



TOWN OF THREE HILLS

POLICY # 100-A1

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT FOR TOWN-OWNED LANDS POLICY

Adopted by Council on: June 22, 2020

Resolution No: 317-2020

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The Town strives to maintain and preserve the urban forest and natural areas that are significant to the environmental quality, appearance and recreational fabric of the community.
- 1.2. The purpose of this Policy is to establish the Town's authority for the preservation, Removal, Replacement and enhancement of Trees on lands owned or controlled by the Town. This policy shall be in correlation with the Land Use Bylaw, as amended from time to time.

2. AUTHORITY

- 2.1. The authority for this Policy is by resolution of the Council of the Town of Three Hills.
- 2.2. The CAO is accountable and responsible for the development, evaluation, and implementation of this Policy. This includes, but is not limited to, the inspection maintenance and Removal of Trees.
- 2.3. The CAO reserves the right to exercise appropriate managerial judgement to take such actions as may be necessary to achieve the purpose of this Policy.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1. Whenever the singular masculine gender is used in this policy, the same shall include the feminine and neutral gender whenever context requires.
- 3.2. In this Policy, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - 3.2.1. "Capital Construction" shall refer to the construction involved in a capital project, including but not limited to, the construction of roads or utilities.
 - 3.2.2. "CAO" shall mean Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Three Hills or his designate.
 - 3.2.3. "Council" shall mean the body of elected representatives who govern the Town.
 - 3.2.4. "Dead, Diseased or Damaged" shall refer to a Tree that is dead, declining health,

harboring an uncontrollable declared pest or has a non-repairable defect.

- 3.2.5. "Development" shall have the same meaning as set out in the Land Use Bylaw, as amended.
- 3.2.6. "Emergency" shall mean a situation where there is a significant public safety hazard.
- 3.2.7. "Nuisance" in the context of this Policy, shall mean a a Tree that unduly interferes with the amenities of the property owner or materially interferes with the property owner's rights by being dangerous, obstructive or unhealthful. The interference must be unreasonable and substantial to qualify as a Nuisance.
- 3.2.8. "Public Land" shall mean land owned by the Town or a road right-of-way within the Town. This may include parks, public utility lots, boulevards, playgrounds, etc.
- 3.2.9. "Removal" shall mean the Removal of a Tree by digging up or cutting down.
- 3.2.10. "Replacement" shall mean compensating for healthy Tree Removal, sick or dying Trees, by planting Replacement Trees.
- 3.2.11. "Town" shall mean the Town of Three Hills.
- 3.2.12. "Tree" shall mean any Tree, shrub or understory vegetation located on Public Land.
- 3.2.13. "Trimming" shall refer to the action of removing dead or threatened branches caused by insect or disease infestation, to improve Tree's health, safety, or need to improve a Tree's aesthetic value.

4. POLICY

4.1. General Provisions

- 4.1.1. Landowners shall not plant Trees or flowers at their discretion on Town land without written approval from the Town.
- 4.1.2. Prior to acting on this policy, budget will be reviewed to ensure funds are available.
- 4.1.3. Trimming, Removal and Replacement of Trees will be prioritized according to the level of urgency and available resources.

4.2. Tree Trimming, Removal and Replacement

- 4.2.1. The Town shall make every effort to manage and maintain the existing Tree canopy. However, there may be circumstances in which Tree Removal is required. If a Tree must be removed, the Town will make reasonable attempts to replace the Tree.
- 4.2.2. Tree Trimming, Removal and Replacement may be necessary in the following situations:
 - I. Capital Construction;
 - II. Dead, Diseased or Damage;

- III. Development;
- IV. Interference with infrastructure;
- V. Nuisance; or
- VI. Emergency.

4.2.3. For the purpose of this Policy, the following complaints shall not be considered a Nuisance:

- I. A Tree that is considered to be “too tall”;
- II. A Tree that provides shade or loss of light;
- III. A Tree that contains leaf litter, fruits and/or other debris, with the exception of black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera ssp. Trichocarpa*) or Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera ssp. Balsamifera*)
- IV. A Tree interfering with satellite/TV reception;
- V. A Tree producing pollen; or
- VI. A Tree containing a birds nest.

