



CITY POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: C456A

REFERENCE:

City Council 28 November 1989
Community Standards Bylaw 14600
Parkland Bylaw 2202
Traffic Bylaw 5590
Natural Area Systems Policy C531
North Saskatchewan River Valley ARP
Natural Connections Strategic Plan
Integrated Pest Management C501
Urban Parks Management Plan

ADOPTED BY:

City Council
12 May 2010

SUPERSEDES:

C456

PREPARED BY: Asset Management and Public Works

DATE: 24 March 2010

TITLE: Corporate Tree Management

Page 1 of 1

Policy Statement: Trees are the longest living organisms on earth. Trees help purify the air we breath, contribute to urban biodiversity, provide wildlife habitat, beautify and enrich our lives throughout the year, sequester carbon and provide a sense of well-being in our urban environment. Therefore, these valuable assets require our dedicated stewardship.

Edmonton's tree canopy, including all ornamental trees and natural treed areas on City property (with the exception of land which is under the jurisdiction of senior orders of government), will be procured, maintained, protected and preserved by the City.

Where damage to or loss of City trees occurs, as a result of not complying with the City Guidelines, equitable compensation for that loss will be recovered from the civic or private entity causing the damage or loss and applied to future tree replacements.

Work on City trees will be in accordance with the applicable bylaws and policies referenced above concerning boulevards, utility lots, and City trees on any public place and City properties (with the exception of land which is under the jurisdiction of senior orders of government) within Edmonton.

The purpose of this policy is to protect the tree canopy on City property by:

Ensuring the orderly development of the City's tree inventory through new plantings, replacement plantings, and proper maintenance in accordance with applicable bylaws.

Ensuring that all trees on City properties are adequately protected from destruction, loss or damage. Where salvage is not possible, equitable compensation will be provided to the City of Edmonton.

Providing for a tree reserve account that enables the carry forward of funds received for tree losses and/or damages. These funds will be used for planting trees on City property in the future.

Coordinating all City tree planting programs including boulevards, roadway landscaping, park and facility developments.

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Municipal Government Act or other relevant legislation or Union Agreement.



CITY PROCEDURE

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Page 1 of 3

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.01 City Trees means all trees and shrubs growing on City-owned property. This includes trees and shrubs that have been planted on boulevards, lanes, sidewalks and road right-of-ways or any other public places.
- 1.02 Ornamental Trees means all planted landscape trees and shrubs growing on City-owned property.
- 1.03 Natural Treed Areas means those trees occurring as a result of natural succession or those trees planted as part of naturalization efforts, growing on City-owned property.
- 1.04 Windbreaks/Shelterbelts trees and/or shrubs either planted or naturally occurring for the purpose of providing environmental protection to property.
- 1.05 Parkland means any property, whether developed or not, owned, controlled or maintained by the City as defined in Bylaw #2202 (Parkland Bylaw).
- 1.06 Equitable Compensation
- (a) For ornamental and parkland trees means all costs incurred by the City. These costs shall include labour, material, equipment charges and applicable overheads associated with the asset value of the tree or the diminishment of the tree's asset value, as determined by the document titled *Guidelines for Evaluation of Trees*, a documented methodology that is set forth in the current edition of the Guide for Plant Appraisal authored by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers and published by the International Society of Arboriculture.
- (b) For natural treed areas means the compensation value for such treed areas as determined by the document titled *the Tree Evaluation Method for Natural Stands in Our Urban Environment (Tree Canopy Replacement Method)*, a methodology document that was adapted with reference to the Alberta Agriculture publication, A Guide to Determining Replacement Value of Trees and Shrubs in Alberta, Section 3 (AGDEX 275/33-3).
- (c) For Windbreak and Shelterbelt trees, means the compensation for such treed areas as determined by Alberta Agriculture in A Guide to Determining Replacement Value of Trees and Shrubs in Alberta, Section 2.
- 1.07 Additional Costs covers additional and unplanned maintenance and costs associated with 'out of the season' tree relocation or repair or custom work above normal standards or outside of regular schedules.



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Page 2 of 3

2. PROCEDURES

1. The General Manager of Asset Management and Public Works to:

- 1.1. Prepare and authorize such instruction or specification necessary to properly implement the requirements of this policy:
 - 1.1.1. supply guidelines on tree protection methods and procedures
 - 1.1.2. supply guidelines on practices and procedures to reduce or eliminate harm to trees
 - 1.1.3. develop an annual training program for staff of and contractors to other civic entities
- 1.2. Request the necessary resources and provide the direction that may be required to meet the obligations of this policy. Develop and recommend an appropriate budget for the administration and implementation of the tree policy and the tree reserve account.
- 1.3. Inspect trees on City-owned property for possible damage and to ensure requirements are met prior to issuance of a Final Acceptance Certificate.
- 1.4. To ensure trees whose removal or relocation costs have been paid for by particular civic department, be relocated to another planned, planting area under the jurisdiction of the same department, where feasible.
- 1.5. Assist other departments in assessing the monetary value of natural tree stands, windbreaks, or shelterbelts located outside of parkland. Natural tree stand evaluations shall be in accordance with the *Canopy Replacement Method*.
- 1.6. Attempt to integrate existing natural tree stands, windbreaks, or shelterbelts, into future park developments.
- 1.7. Review plans for projects that impact City trees and determine the steps necessary to protect and preserve these trees.
- 1.8. Take necessary steps to protect and preserve City trees impacted by construction activities.

2. The General Manager of the Finance and Treasury Department to:

- 2.1. Establish a tree reserve account in accordance with the intent of this policy which enables the carry forward of collected funds for utilization in subsequent years.



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TITLE: **Corporate Tree Management**

Page 3 of 3

- 2.2. Develop the necessary accounting structure mechanism for the implementation (including collection and disbursement of funds) of this policy.
- 2.3. Monitor the use of the tree reserve account and provide an annual statement to the Asset Management and Public Work department.
3. Department General Managers to:
 - 3.1. Ensure that Departments are aware of this policy, its intent and guidelines.
 - 3.2. Ensure that the requirement to comply with the tree protection, preservation, and replacement guidelines, is included in contract and tender packages under "special conditions."
 - 3.3. Ensure that department staff, including project managers, inspectors, and contractors to civic entities are annually trained in identifying and preventing tree damage.
 - 3.4. Ensure that department project managers and inspectors identify prospective tree damaging activities, and ensure protective measures are taken as outlined in the Asset Management and Public Works Parks Branch "Tree Protection Hoarding Requirements" and the "Guidelines for Working Near Trees" (attached).
 - 3.5. Identify major planned projects that may impact on trees on City property via the "On Street Construction and Maintenance" and other plan circulations.