

## Bryant, Shellie

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**From:** Web NoReply  
**Sent:** November 13, 2021 4:12 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - John J Penner - Tree Replacement Policy - CK 4139-4  
**Attachments:** opt\_inout\_tree\_replacement.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Saturday, November 13, 2021 - 16:12

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Saturday, November 13, 2021  
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council  
First Name John J  
Last Name Penner  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED] 7th Avenue North  
City Saskatoon  
Province Saskatchewan  
Postal Code [REDACTED]  
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) SOS Tree Coalition  
Subject City's Tree Replacement Policy  
Meeting (if known)  
Comments  
To Members of City Council November 13, 2021

RE: Tree Replacement Program

Quite a few years ago, City Council had the wisdom to implement a 7-year boulevard tree pruning cycle which has helped to maintain a healthy urban forest. However, the culling of boulevard trees because of old age, wind damage, and diseases such as Dutch Elm disease and the disease spread by the cottony ash psyllid and now the threat of the Emerald Ash Borer, the City of Saskatoon is struggling to keep up with tree replacement, never mind expanding the urban forest.

While this is a big problem that needs to be addressed by adequate funding allocations, there is a flaw in the current tree replacement strategy. In the past The City used to conduct a post pruning survey to identify tree replacement opportunities and then automatically follow through with a tree replacement program. This no longer appears to be the case. Perhaps through budgetary restraints or lack of staffing, the City now seems to follow a policy where the adjacent landowner must specifically and formally request the City to replace a tree or trees removed from their frontage (ie. "opt-in"). The Affinity Credit Union offices on 7th Avenue in City Park is a case in point. Little information about this opt-in practice is provided to the adjacent landowner so many boulevard trees do not get replaced. The City also does not

entertain requests from other land owners or neighbour groups, insisting it has to come directly from the adjacent land owner. In the case of rental properties or absentee landlord the opt-in opportunity is seldom addressed by the landowner.

This failing policy could easily be fixed. The City already maintains a comprehensive tree inventory data base including geocoding of sites as well as maintenance records. When trees are removed, the data base could easily be queried to produce a tree replacement list. Alternatively, the Urban Forestry staff could conduct a post pruning survey to identify tree replacement and new tree installation sites. Urban Forestry could automatically replace these trees, which would be the preferred option, or the City could use this list to contact the adjacent assessed property owner by letter and inform them of the opportunity to reject a proposed tree replacement (ie. "to opt-out").

It should be noted that a property owner does not own the adjacent boulevard trees. Rather, boulevard trees are a public asset and belong to the neighbourhood and to the city at large. If the City really wishes to maintain a healthy and expanding urban forest it must seek to overcome obstacles which prevent tree replacement and new tree planting.

SOS Tree Coalition would therefore request Urban Forestry to change its tree replacement strategy from an opt-in to an opt-out approach and that Council allocate sufficient funds to allow Urban Forestry to implement a more robust tree replacement and tree infill program in our neighbourhoods.

Thank you for giving this matter your consideration.

John J Penner  
Board Member, SOS Tree Coalition

cc. Konrad Andre, Parks Manager  
Cate Francis, Superintendent of Urban Forestry  
Shannon Dyck, Urban Forestry (Tree Bylaw)  
Attachments

[opt inout tree replacement.docx](#)

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting? No

The results of this submission may be viewed at:



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