

Valley Line West LRT Trees

Fact Sheet

Edmonton values its urban forest canopy. The City of Edmonton has heard from communities along the future Valley Line West LRT alignment that trees are an important part of their cherished character. The Valley Line West project team has been working extensively on reducing impacts as much as possible by avoiding or saving trees, and also planning for relocations and new plantings where necessary.

Construction will require removal of small areas of degraded forest in Groat and MacKinnon Ravines. Most of the affected areas will be reclaimed to new forest communities using only native species. An inventory list has been made of potentially impacted trees along the LRT alignment. Based on initial tree inventory and preliminary design, it is estimated that approximately 1120 boulevard trees will be removed or relocated, and approximately 1800 trees will be planted along the 14 km Valley Line West corridor. Based on new City standards, these new trees will be planted in greatly improved growing conditions.

Not all trees are suitable for relocation. Relocation is highly dependent on factors such as tree health, size, age, species, and the proximity of tree and root system to utilities, pavement or overhead obstructions.

The City's Corporate Tree Policy ([C456A](#)) prioritizes the preservation and protection of trees on City lands. As such, the Valley Line West project is required to compensate for lost forest canopy and to relocate all impacted trees of appropriate size and health, preferably nearby. Trees that are identified to remain will be protected by the contractor during LRT construction as per the Project Agreement.

The City is using advances in tree planting methods to support replanted trees. For example, the City uses soil cells (engineered cells filled with quality growing medium that allows for hard surfaces above) which contributes to higher survival rates, as well as healthier, faster growing trees, when compared to trees replanted without this new technology. The Project Agreement outlines exact locations where this method will occur.

The City also incorporates new tree species into Edmonton's built environment to increase survival rates. Invasive pests are on our doorstep; the Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm Disease are imminent threats to many of our largest, oldest trees. By trialing various species at our City and local nurseries, the future of Edmonton's canopy can be more sustainable, with new tree forms and colors.

Trees which cannot be relocated, either due to their size or condition, are recycled in the following ways:

- Wood chips are used in tree beds in public green spaces and along trails
- Unusable wood is composted

For more information
edmonton.ca/valleylinewest
edmonton.ca/trees