

Updated Data on Elm, Dutch Elm Disease (DED), and Elm Wood Disposal

The following provides updates, where available, to the data originally reported in [October 2021](#).

Elm Tree Inventory

The City of Saskatoon's (City) elm inventory is still in progress. As of the end of 2022, there were 27,713 inventoried elms on City property (about 26% of all trees). This is slightly higher than the 24.78% that was reported in the Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP). This includes street trees, park trees, some rights-of-way, and facility trees. In addition, there are 459 tree stands identified, which are continuing to be surveyed.

DED Cases in Saskatoon

There have been no additional cases of DED reported since October 2021.

The City of Saskatoon's Current Approach Mitigating DED

City crews perform city-wide surveillance by driving and walking city streets, back alleys, and parks, as well as responding to inquiries submitted by the public or other agencies. The City monitors the tree canopies (City and private), sampling when trees appear symptomatic, and scan for elm wood requiring proper disposal.

As part of the City's response plan, Parks staff perform annual follow-ups of DED infested areas for 2 years. During this time, crews make more frequent passes through the area searching for elm wood and monitoring for symptomatic trees. The City also places additional bark beetle traps to monitor bark beetle populations and detect new and/or changes to beetle populations.

In 2022 as part of this work, the City completed the following:

- 79 elm samples submitted – all negative for DED
- 47 elm infractions issued – cleaned up by property owners or our staff
- 2740 Kg elm wood disposed of at the landfill by our staff

Elm Wood Received at the Landfill

The following table shows data for wood waste received at the landfill from 2018 until the end of 2022. The data from 2018 to 2021, is from loads received at the landfill which were tracked in either the "Clean Wood Waste" or "Wood Chips" categories. At the end of 2021, elm was tracked separately for the first time; therefore, the 2022 data includes "Clean Wood Waste" or "Wood Chips", or "Elm Wood Waste" for the total in comparison with previous years as well as the elm only data. The fees are based on the current entrance fee of a \$15 entrance fee and a tipping fee of \$105 per tonne, which applies to loads over 150 kg. For 2021, this also includes the loads that were charged a special handling fee that has been applied since May 2021, for stumps and logs greater than three feet long and greater than 10 inches in diameter. The special handling fee was \$130 per tonne. The special handling fee for elm was discontinued in December 2021.

Year	Number of Loads	Total Weight (kg)	Residential Fees	Commercial Fees	Total Landfill Fees
2018	6,065	2,929,740	\$180,271.75	\$195,585.90	\$375,827.65
2019	4,576	2,724,115	\$98,514.25	\$240,527.55	\$339,041.80
2020	4,146	2,262,195	\$77,562.25	\$207,371.90	\$284,934.15
2021	3,475	1,784,200	\$52,768.75	\$175,171.25	\$227,940.00
2022	3,629	2,111,890	\$49,598.55	\$214,219.95	\$263,818.50
Elm only	*1,506	*1,172,990	*\$13,913.40	*\$127,008.75	*\$140,922.15

The following table helps provide an overview of the amount of fees that have been collected each year and whether the fees were collected from residential or commercial customers. From 2018 to 2021, there has been a decline of overall fees collected for wood waste, with a clear decrease of fees for residential wood waste and comparatively stable commercial fees. In 2022, both commercial and residential fees have increased from the previous year. In 2022, approximately \$31,000 of the total was from municipal loads.



Elm Wood at the Compost Depots and in Subscription Green Carts

The City-run compost depots turn away vehicles or requires separation of materials each year due to loads containing elm. While direction is given to take elm containing loads to the landfill, there is no monitoring in place to ensure the correct actions are taken. The following table shows the total loads that were refused at compost depots due to elm wood.

Year	Loads Containing Elm
2018	589
2019	245
2020	821
2021	424
2022	611

Inspections of the site by gate attendants are performed several times per day and a substantial amount of elm is found this way. The amount of found elm is not quantified, but it is disposed of into the solid waste stream.

There was no tracking in place for elm wood in the subscription green cart program. Inspections did occur when the load arrives at the compost depot and elm that is found is removed and placed into a roll-off bin on site. Elm is not accepted in the new green cart program. The City will need to work with the organics processor to determine what elm wood tracking may be possible.

Elm Storage on Private Property

There were no DED cases in 2022; therefore, only elm was found through the City-wide surveillance program. During 2022, there were 47 homes found with stored elm and infractions issued.

Elm Wood Composting

There is no change in the status of the City's Elm Composting Pilot Project, with authorization expired and no new applications made.

In October 2022, Loraas Disposal publicly announced that its compost facility has been approved by the Ministry of Environment to accept elm wood from Saskatoon and Corman Park. Materials can only be received when the pruning ban is lifted (September 1 – March 31) and in chip format. The fee is \$85 per tonne.