4.3. Requests to Trim, Remove, or Replace Trees

- 4.3.1. Requests for Trimming, Removal or Replacement of Tree will be individually assessed by the CAO. The decision on the action to be taken will be based on the level of Nuisance created by the Tree in consultation with the person making the request.
- 4.3.2. In considering a request for Tree Removal, the age, size, health, species, location, significance and rarity of the Tree in question shall be considered.
- 4.3.3. The person making the request will be advised of the action to be taken and the approximate timelines in which the works will be completed.
- 4.3.4. Any care, maintenance or Removal of Trees located on Town property that is not scheduled or deemed necessary by the Town, shall be at the expense of the individual or business making the request. The required action will be completed by the Town and billed accordingly.

4.4. Prohibited Damage, Trimming and Removal

- 4.4.1. Prohibited damage, Trimming and Removal shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - I. cutting, removing, or pruning of Trees without consent of the Town;
 - II. penetrating the bark or attaching any object such as electrical cords or signs to the Tree; or

III. spraying Trees with any substance except water.









- 4.4.2. In the event any person removes or destroys any Tree in contravention with this Policy, that person shall be required to replace such Tree with a Tree(s) of equivalent dollar value on public property, unless otherwise determined by the CAO. The value of a Tree shall be determined by the CAO. If no suitable location exists in the vicinity of the Tree removed or if the Replacement Tree(s) is of lesser value, the person causing the Tree to be removed shall make a compensatory payment to the Town of Three Hills equal to the difference in value between the Tree removed and any Replacement Tree(s).
- 4.4.3. In the event any person damages a Tree, but not sufficiently to justify its Removal, shall be considered devalued. The amount of devaluation shall be determined by the CAO and paid to the Town of Three Hills by the person causing the damage.


5. PRIOR POLICY

5.1. This policy shall supersede and replace all prior policies, oral or written, regarding Tree Trimming, Removal and Replacement within the Town of Three Hills including Policy 100 – Tree Trimming, Removal and Replacement Policy for Municipally Owned Lands.





Approved On:	June 22, 2020	Resolution No: 317-2020
Effective On:	June 22, 2020	
Previous Version:	October 14, 2014	Resolution No: 383-14
Next Review Date:		
Approved By:	Council	
Recommended By:	Chief Administrative Officer	
Paper File Location:	Main Floor Vault	
Electronic File Location:	Y: > Policies	






SCHEDULE A






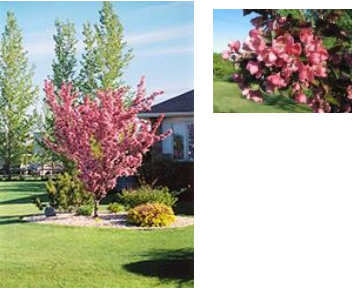
RECOMMENDED STREET TREE SPECIES	
 	<p>AMERICAN ELM – <i>Ulmus americana</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 20m • Maximum spread 15m • Ideal for street tree plantings, and is an excellent shade tree • High-headed, upright spreading tree with an umbrella shape • Drought tolerant
 	<p>BUR OAK – <i>Quercus Macrocarpa</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 10m • Maximum spread 10m • High-headed shade tree • Corky branches and lobed leaves • Slow growing makes it a good boulevard tree • Drought and salt tolerant
 	<p>FOOTHILLS GREEN ASH – <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> ‘Foothills’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 20m • Maximum spread is 12m • Has glossy green foliage • Fast growing, hardy and easy to maintain • Adapts well to compact places • Drought and salt tolerant
 	<p>IVORY SILK JAPANESE LILAC – <i>Syringa reticulata</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 8m • Maximum spread 6m • Cream coloured flowers • Dense canopy • Bark is a deep brown that resembles a cherry


	<p>SWEDISH COLUMNAR ASPEN – <i>Populus tremula</i> ‘Erecta’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 12m • Maximum spread 1.5m • Slender columnar form, good in narrow planting sites • Fast growing • Dense canopy
---	--

**RECOMMENDED PARKS TREE SPECIES
(in addition to Street Trees)**





	<p>COLORADO SPRUCE – <i>Picea Pungens</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 12m • Maximum spread 5m • Blue or green colour • Rigid needles • Symmetrical shape
	<p>BLACK ASH – <i>Fraxinus nigra</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 12m • Maximum Spread 5-7m • This tree is pyramidal in shape • Requires adequate moisture • Has uniform branching habits making it a good street tree • <i>ONLY GROW MALE PLANTS</i>
	<p>TOBA HAWTHORN – <i>Crataegus x mordenensis</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 3m • Maximum spread 2m • Glossy dark green foliage • light pink flower clusters
	<p>AMERICAN BASSWOOD (LINDEN) – <i>Tilia americana</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 12m • Maximum spread 8m • Large shade tree • Moderate growth rate • Fragrant yellow flowers





