

Corporate Policy

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Section:	Parks Administration	12
Sub-Section:	Trees – Maintenance and Regulation	6300
Title:	Tree Management on City Property	2019-01

Related Policies

Number	Title
13-6870-2019-01	Naturescape Principles
13-6870-2019-02	Bird Nest Protection

Approvals

Approval Date: April 9, 2019	Resolution #: <u>RC19/140</u>
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Tree Management on City Property

Policy

It is the policy of the City of Port Moody to plant, protect, retain, and nourish trees on City property for community benefit, and as part of a healthy urban forest and broader watershed ecosystem.

It is the policy of the City to remove trees only when a tree poses a risk to public safety and to undertake all measures practicable to avoid non-hazardous tree removal.

Application

This policy applies to tree management on all lands owned by the City, including parks, boulevards, and road allowances.

Exemptions

This policy does not apply to trees on City property where the City does not have jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, requirements stipulated in the *Railway Safety Act*.

Definitions

See Appendix A.

Procedures

Tree and Vegetation Planting

All trees and vegetation planted on City lands shall be carried out subject to the approval of the General Manager of Environment and Parks and in accordance with all City policies, including, but not limited to, the City's Naturescape and Bird Nest Protection Policies.

The City will encourage biodiversity by selecting a mix of native species that are well-suited to planting site conditions.

Tree Conservation and Maintenance

The City will maintain and conserve City-approved trees and vegetation on all City lands using best management practices for ensuring tree and vegetation health.

The City will budget sufficient funds to properly maintain tree health and vigor for the life of the tree (e.g., planting, establishment, and maintenance).

The City does not practice nor permit, as regular tree maintenance, the removal of healthy tree tops (topping) for reasons of view, shade, or litter.

Any requests from the community to prune trees or vegetation on City lands are subject to the approval by the General Manager of Environment and Parks.

All pruning and other tree maintenance activities will be conducted in compliance with all applicable legislation, including but not limited to the *Federal Fisheries Act*, *Wildlife Act*, *Fish Protection Act*, *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and *Species at Risk Act*.

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Tree Removal – General

Tree removal is only considered as required:

- for hazardous trees;
- to facilitate approved capital projects in cases where tree retention is not feasible;
- to protect infrastructure in cases where tree retention is not feasible; and/or
- for ecological restoration or forest health management.

All tree removal will be conducted in accordance with all applicable legislation, including, but not limited to, the *Fisheries Act*, *Wildlife Act*, *Fish Protection Act*, *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, *Species at Risk Act*, as well as the City's Bird Nest Protection and Naturescape Policies.

To the extent possible, when trees must be removed, the City will seek to:

- transplant trees; and
- promote wildlife trees.

When conversion to a wildlife tree is not possible, the City will seek to:

- retain wildlife stumps; and
- re-use removed tree material (e.g. convert into coarse woody debris, use for riparian enhancements).

Tree Removal – Hazardous Trees

Where a tree poses a hazard and is recommended for removal by a Certified Tree Risk Assessor qualified by the International Society of Arboriculture and using the 2013 ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form, the City will undertake tree removal.

In general, the City will consider removal of trees for those trees with ratings of medium or higher where mitigation measures are insufficient and/or not practical.

Tree Removal – Healthy Trees

The City will undertake all measures practicable to avoid non-hazardous tree and vegetation removal. These measures will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- all major capital work projects will engage the City's arborist early in the planning process (i.e., conceptual and design stages) in order that consideration can be given to designing and constructing works in a manner that avoids or minimizes loss of trees; and
- capital work submissions will include information on whether any, and to what extent, tree loss is anticipated and include costs for tree replacement and three-year tree maintenance costs to support tree establishment. To the extent practicable, the City will seek to include a 2:1 replanting for trees with diameters of 10cm or more when measured from a height of 1.4 metres above natural grade of land.

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Major Capital Projects

When not possible to avoid tree removal, the City will prepare a Tree Removal and Replacement Plan (the Plan) for all major capital projects. The Plan will include the following:

- efforts taken to avoid tree removal;
- a map and inventory of trees to be removed along with an assessment of their health as determined by a Certified Tree Risk Assessor;
- delineation of any City-designated Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and/or, Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA) in or adjacent to the work area;
- measures to be implemented to ensure compliance with all applicable legislation and the City's Bird Nest Protection Policy, including, but not limited to, avoiding tree removal during the bird nesting window of March 1 to August 31, unless a bird nest survey has been undertaken by an environmental professional and no nests have been detected, or authorization has been provided by the Province and, if applicable, the Federal Government; and
- measures to be implemented to:
 - protect trees to be retained (e.g., protective fencing);
 - promote wildlife trees and use removed trees; and
 - compensate for tree loss.

Where a major capital work project is within or in close proximity to an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) or Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA), the Plan will demonstrate compliance with the City's ESA guidelines, OCP streamside protection policies, and all applicable legislation, and will be reviewed by the City's Environment Division prior to any tree removal.

All Plans will be submitted to the City's Environmental Protection Committee (EPC) for review and comment, and subsequently forwarded to Council for approval prior to any tree removal.

Minor Capital Works and Park Maintenance Activities

The City will provide to the EPC an overview each year of any tree removal anticipated as a result of minor capital works such as infrastructure repair and annual park maintenance activities, prior to any works being conducted.

Monitoring/Authority

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the City's Environment and Parks Department to ensure effectiveness, currency with evolving best practices, and compliance with changing legislation.

Appendix A: Definitions

City means the City of Port Moody.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas means those areas identified in the City's Official Community Plan as Environmentally Sensitive Areas.

General Manager means the person holding the position of General Manager of Environment and Parks for the City, and any person appointed to act in the place or under the direction of the General Manager.

Hazard Tree means a Tree, identified in writing by a Certified Tree Risk Assessor, in such a condition that there is a substantial likelihood that all or part of the Tree will fail, resulting in the risk of personal injury or property damage.

Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) means the area which includes the Riparian Protection and Enhancement Area and the Riparian Transition Zone, as defined by the City's Zoning Bylaw.

Tree means a woody perennial plant usually having a single trunk or stem which has a diameter of at least 10 centimetres when measured from a height of 1.4 metres above the natural grade of the land.

Wildlife Tree means a Tree that provides present or future habitat for the maintenance or enhancement of wildlife, and as defined in the British Columbia Wildlife Tree Classification System published in *Wildlife Tree Management in British Columbia*, and as determined by an Arborist and to the satisfaction of the City's Arborist.