

CITY OF AIRDRIE  
URBAN FOREST POLICY

Effective Date: August 21, 2006

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By: City Council

Approved On: August 21, 2006

Resolution #: 2006-C-328

**PURPOSE:**

Trees are a community asset and therefore an important part of a community's image, identity, and well being. This policy encourages the expansion of the City's Urban Forest. It recognizes that all street trees have a life expectancy and eventually will need to be removed and replaced. Trees will only be removed when specific criteria are met. Removals will be effectively communicated with property owners.

**SCOPE:**

This policy addresses trees that are on City titled lands including road-right-of ways, boulevards and Parks.

**POLICY:**

*Medians and Boulevards*

Trees located on Street Medians and Boulevards enhance the appearance of the community and the quality of life of Airdrie residents. This policy encourages the placement of trees, or other landscaping elements, along road right of ways and boulevards. Trees located in these areas require a higher degree of monitoring and long term maintenance due to the location.

1. Trees located along arterial roadways and medians are encouraged.
2. Collector roadways should, where possible, incorporate boulevards with separated sidewalks, to clearly define City property from private property, and to clearly delineate pedestrian movements from vehicle movements.
3. Where boulevards are not possible, or where specific design does not lend to boulevards, the City will consider trees within City road right of ways.
4. The City will monitor the installation and/or replacement of trees on City titled property, such as boulevards and road right of ways, to ensure proper species selection and installation techniques are used at all times.

*Parks*

The City of Airdrie requires the placement of landscaping on public properties in accordance with the City of Airdrie Development Guidelines and Standard Specifications, the Land Use Bylaw and the Approvals Process. Where the development industry chooses to enhance the appearance of City Parks through additional plantings, beyond that required by the City, the City

will evaluate such plans recognizing the added value to the City's Urban Forest as well as ongoing maintenance costs.

Should residents propose to plant "donated trees" in City Parks the following criteria shall be applied to evaluate the proposal:

1. The donating party of any plant material to be located upon property owned by the City must communicate their intentions of the project in writing to the Parks Department before any construction is started.
2. All planting locations are to be approved by the City Parks Department and must meet current industry recognized standards in relation to setbacks from facilities, planting methods and viable species used for the location and environmental conditions.
3. No plant material, except for annuals, is to be located within two and one half (2 ½) metres of a fence.
4. The Parks Department will carry out "pre" and "post" park inspections and any damage to City owned property will be the responsibility of the party planting the trees/shrubs.
5. All plant material is to be selected from the recommended planting list, a copy of which is available from the Parks Department.
6. All plant material is to be healthy and viable at the time of planting.
7. The following minimum sizes are recommended:
  - a. Coniferous trees 75 cm (30 inches) tall
  - b. Deciduous trees 35 mm (1 ¼ inch) calliper Shrubs 4.54 litre (1 gallon) container
8. Maintenance of bed style plantings along fence lines, which shall be comprised of annuals only, will be the responsibility of the homeowner.
9. The City will not be responsible for any vandalism/death of plant material that has been planted by a homeowner or party other than the City on the City's side of the fence line that adjoins property owned by the City.
10. The City reserves the right to remove any plant material planted upon property owned by the City.

### ***Private Property***

The City of Airdrie requires the installation of trees on private property in accordance with the requirements of the Land Use Bylaw and City of Airdrie approvals process. The City encourages the retention and replacement of these trees, as required. Where tree planting requirements can not be met due to lot design or other constraints the City will consider alternative locations for planting in accordance with submitted plans.

### **CRITERIA**

The following will be applied as planting and removal criteria.

### ***Plantings***

Trees planned for installation on city titled property shall be considered in accordance with the following:

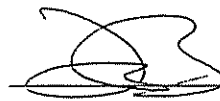
1. All plantings located within City owned road right of ways and boulevards shall be approved by the City Parks Department.

2. Plantings located within City owned road right of ways or boulevards that have not been approved by the City Parks Planner may be removed with the cost of the removal being billed to the person/s responsible for the unauthorized planting.
3. Trees that have been removed may or may not be replaced due to surrounding area circumstances and future development.
4. Where a tree is located within a road right of way, and with the owner's permission, replacement trees will be planted within the adjacent property owner's property.
5. If a property owner wants to plant trees located within the road right of way or boulevard, the tree/s must meet current City of Airdrie development specifications, be of an approved species for the area, and be approved by the City Parks Planner.
6. All tree planting in new developments will be located on the homeowner's side of the property line unless previously approved in writing by the City Parks Planner.
7. All plant material and installation techniques will meet current development guidelines and specifications.
8. Inspections of trees will be undertaken by the City Parks Planner prior to the tree being accepted by the City and it being added to the City's Urban Forest Inventory.

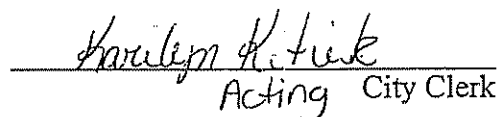
### **Removals**

Trees located on city titled property shall be considered for removal if:

1. The tree is dead.
2. The majority of the crown is dead and the tree is past the stage where it can be cost effectively treated.
3. When it is necessary for insect and disease control.
4. If the tree has been damaged and there is no chance of the tree remaining healthy.
5. Trees have been found to have major decay in the trunk and are not successfully compartmentalizing the decay on their own.
6. Trees that have to be removed for construction purposes only when there are no cost-effective alternatives to save the trees.
7. A past history of repeated extensive damage has been recorded to City property (i.e., sewer, sidewalk, roadway) and it is in the best interest of the City to have the tree removed. Removal is the last resort after all other alternatives have been considered.
8. Removals will be completed on a first come first served basis, taking in to account risk management.
9. Due to budget restraints, removals are completed on a "as time permits" basis and no concrete date can be given for removals.
10. If a tree has been inspected and deemed a 'high risk' hazard to recognized industry standards, the removal of the tree will be expedited as quickly as possible.



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Mayor

  
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Acting City Clerk