	<p>AMUR MAPLE – <i>Acer ginnala</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 4m • Maximum spread 4m • Adapts to a wide range of soil and pH levels • Low-headed ornamental • Beautiful fall foliage colour • Not recommended as a street tree due to its multiple trucks
	<p>LAUREL-LEAF WILLOW – <i>Salix pentandra</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 15m • Maximum spread 15m • Distinct yellow bark • Large spreading crown • Dark glossy green foliage
	<p>LODGEPOLE PINE – <i>Pinus contorta var. latifolia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 12m • Maximum spread 3m • Not commonly used for landscaping purposes • Cones remain on branches for many years • Ideal for sunny well drained location
	<p>NORWAY SPRUCE – <i>Picea abies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 15m • Maximum spread 8m • Droopy branches • Pyramidal shape • Slow growth rate
	<p>OHIO BUCKEYE – <i>Aesculus glabra</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 12m • Maximum spread 11m • Form is low-headed and has a dense canopy • It is fully hardy and slow growing <p>Not suitable for a street tree due to the odor it produces</p>

	<p>PAPER BIRCH – <i>Betula papyrifera</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 12m • Maximum spread 6m • Moderate growth rate • Paper-like bark
	<p>RUSSIAN OLIVE – <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 6m • Maximum Spread 6m • Has grey foliage • Very fragrant yellow flowers • Drought and salt tolerant
	<p>SCOTS (SCOTCH) PINE – <i>Pinus sylvestris</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 12m • Maximum spread 6m • Rapid growth • Orange-brown bark • Great for urban landscape
	<p>SIBERIAN LARCH – <i>Larix sibirica</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 12m • Maximum spread 5m Form is a broad pyramid • Cones remain on branches for many years • Good landscape tree
	<p>SWISS STONE PINE – <i>Pinus cembra</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 10m • Maximum spread 5m • Symmetrical shape • Best suited for single tree planting
	<p>THUNDERCHILD CRABAPPLE – <i>Malus x 'Thunderchild'</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 5m • Maximum spread 4m • Outstanding pink flowers in spring; leaves coppery purple • Resistant to fire blight • Semi-upright form not good along walkways

	<p>WHITE SPRUCE – <i>Picea glauca</i> (Alberta's provincial tree)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 15m • Maximum spread 5m • Hardy native tree • Needles are softer than the Colorado spruce • Prefers sites with more available moisture than the Colorado spruce
---	---

UNSUITABLE TREE SPECIES

	<p>MANCHURIAN ASH – <i>Fraxinus manchurica</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 17m • Maximum spread 10m • Restricted to mostly wetter sites • Roots are shallow, fibrous and spreading
	<p>ROYALTY CRABAPPLE – <i>Malus 'Royalty'</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 5m • Maximum spread 5m • Poor disease resistance
	<p>SIBERIAN or MANCHURIAN ELM – <i>Ulmus pumila</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 10m • Maximum spread 8m • Open canopy • High-headed • Invasive, seedy, weak wooded tree with a short life span • Subject to slime flux
	<p>NORTHWEST POPLAR – <i>Populus 'Northwest'</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 15m • Maximum spread 10m • Plant away from houses • Fast growing

	<p>MUCKLE PLUM - <i>Prunus nigella</i> 'Muckle'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 5m • Maximum spread 3m • Susceptible to winter kill • Not suitable for "chinook" conditions
	<p>MAYDAY – <i>Prunus padus</i> 'Commutata'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 6m • Maximum spread 6m • Purple berries stain • Susceptible to black knot fungus
	<p>AMERICAN MOUNTAIN ASH – <i>Sorbus americana</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 9m • Maximum spread 8m • Susceptible to infestation • Poor disease resistance
	<p>BLACK COTTONWOOD - <i>Populus balsamifera</i> ssp. <i>Trichocarpa</i> or BALSAM POPLAR - <i>Populus balsamifera</i> ssp. <i>Balsamifera</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum height 25-50m • Maximum spread • Sticky, fragrant buds • Seeds covered with white fluff