

<b>Policy Number</b> No. 18-2001	<b>Approval Date</b> July 25, 2001	<b>Resolution Number</b> 475/01
<b>Supersedes</b>	<b>Effective Date</b> July 25, 2001	<b>Legal Authority</b>
<b>Amended:</b>	<b>Amendment Date</b>	<b>Resolution Number</b>

**TITLE: Tree Maintenance and Planting Policy****Policy Statement:**

The residents of High Prairie already enjoy an improved quality of life from community tree planting efforts in the past. Recent participation in Communities in Bloom and the Society for the Prevention of Dutch Elm Disease have reinforced the importance of urban trees to our community.

The Town of High Prairie hereby implements the following policy for maintenance of existing trees on Town property and for the planting of additional trees.

**1. Develop a Knowledge Base**

The Town shall build a level of expertise within our organization that will allow our staff to maintain and further develop the Town's urban tree infrastructure.

- 1.1. The Town shall designate a public works staff member to coordinate the Town's urban tree program.
- 1.2. The Town will provide adequate training for the designated employee in areas such as tree pruning techniques, pest identification, identifying hazard trees, etc.
- 1.3. The designated employee will assist in cross-training other Public Works staff in those duties required to maintain and further develop the Town's tree infrastructure.
- 1.4. The Town will maintain ongoing corporate memberships in the Society for the Prevention of Dutch Elm Disease and the Prairie Chapter of the Arborist Society.

- 1.5 The Town will develop a small resource library adequate to meet the Town's knowledge requirements for pest identification, pest control, pruning methods, recommended tree varieties, etc.
- 1.6 The Town will access outside expertise, such as the University of Alberta's Agriculture and Forestry Center, as required.

## **2. Maintaining Existing Tree Inventory**

The first and primary function of High Prairie's tree program will be to maintain the Town's existing inventory of boulevard trees.

### **2.1. Disease and Pest Identification**

- 2.1.1. Town trees will be actively surveyed on an annual basis for pest or disease damage.
- 2.1.2. All Town Public Works and Utilities staff members will be made aware of the need for the early report and identification of any possible tree diseases or pests.
- 2.1.3. Town residents will be made aware of the need for the early report and identification of any possible tree diseases or pests.
- 2.1.4. Town staff will respond to any public concerns or inquiries concerning possible tree diseases or pests.
- 2.1.5. Town staff will install and monitor pheromone traps as part of the provincial Dutch Elm Disease monitoring program.
- 2.1.6. Town staff will submit samples of any unknown pests to the University of Alberta's Agriculture and Forestry Center for identification.

### **2.2. Disease and Pest Control**

- 2.2.1. Town staff will establish an ongoing pruning maintenance schedule for all boulevard trees - according to species specific recommendations, these pruning cycles will normally vary from 3 to 7 years.
- 2.2.2. Town staff will prune all diseased trees as quickly as possible in order to limit any further spread of disease.
- 2.2.3. After major storms, Town staff will prune any damaged trees as quickly as possible in order to ensure pedestrian and traffic safety, and to prevent future damage from pests or disease.
- 2.2.4. Town staff will work closely with utility companies and their contractors in order to coordinate tree pruning on public and



private property - the Town shall strongly discourage the "topping" of trees.

- 2.2.5. The Town will continue to provide public access to a tree disposal and burning area at our public works shop site - this is required for Dutch Elm Disease control but will also be made available for prunings from any other tree species.
- 2.2.6. The Town will encourage our residents to remove any dead or dying trees from their properties.
- 2.2.7. The Town will provide pruning service to the public, for diseased trees only, on a cost-recovery basis.
- 2.2.8. The Town may need to consider implementing a diseased tree bylaw to address property owners who refuse to remove diseased trees and thereby maintain sources of infestation for other trees throughout the community - this type of bylaw has been found necessary in some communities with active Dutch Elm Disease infestations.
- 2.2.9. Town staff will put in place any pest traps recommended or indicated for the control of pest infestations.
- 2.2.10. In response to an identified pest infestation, and where indicated, the Town will contract the services of a licensed pesticide applicator to undertake appropriate control measures.

### **2.3.1 Infill Planting**

- 2.3.1.1 A number of streets and boulevards require infill trees to replace trees that are missing, dead or dying – this problem has been aggravated by an infestation of Western Ash Bark Beetles. As well there are a number of Manitoba Maples that require replacement due to past pest damage and/or poor pruning practices.
- 2.3.1.2 For ease of planting and maintenance, the Town will be divided into sectors with one sector identified each year for infill planting.

### **2.3.2 New Tree Planting Areas**

- 2.3.2.1 The Town will identify areas suitable for new tree plantings, with a primary focus on highway and arterial road boulevards in order to maximize the street appeal of the community.
- 2.3.2.2 In order to provide species diversity and thereby limit the potential impact of disease infestations, and for purposes of providing more visual variety, new tree plantings will incorporate

a wider variety of ornamental tree species than has been the case with past tree planting efforts.

- 2.3.2.2 The Town will attempt, where possible, to incorporate improved landscape design principles in new planting areas - utilizing local expertise in landscape design where available.

### **2.3.3 General Guidelines for New Tree Planting**

- 2.3.3.1 A general rule of thumb is that the total cost for planting a new tree is normally two times the purchase price of the tree itself - the additional cost is for labour required to plant, water and maintain the tree for the first year or two after planting.
- 2.3.3.2 Where possible, trees should be purchased from local or regional nurseries in order to ensure plant hardiness and suitability for our local climate.
- 2.3.3.3 The Town will investigate the possibility of working with community groups for the purpose of establishing its own tree nursery.
- 2.3.3.4 Town staff will locate underground services prior to planting any new trees in order to ensure that there are no conflicts between new trees and underground services - trees with narrow and deep root systems will generally be selected for planting in areas close to sewer lines.
- 2.3.3.5 Care will be taken to ensure that tree species planted along highways are salt tolerant (at least to some degree) in order to ensure that new trees in these locations will be capable of surviving annual winter highway sanding.
- 2.3.3.6 Town staff will only plant smaller trees or shrubs underneath overhead utility lines so as to minimize the need for future pruning.
- 2.3.3.7 Town staff will consider xeriscaping principles when selecting tree species in order to promote low-maintenance, water efficient plantings.
- 2.3.3.8 Where soil quality is questionable, Town staff will have the soil analyzed prior to undertaking any tree planting.
- 2.3.3.9 In areas of poor soil (clay, gravel, etc.) Town staff will plant trees using recommended guidelines for tree planting in poor soils - such as digging larger planting holes, breaking up subsoil and hauling in new topsoil.
- 2.3.3.10 All new trees will be watered weekly during the first year of planting - weekly watering volumes are indicated on the

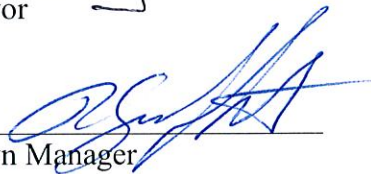
following table, taken from the "Report on Recommended Landscaping Policies for the Town of High Prairie".

<u>Tree Caliper</u>		<u>Litres of Water per Week</u>	
	Inches	Litres	Gallons
Centimeters			
2.5 cm	1"	67.5 L	15 gal.
5.0 cm	2"	135.0 L	30 gal.
7.5 cm.	3"	202.5 L	45 gal.
10.0 cm	4"	270.0 L	60 gal.

2.3.3.11 Special care will be taken to ensure that all new trees are adequately watered-in prior to freeze-up.

Approved by Council July 25, 2001.

  
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Mayor

  
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Town Manager