adequate signage and fencing is in place.
- Increasing the Firebreak size in some areas from 30 metres to 50 metres was also submitted as feedback.
- Property owners expressed interest in better understanding Firesmart landscaping principals in addition to learning what plants and trees they could be planting on their property.
- Residents asked questions about pooling and drainage issues behind their homes as warm and dry weather conditions increase.
- Concerns were brought forward about off-highway vehicle use within the Urban Service Area and what the Municipality is doing to mitigate this illegal activity.
- Residents also reported an increase in visible wildlife in the Firebreak areas.

Next Sessions:

Here for You: Vista Ridge

Thursday, May 25: 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Topic: Off-highway Vehicle Mitigation and Tree Planting