

POLICY TITLE: TREE PLANTING AND REMOVAL

Policy Objective	To guide the planting and removal of trees to provide maximum benefits with minimal costs and conflicts
Authority	Resolution # 909/19
Supporting bylaw	
Related Policy(s)	

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a guide for the planting and removal of trees in the Town of Outlook to provide maximum benefits to the community with minimal costs and conflicts to abutting land uses, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and regular maintenance programs.

SCOPE

This policy applies to trees in the Town of Outlook.

POLICY

General

1. It is the policy of the Town of Outlook to:
 - a. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees on public property;
 - b. Recommend and encourage:
 - i. The proper pruning, protection and repair of privately owned trees in the Town;
 - ii. The planting of trees of suitable species at desirable sites within the Town;
 - c. Review development plans and agreements to provide recommendations regarding landscaping and trees;
 - d. Maintain the large mature trees in the Town of Outlook;
 - e. Implement tree planting programs to enhance tree canopy within the Town to maximize the benefits to the Town and its citizens in terms of storm

water attenuation, reduction in urban warming, enhancement to aesthetics and improvement to air quality.

Tree Removal on Private Property

2. The Town is not responsible for the removal of trees on private property.
3. Town employees may enter upon private land within the Town to:
 - a. Inspect trees to determine whether they are in a diseased condition;
 - b. Treat trees on land as needed to curb Dutch Elm Disease or other such infestation.
4. a. Town employees may order an owner of land to remove a tree or limb that is, in the opinion of the Town, hazardous to the persons or property or so affected by disease or insect infestation as to endanger the life and health of trees in the vicinity. Such order shall be in writing, and shall specify the tree(s) in question, the remedy to be undertaken, and the time by which the order must be completed.
 - b. Where the owner fails to remove the tree or limb described in the order within the time required, a person authorized by the Town may enter upon the land upon which the tree or limb is situated, without warrant or other legal process, and remove the tree or limb.
 - c. Costs associated with the removal of the tree or limb pursuant to section 4 b. will be billed to the owner of the property, and upon failure to pay, may be added to the taxes on that property.

Tree Removal on Public Property

5. The Town is responsible for the removal of trees on public property.
6. Any tree posing immediate danger (from windstorm, ice, etc.), or if interfering with traffic and pedestrian safety, will be pruned or removed as quickly as possible, at the discretion of the Public Works staff.
7. In order to prolong the safe life of trees, the Town will coordinate whenever possible the pruning of dead and dying branches in trees on municipal property.
8. Trees that are dead or diseased, as determined by the Town, will be marked for removal.
9. Trees that are requested for removal by an adjacent property owner may be marked for removal, as determined by the Public Works staff.

Tree Preservation and Protection

10. Private individuals are not to prune or remove any trees that are on public property. Anyone wishing to have a tree on public property removed or trimmed must submit a written request to the Public Works Coordinator, indicating the location of the tree(s) and the reason for the request.

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11. Unless authorized by the Town, no person shall:
 - a. Mark, cut, break, debark, deface, damage or in any manner injure or destroy a tree, or any part of a tree.
 - b. Tack, paste, or attach a poster or note or any other thing, or object to a tree or to a stake, post, guard, or other object supporting such tree.
 - c. Deposit, place, store, or maintain any stone, brick, sand, soil, concrete, vehicle, equipment or other material that may impede the free passage of water, air or nutrients to the roots of a tree.
 - d. Chemically spray, fertilize, prune, trim, disturb, or alter a tree or any part of a tree.
 - e. Alter or change soil levels in the vicinity of any tree in a manner likely to cause injury to the tree.

Tree Planting

12. The Town may undertake a tree planting program to replace trees that have been removed due to disease and old age.
13. The Town, in undertaking a tree planting program, will attempt to replace these trees at a rate of two trees to each tree removed, if possible.
14. The Town will keep a list of residents who wish to have a tree planted in the boulevard in front of their residence. On a yearly basis, the Town will endeavour to plant enough trees on boulevards to satisfy the requests made by residents. Those residents will be responsible for the newly planted trees and shall water the trees until they have become established, there will be no reimbursement from the Town for water usage or tree care after they are planted.
15. Further to section 14 of this policy, location of the tree plantings is to be determined by the Public Works staff, with input from Town Council.
16. Tree planting is subject to budget considerations and tree availability.

