



## *The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich*

# **POLICIES PERTAINING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF TREES ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES**

### **1. Trees affecting traffic safety:**

When, in the opinion of the Chief Constable in concert with the Municipal Engineer, a tree or group of trees are determined to be a danger to the public, that they may be trimmed or removed.

### **2. Trees affecting underground services:**

When in the opinion of the Municipal Engineer a tree or group of trees cause or may cause an adverse effect on existing or proposed underground services, they may be trimmed or removed.

### **3. Diseased trees and damaged trees that are deemed to be a public hazard:**

When in the opinion of a certified arborist or other knowledgeable person (employed by the District), a tree is diseased or damaged, and is or will become a hazard, that it be pruned to remove the hazard or be removed.

**Note:** *Unless an extreme hazard exists which requires immediate action in respect of the items 1, 2 and 3 mentioned above, "for all non-emergency situations all members of Council will be notified by email, memorandum or other appropriate means regarding the proposed removal of boulevard trees and trees in the Municipal Parks System at least one week prior to the proposed tree removals."*

### **4. Trees under 8 inches in diameter:**

Causing obstruction in ditches or drainage ways or otherwise growing in a location that will affect public services, they are removed at the discretion of the Municipal Engineer.

### **5. Heritage trees:**

That the Municipal Council and the Municipal Staff endeavour to keep informed of the heritage trees located in Central Saanich, as they are listed from time to time by the Victoria Horticultural Society Heritage Tree Project. Heritage trees shall not be removed except by resolution of Council, or when in the opinion of a certified arborist or other knowledgeable person (employed by the District) the tree is dead or is deemed to be an imminent hazard requiring immediate removal.

**6. Protected Trees and Trees in the Soil Erosion Districts:**

Protected trees and trees in the Soil Erosion Districts shall be removed in accordance with the provisions of the District's bylaw to regulate and protect Garry Oak, Arbutus and Pacific Dogwood and designated protected trees, and the bylaw establishing Erosion Districts and regulating tree cutting within the District of Central Saanich.

**7. Trees affecting BC Hydro transmission lines:**

BC Hydro has its own certified arborist on staff and has the authority to remove any trees they deem hazardous to their distribution grid. As a courtesy, they inform the District when they will be removing trees.

**8. Usage of surplus wood from the removal of trees:**

Surplus wood from the removal of trees from Municipal properties are to be used in the following order of preference:

1. Leave logs to decay ("nurse" logs) or for "wildlife" use in Municipal parks;
2. Use for approved Municipal applications (barricades, rails, decking, side boards, nurse logs, tire stops, etc.);
3. Offer wood to Service Groups (Lions Club, Saanich Historical Artifacts Society, or other community groups), if acceptable prior arrangements can be made with municipal staff and the contractor to ensure that the wood is removed from the boulevard before the contractor leaves the site, at no additional cost to the District;
4. Offer wood to adjacent neighbours, if acceptable prior arrangements can be made with municipal staff and the contractor to ensure that the wood is removed from the boulevard before the contractor leaves the site, at no additional cost to the District;
5. Removal and disposal of wood by Contractor at no additional cost to the District for the removal and disposal of the wood.

**9. Boundary Trees and Boulevard Trees Affecting Private Driveways, Retaining Walls, etc.:**

1. Where the trunk of a tree is growing on a property line contiguous with a municipal road allowance, the tree shall be deemed to be located on the same side of the line as the majority of the trunk is located. In such cases no work should be undertaken until a consensus is reached from both owners as to the scope of work.

If the tree is deemed to be on District property, the tree will be deemed to be a boulevard tree for the purposes of this section, and the conditions stipulated in Section 9.2 pertaining to the removal or other maintenance of the tree would apply. If the trunk of the tree is deemed to be on private property, the owner will be responsible for the total cost of any work.

2. When a boulevard tree is causing damage to a private driveway, retaining wall, etc., either root guards will be installed, if feasible, or the tree will be removed at the District's cost, and replaced with a suitable species at a mutually acceptable

location, including fertilization and watering, at the owners cost. The owner shall continue to be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the private driveway, retaining wall, etc.”

**10. Pruning of trees for views, aesthetics, shade or deposit of leaves:**

The District of Central Saanich does not prune boulevard or park trees to facilitate views or for aesthetic reasons. The District also does not prune because of deposit of leaves or shading of property. See Sections 1 and 3 regarding traffic safety or a public hazard.

**11. Other maintenance of trees:**

- The District of Central Saanich does not spray trees for tent caterpillar infestations.
- Boulevard trees growing naturally which were not planted as a condition of the District’s development approval process, and which are required to be removed for any reason by the District, will not ordinarily be replaced unless otherwise directed by Council.
- Boulevard trees which were planted as a condition of the District’s development approval process, and which are required to be removed, will be replaced with a suitable species at the same location or at another appropriate location at the discretion of the District.
- Trees removed from the Municipal Parks will be replaced with suitable species at appropriate locations in the District’s Parks system.
- If a tree is removed the stump will be cut flush with the ground.
- Stumps will not be removed unless by special arrangement and property owners may be responsible for any additional costs generated by either grinding or digging out of the stumps.

**Definitions**

**Boulevard:**

- On a street with curbs, the portion of the street between the outside curb and the adjoining property line.
- On a street without curbs, the portion of the street between the roadway shoulder and the adjoining property line.
- On a street where traffic is segregated by means of a median, includes the median.

**Certified Arborist** means a person possessing a current certification through the National Arborist Association or the International Society of Arboriculture.

**Measurement:**

- The diameter of a tree shall be determined by dividing the circumference of the trunk measured 1.4 meters (4.5 feet) above the ground by 3.142.
- The diameter of a tree having multiple trunks 1.4 meters (4.5 feet) above the ground shall be the sum of 100% of the diameter of the larger trunk and 60% of the diameter of each additional trunk.
- The location of a tree on the ground shall be measured at the point at which the trunk of the tree meets the ground.

**Municipal Property** means a highway, park, right of way or easement held by the Municipality.

**Protected Trees shall mean:**

- i. A Garry Oak tree (*Quercus garryana*)
- ii. An Arbutus tree (*Arbutus menziesii*)
- iii. A Pacific Dogwood tree (*Cornus nuttallii*)
- iv. A protected tree as indicated on Schedule A, attached to and forming part of Bylaw No. 1403.

**Tree** means a living, erect woody plant, that is:

- five meters (16.3 feet) or more in height
- or 25 centimeters (9.84 inches) or more in diameter.