



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Policy Manual

Policy Number: 108

Effective Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Supersedes: Policy 40 – Tree Trimming

Approval: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Subject: **Tree Maintenance and Removal Policy**

1.0 Objective

To recognize the benefits of trees and strive towards maintaining and expanding a healthy tree population within the Town of Tecumseh.

2.0 Purpose

2.1 To set out standards and procedures for the maintenance and removal of trees located on property owned by the Town of Tecumseh.

2.2 The maintenance of mature tree cover is recognized as contributing to human health and quality of life and therefore it is the Town's goal to increase the urban canopy. Trees are an important element of the Town's natural and cultural landscape for the following reasons:

- The aesthetic value of woodlands and trees;
- Providing recreational opportunities;
- Reducing airborne pollution;
- Protecting natural heritage features and areas;
- Maintaining and enhancing water quality;

- Preventing soil erosion and water run-off;
- Providing habitat for wildlife;
- Providing cooler temperatures in the summer; and,
- Reducing the effects of global warming.

2.3 The Town of Tecumseh's Tree Maintenance and Removal Policy is enacted in order to control the removal of trees, to provide for the protection of trees, and to promote good forestry practices and good arboricultural practices that sustain healthy woodlands and the urban canopy.

3.0 Definitions

3.1 "Arborist" means a Certified Arborist recognized by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

3.2 "Town Arborist" means a Certified Arborist employed directly by the Town, or a Certified Arborist contracted to act on behalf of the Town.

3.3 "Director" means the Director of Public Works & Environmental Services.
"Director PRS" means the Director Parks & Recreation Services.

3.4 "Manager" means the Manager Parks & Horticulture.

3.5 "Pruning" means:

- a) The removal of any branch, limb or twig from a tree for the purposes of b) or c);
- b) Establishing proper tree shape or form; and,
- c) Removal of branches and limbs for reasons of public safety, tree health, and to achieve specified clearance distances from buildings, property, vehicles, equipment and the public.

3.6 "Town Property" means public property such as boulevard, road allowance, right-of-way, alley and parks.

4.0 Related Documents

- a) *Municipal Act 2001, c.25*
- b) *Municipal Act 2001, Section 62*

5.0 Scope

- 5.1 All trees deemed to be healthy by an Arborist will not be considered for removal.
- 5.2 Tree maintenance and/or removal is administered by the Director or designate in consultation with an Arborist on all Town-owned properties, except parks.
- 5.3 Tree maintenance and/or removal is administered by the Director PRS or designate in consultation with an Arborist on all Town owned parks.
- 5.4 All tree maintenance and/or removals carried out on lands under the direct management of the Town of Tecumseh shall adhere to this policy.
- 5.5 Tree complaints will be logged and acted upon as urgency requires, as determined by the Town Arborist. When a substantial tree maintenance and/or removal list has been developed, as determined by the Manager, the Arborist will investigate and, if required, a contractor will be called to perform any necessary work.

6.0 Procedure

6.1 Tree Planting

6.1.1 The Director or designate shall authorize the planting of trees on Town Property. The trees favorable for planting in the Town of Tecumseh are highlighted in Section 6.9. Trees shall be planted on Town Property using best management practices in arboriculture and under the advisement and/or supervision of an Arborist.

6.1.2 Prohibited tree species are identified in Section 6.9 and shall not be planted on Town Property.

6.1.3 Requests received from residents to plant trees on Town Property will be provided in writing to the "Director" or designate and reviewed by the Manager.

6.2 Tree Pruning

6.2.1 Parks & Horticulture Staff is continually involved in an ongoing tree-pruning program. Town street trees are pruned for a variety of reasons. These reasons may include the removal of broken or dead limbs, elevating obstruction branches which may interfere with traffic signs or traffic signals. Young trees are also pruned to improve their structure and to direct their future growth.

6.2.2 All inquiries regarding the pruning of trees for any of the above reasons are to be directed to the Manager.

6.2.3 All tree pruning will be carried out using best management practices in arboriculture and under the advisement and/or supervision of an Arborist.

