Project Website Tree Planting Survey Results

PROJECT WEBSITE RESPONSES

Tree Planting Requirements for low-density residential development
Online Survey Results, December 2015
Tree planting requirements for low-density residential development:
Project Website Survey Summary, December 2015

In several low-density residential zones in the City (e.g. single detached residences, low-density infill, residential small lot) the Zoning Bylaw currently only requires builders and homeowners to install sod, or an equivalent ground cover such as washed gravel or flower beds. No trees or shrubs are required.

Do you consider yourself to be familiar with landscaping in Edmonton?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Respondents</th>
<th>149</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tree planting requirements for low-density residential development:
Insight Community Mixed Topic Survey Summary, December 2015

What type of landscaping do you think should be required on residential properties?

- Grass/sod is enough, no plantings should be required: 125
- Every house should include trees and shrubs, and the amount of trees and shrubs should be the same for all lots, no matter what the size of the lot is: 39
- Every house should include trees and shrubs, and the amount of trees and shrubs should be based on the size of the lot: 269
- I don't know what type of landscaping should be required on residential properties: 49

*Shortly after this survey launch, this question was modified to clarify language. At the time of survey launch, 232 survey participants responded to this question. These 232 responses were not included in the analysis of this question.
Tree planting requirements for low-density residential development: Project Website Survey Summary, December 2015

There are several methods the City can use to calculate how many trees and how many shrubs need to be planted on a lot. Different methods may produce different results. The City is considering four different options. The graphics below illustrate the minimum number of trees and shrubs that would be required using each for a typical lot size or house type. Please rate each of the following options...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fixed Planting Amount</th>
<th>Depth of Front Yard</th>
<th>Lot Frontage</th>
<th>Housing Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 coniferous tree, 1 deciduous tree and 4 shrubs per unit</td>
<td>0.0 m to 3.0 m (1 tree, 4 shrubs)</td>
<td>10.1 m to 14.0 m (2 trees and 4 shrubs)</td>
<td>Single family house (3 trees and 4 shrubs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Fixed Planting Amount</th>
<th>Depth of Front Yard</th>
<th>Lot Frontage</th>
<th>Housing Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I really like it</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I somewhat like it</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm neutral about it</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I somewhat don't like it</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't like it at all</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't know</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tree planting requirements for low-density residential development:
Project Website Survey Summary, December 2015

**Fixed Planting Amount**
Example: 1 coniferous tree, 1 deciduous tree and 4 shrubs per unit
Tree planting requirements for low-density residential development:
Project Website Survey Summary, December 2015

**Depth of Front Yard** (typically the front property line to front of house)
*Example: 0.0 m to 3.0 m (1 tree, 4 shrubs)*

![Diagram of a house with trees and shrubs]

- 149 Respondents
- 33% I really like it
- 20% I somewhat like it
- 14% I’m neutral about it
- 11% I somewhat don’t like it
- 3% I don’t like it at all
- 1% I don’t know

[www.edmonton.ca/treeplantingrequirements]
Results of the Project Website Survey, Dec 16-22, 2015
Tree planting requirements for low-density residential development:  
Project Website Survey Summary, December 2015

Lot Frontage (width of property)  
Example: 10.1 m to 14.0 m (2 trees and 4 shrubs)
Tree planting requirements for low-density residential development:
Project Website Survey Summary, December 2015

Housing Type
Example: Single family house (3 trees and 4 shrubs)

- Single Detached House
- Semi-detached House

149 Respondents

I really like it: 27%
I somewhat like it: 18%
I’m neutral about it: 17%
I somewhat don’t like it: 17%
I don’t like it at all: 3%
I don’t know: 3%

www.edmonton.ca/treeplantingrequirements
Results of the Project Website Survey, Dec 16-22, 2015
Tree planting requirements for low-density residential development: Project Website Survey Summary, December 2015

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: All housing of the same type (e.g., all single family homes) should have the same landscaping requirements, no matter where they are located in the City.

- Strongly agree: 21%
- Somewhat agree: 19%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 32%
- Somewhat disagree: 5%
- Strongly disagree: 23%

If trees and shrubs are required to be planted on all residential lots in the City, where do you think they should be planted?

- All lots should have a minimum number of trees and shrubs in the front yard, where they can be seen from the street and sidewalks: 11%
- The trees and shrubs can be planted anywhere on the lot, as long as some of the trees are visible from the street and sidewalks: 24%
- Trees and shrubs can be planted anywhere on the lot, it is the choice of the home owner: 31%
- Trees and shrubs should not be required on residential lots: 12%
- I don’t know where trees and shrubs should be planted: 32%
Tree planting requirements for low-density residential development:
Project Website Survey Summary, December 2015

When redeveloping a lot, one way to keep the existing mature trees is to count them towards the
required trees and shrubs. Keeping this in mind, please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the
following statements:

Everything that can be done to keep the older trees should be done

- 6% Agree
- 17% Disagree
- 77% Don't know

Preserving older trees should be the choice of the home owner

- 9% Agree
- 38% Disagree
- 54% Don't know
Tree planting requirements for low-density residential development:
Project Website Survey Summary, December 2015

What do you think about the approach to preserve existing mature trees?

- 69%: I have no opinion
- 28%: This approach is good, everything that can be done to keep the older trees should be done
- 3%: Whether or not to preserve the older trees should be the choice of the homeowner

Do you have any other comments about the City requiring trees and shrubs to be planted on residential lots?

- “Everything within reason needs to be done to protect old trees in established neighbourhoods. Development is good (new homes and businesses), but it can’t be at the expense of the old growth that adds such character and health to the established areas of town.”
- “Existing trees in mature neighbourhoods ought to be preserved. Clear cutting of lots should not be permitted.”
- “The charm of older neighborhoods is primarily due to the existence of large mature trees. I would not likely buy into or live in an area without this canopy of trees.”
Tree planting requirements for low-density residential development:
Project Website Survey Summary, December 2015

106 Comments Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment Area</th>
<th>Amount of Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Concerns</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of trees</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees are important for the health of the city</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees should be for the property owner</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees add to a neighborhood's character</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees should be protected</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative tree planting should be encouraged instead of trees</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More information on tree species should be available</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No comments should be required</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>