

Tree Protection Bylaw

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Background

Official Community Plan

45AV CAM

- Urban Forest Management Plan Mar 2021
- Implementation Plan Oct 2022 -4.1 Draft Tree Protection Bylaw



What is Tree Protection?

- Primarily about root protection
- Prevent excavation, compaction, grade change and surface alterations





Tree Protection Zone

100

Anti-Compaction Measure



Engagement Results

- Creation of a bylaw has a lot of public support
 - 92% support
 - 77% strong support
- Clarity with a new process
- Consistency between public and private infrastructure projects



Engagement Follow-up

- SOS Trees Coalition
 - Letters of support for Implementation Plan and Bylaw
- Developers
 - Greenfield and Infill
- Builders SRHBA
- Internal team
 - C&D, Transportation, SL&P, Roadways, Major Projects, WWO, Saskatoon Water, P & D, Building Standards, Community Standards



Municipal Review

- Examined 20+ Jurisdictions
- Common Elements
 - Tree Protection Plans
 - Tree size, site access, nature of work
 - Permit Process
 - Compensation Mechanisms
 - Fines/Stop Work Orders
 - Education First Approach





Bylaw and Process Components

- Compensation
- Driveways
- Trees on City Property
 - Rights of way, parks, and open spaces
- Fines
- Stop Work Orders



Permit Process

- Standardized Approach
- Flexible permit timelines
- Zero cost permit process initially
- Estimate 375-550 permit applications annually



Outcomes

- Retain more trees, minimize damage
- Flexibility and standardized compensation process
- Improve planning, budgeting and processes around trees



Next Steps

- Pending Council approval:
 - Adopt new tree protection processes
 - Draft a bylaw
 - Adjust other Bylaws/Policies
- Draft a bylaw in 2023
- Identify resource requirements
- Explore options for permit process





Questions?

Existing Tree Protection Program

- Trees on City Property Policy
 - Last updated 2010
 - Used as a bylaw
 - Compensation
 - No single authority
- Many public and private projects that impact trees



Trees in Trouble

- 450 trees removed/year
- 25% of these insect and disease

 Psyllids
- Loss of elm
- 10% are healthy trees related to development in 2020 and 2021
 - Future BRT, sidewalk in-fill, 8th street expansion

Ash Cherry Elm Maple Linden



Prohibited Activity

- Prohibit injury, removal and destruction
- Prohibit planting on public property without authorization
- Prevent placement of objects on trees
- Allow City to remove objects from trees







Tree Inventory Access

- Tree Inventory available to internal departments
- Tree inventory public facing

 <u>https://www.saskatoon.ca/busines</u> <u>s-development/planning/planningpublications-maps/maps</u>
- Synced every week
- Disclaimer inventory is dynamic



Exemptions

- Parks approved pruning and maintenance
- Work approved through a permit
- Dead, dying or diseased trees
- Trees that fall under superseding management plans
- City-owned infill lots and land designated for new neighbourhood development



Why protect a tree?

Environmental

- Carbon storage XX tonnes
- Remove pollutants from the air
- Stormwater infiltration
- Reduce soil erosion
- Reduce air temp, Economic, Social Benefits
- Large trees provide disproportionately more benefits because of exponentially growth and more leaf area



Tree size and leaf area



430 4th street



125 sask cres west





316 3rd street



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