

City of Moose Jaw Boulevard Tree Removal Policy

This Policy recognizes that the Urban Forest contributes both aesthetically and ecologically to quality of life for the residents of Moose Jaw. This Policy is intended to protect and enhance the Urban Forest which includes all boulevard trees and trees in public green spaces. Trees are considered boulevard trees if 50% or more of the main trunk is on City-owned property.

A) Applicant's Expense

Trees may be approved for removal, **at the applicant's expense**, in the following circumstances:

- 1) Construction of a new house, condominium, or apartment where the tree(s) interfere with the normal progress of the project and all other options in the design and development stage have been exhausted.
- 2) Poplar, spruce or other conifers.
- 3) If authorized by the Director of Parks and Recreation or Designate due to unique circumstances

In the above instances, the applicant will be responsible for the costs of relocating the tree. Only trees in good health that are under 10 cm diameter at breast height will be considered for relocation.

If the tree cannot be relocated, a reforestation fee of \$300 per tree will be applied, and the funds used to plant a tree on City owned property. If possible, the applicant will be required to plant a suitable tree near the removal site in an effort to maintain the urban forest. The applicant may obtain the replacement tree through the City, or purchase and plant an approved tree his or herself, in which case the reforestation fee may be refunded after the tree has survived one full calendar year. If no suitable planting location exists near the removal site, a tree will be planted elsewhere on City owned property.

B) City's Expense

Trees may be removed **at City's expense** in the following circumstances:

- 1) Tree is dead or dying and beyond the point of recovery.
- 2) A mature tree has grown to the point that the trunk extends into the plane of a road or driveway causing damage to vehicles that would normally travel past the point. The mature tree would only be removed after all alternatives have been exhausted including realigning the driveway crossing.

- 3) Tree roots are causing damage to a building foundation and all mitigation options including root pruning have been exhausted.
- 4) The root flare has grown overtop of a water shut off valve, making the valve completely inaccessible.
- 5) The tree is on top of a service line which cannot be repaired or replaced using less destructive methods such as pipe bursting.
- 6) If authorized by the Director of Parks and Recreation or Designate due to unique circumstances.

C) No Removal

Trees will not be approved for removal for:

- 1) Aesthetics or opening up views.
- 2) Suckers or surface roots.
- 3) Leaf, seed or fruit production.
- 4) Substance dripping from trees.
- 5) Non-invasive insect or disease infestations (ex maple bugs).
- 6) Widening or construction of a driveway or walkway.
- 7) Sewer blockages.
- 8) The replacement of water and sewer lines where pipe bursting is feasible.