6.2.4 The Town Arborist will carry-out regular pruning of trees when required at the Arborist's sole discretion and under the authority of the Director or Director PRS.

6.2.5 All pruning will be completed under the advisement of the Town Arborist and generally in accordance with the following:

- a) Deciduous trees will be pruned at the sole discretion of the Town Arborist following best management practices as defined by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).
- b) Bushes, ornamentals, and decorative trees to be pruned on an as-needed basis, with consideration given to the time of blossoming.
- c) All coniferous trees are not to be pruned unless safety issues arise.
- d) Private trees encroaching on Town Property will be pruned using this Policy or to the property line.

6.3 Tree Removal

6.3.1 A tree under consideration for removal must be assessed by the Town Arborist following guidelines outlined in the ISA's Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Course. The Public Works & Environmental Services Department will determine if the tree is on Town Property.

6.3.2 When a resident contacts Town Hall to advise of a tree concern where ownership is in question, the Public Works & Environmental Services Department will determine the tree's ownership. Trees determined to be entirely on private property are the sole responsibility of the property owner.

6.3.3 When it is determined that a tree is located with a portion of its trunk on Town Property and a portion of its trunk on private property, the Town will assume responsibility for the care and maintenance of the tree.

6.3.4 The Town may also order the removal of trees on Town Property that interfere with infrastructure upgrades and reconstruction.

6.4 Other Removal Requests

A property owner's request to have Town-owned trees removed from Town Property adjacent to their home for nuisance reasons, such as leaves in the fall, problems growing grass in the shade of the trees, or they simply do not like the tree will not be considered.

6.5 Notification of Tree Removal

Once it is determined that a tree located on Town Property should be removed, a written notice will be sent to adjacent property owners informing them of the impending removal.

6.6 Emergency Situation

If a tree located on Town Property is found, by the Town Arborist, to create an immediate danger to property or persons, the Town will authorize the immediate removal of the tree at its earliest convenience, eliminating the grace period for notification of property owners.

6.7 Stump Removal

Tree removals from Town Property will include the removal of the tree stump to a depth of 6" below grade wherever possible. The resulting stump hole will be filled with a good quality top soil, compacted and grass seed will be applied. All future care of the area, to ensure proper grass covering including watering, mowing, fertilizing and leveling of the area, will be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Restoration and maintenance of stump removals within parks will be the sole responsibility of the Town.

6.8 Tree Replacement

In an effort to ensure that ongoing required tree removals do not deplete the Town's overall tree population, the following tree replacement policy will be followed:

- The location and variety of trees to be planted will be approved by the Manager.
- Trees removed from Town Property will be replaced with new trees having a minimum diameter of 50 mm.
- Whenever possible, street trees will be placed at the same property location as the removal.
- If this location is not suitable, the tree will be planted, if possible, somewhere on that street.

- Failing this, the tree will be planted on private property somewhere in that neighbourhood, in consultation with the affected property owner and as determined by the Manager.
- If there is insufficient space to locate the replacement trees in the immediate neighbourhood, the replacement tree will be planted somewhere on Town Property within the Town.
- The type of tree will be a species that will tolerate roadside conditions and grow to a large size at maturity. The cost associated with replacement trees will be borne by the Town of Tecumseh. Further care or maintenance of those trees planted on private property will be the full responsibility of the property owner/resident.

6.9 Tree Types

The following is a partial list of preferred trees that would be favorable for planting in the Town of Tecumseh. Additional species may be added in the future based on availability and changing climate conditions:

- Native Maple species
- Native Oak species
- Honey Locust
- Tulip tree
- Hackberry
- London Plane tree
- Hybrid Elm
- Ginkgo
- White Pine
- Colorado Blue Spruce

The Town of Tecumseh does not support the planting of the following trees in the Town of Tecumseh:

- All Willow species
- All Poplar species
- Thorny Honey Locust
- Manitoba Maples
- Tree of Heaven

7.0 Additional Questions

Questions relating to a particular tree concern or any other aspect of tree care and maintenance should be directed to the Manager.

8.0 New Developments

Landscaping to be as per the development approval process.