

## Tree Preservation Policy on Municipally Owned Lands

Effective Date: January 17, 1995

Reaffirmed Date: July 3, 2012

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### Purpose:

To preserve healthy trees located on municipal land to the greatest extent possible and to ensure replacement where removal of trees larger than 50 cm in diameter is required.

### Policy:

- I. Trees over 50 centimeters in tree diameter, measured at a point on the trunk 1.3 meters above the natural grade of the ground at the base of the tree, shall not be removed from municipally owned property unless:
  - a) A report prepared by a certified Arborist is obtained indicating that the trees proposed to be removed are dead, diseased or dangerous or pose a significant hazard to public safety or adjacent properties. Or,
  - b) Approval for the removal of a tree is obtained from the Director of Parks and Facilities or his/her designate following submission of a report which identifies the requirement for removal and an indication of why no alternatives are acceptable with the exception of those trees covered by paragraph 3 below. Or,
  - c) Emergency removal is required of a tree that has been severely damaged and is in imminent danger of injuring persons or property.
  
2. Trees over 50 centimeters in tree diameter which are removed from municipally owned property shall be replaced at a rate of two trees for every tree removed in a suitable location, to be determined by the Director of Parks and Facilities or his/her designate.

The size and species of replacement trees shall conform to the City of Pitt Meadow Subdivision Servicing Bylaw No. 2206 specifications.

3. If a suitable place can not be found for replacement trees within City owned right of way, a sum equivalent to the replacement value of the replacement trees as determined by the Director of Parks and Facilities or his/her designate shall be paid into the City's Street Tree Replacement Reserve by the party(s) requesting the tree removal. Street tree replacement reserve funds can only be used for the installation and/or replacement of trees in City owned road right of ways.
4. Designated Heritage Trees shall not be removed from Municipality owned property without approval from Municipal Council. A Public Information Meeting shall take place and the results reported to Council in advance of such consideration being given to the proposed removal.

Wildlife trees (snags) should be retained wherever possible in locations considered suitable for this purpose.

**Definitions:**

"Certified Arborist" means a person certified by the International Society of Arboriculture.

"Designated Heritage Trees" shall mean any tree so designated by Municipal Council.