



# Village of Warfield

## Corporate Policy Manual

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<b>Policy Title:</b>	<b>TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY</b>	<b>Policy #:</b>	<b>OP-2020-01</b>
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**Section:** **OPERATIONS**

<b>Initially Approved:</b>	<u>2020-06-02</u>
<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	<u>n/a</u>
<b>Council Approval:</b>	<u>2020-</u>
<b>Next Review Scheduled:</b>	<u>2021-06-02</u>

### **PURPOSE:**

The primary objective of the Tree Management Policy is to provide direction to employees for the maintenance of trees on Village owned properties including parks, rights-of-way, boulevards and other civic land.

### **POLICY SCOPE:**

This policy applies to all management, administrative and public works staff of the Village of Warfield.

### **PROCEDURES**

#### **1. Protection of Trees on Village Property**

- a. It is the objective of the Village to ensure long-term sustainability of its park-like nature of the community. Preservation of existing trees is therefore a priority and is required wherever conditions permit.
- b. The management of trees on Village property is the responsibility of the Village of Warfield Public Works, under the direction of the Corporate Officer.
- c. Only the Village's staff or approved contractor is authorized to carry out work on Village trees.
- d. No other person may plant, remove, prune or otherwise undertake any activity that may affect health and welfare of a tree on Village property without prior approval of the Village of Warfield.
- e. Trees are considered joint property when any part of the tree trunk crosses a property line.

#### **2. Refusal to Remove Trees**

- a. Trees will not be removed from Village property for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing view corridors. Pruning work where required for the health or maintenance of trees will be carried out at the discretion of the Public Works Foreman, or his/her designate.
- b. Trees will not be removed from Village property where shade becomes an issue with properties or habitat close to parks or natural areas. In a street tree situation, pruning work where required for health or maintenance of trees will be carried out at the discretion of the Public Works Foreman, or his/her designate, under the direction of the Corporate Officer.
- c. Trees will not be removed from Village property due to issues of leaf, flower or seed

litter. This is usually a naturally occurring seasonal situation and does not justify tree removal.

- d. Trees adjacent to streams will not be removed from Village property in contradiction to the applicable Provincial or Federal Acts.

### **3. Tree Removal Criteria**

Trees will only be considered for removal from Village property only when one or more of the following criteria have been met:

- a. The tree has been determined as a "Hazard Tree" and the risk of failure cannot be mitigated by pruning or other practical means and meets the recommendation from a qualified professional.
- b. The tree is endangering the health or stability of other trees.
- c. The tree is interfering with or inhibiting the normal development of a more desirable tree.
- d. The tree poses an extreme public nuisance due to its species, size, location or condition.
- e. The tree is encroaching into a street or walkway in such a way that visibility and pedestrian or vehicular clearance is reduced thereby causing a traffic safety problem.
- f. The tree's removal has been assessed and approved by the Village of Warfield.
- g. The tree is impeding the development of streets, utilities, public works and facilities.
- h. The tree is affecting overhead utility lines where pruning operations are not considered practical.

### **4. Hazard Trees**

- a. Trees on Village property that have been assessed to be a "Hazard Tree" will be removed at the Village's expense.
- b. The cost of removal of a joint ownership "Hazard Tree" will be shared in proportion to the amount of the tree trunk situated on each property.

### **5. Maintenance**

- a. Village trees shall be maintained in such a manner as to promote general good health and not to endanger, interfere, or otherwise conflict with requirements of safe public use of an area.
- b. Any Village tree that becomes a hazard to public safety due to its habit, growth, age, condition or disease shall be maintained to correct the problem, up to and including removal. Trees that obstruct clear views of street intersections, signs, signals or other street views that may affect safety shall be maintained to correct the problem, up to and including removal.
- c. All pruning on Village property shall be completed by Village staff or approved contractors. All tree pruning shall be completed to acceptable arboricultural practices and standards.
- d. Any trees removed will be assessed for replacement at the discretion of the Village and in accordance with our IOCP Village of Warfield Integrated Official Community Plan Bylaw 846 adopted 15/11/2017, Policies, Growth Management/Protection of Natural Areas and Green Spaces, p. 19

### **6. Damage to Property or Services**

- a. Where it is deemed Village trees may be responsible for damage to private property or services, residents will be requested to outline their claims in writing to the

Village.

**7. Trees on Private Property**

- a. Village of Warfield governs the management of trees on Village property only.
- b. Residents are reminded that other regulations, including any Provincial and Federal Acts deemed appropriate, can affect removal of trees on private property and appropriate approvals may be required.
- c. Where residents consider themselves impacted by tree(s) located on private property, or where they consider such tree(s) to be dangerous or block views, they are to resolve their concerns with the property owner on whose property the tree(s) are located.

**8. Trees Impacted by Development**

- a. The Village of Warfield encourages the development community to retain significant on-site trees, wherever possible, and to augment existing trees with additional trees where appropriate.
- b. Development applications requiring Council approval must give consideration to the retention of significant trees. Existing trees should be noted on submission for consideration of retention and protection through a "Tree Retention Plan", or equivalent. The "Tree Retention Plan" shall take into consideration all existing Wildfire Interface Management Reports available for the site.

Related policies: Village of Warfield FIN 2019-01 (Purchasing Policy)