

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Robin Adair - Update on Elm Wood Disposal Initiative and Next Steps - CK 7830-1 x 4200-4
Attachments: Elm disposal letter April 1 2024.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 4:16 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Communication - Robin Adair - Update on Elm Wood Disposal Initiative and Next Steps - CK 7830-1 x 4200-4

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

Submitted on Monday, April 1, 2024 - 16:13

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, April 01, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Robin

Last Name: Adair

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: Yes

Address: Box 20, Site 515 RR5

Neighbourhood: [Rosewood](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7K 3J8

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Arbour Crest Trees and Landscapes

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services (EUCS)

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 7.2.2

Comments:

Submitting a letter about the elm disposal fees

Attachments:

- [Elm disposal letter April 1 2024.docx](#)32.19 KB

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



Arbour Crest Tree Services Ltd.

Professional Horticultural Services

Phone: 306.242.TREE (8733)

www.arbourcrest.com

April 1, 2024

Re: Elm fee disposal review for City of Saskatoon

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter as part of the review process by the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services (EUCS) around the process of elm wood and chip disposal within the City of Saskatoon.

The rate of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) occurrence is increasing within the City of Saskatoon, and there are now several confirmed locations of confirmed DED around the City.

As a private arborist company and commercial hauler of elm, we have always wondered why we have to pay to dump elm chips and wood in the City. There are very few other municipalities who charge to dump elm on the prairies. There have been much research done around using elm chips, and research has found that once elm is chipped it does not spread DED.

- City of Winnipeg for DED you can use elm if it has been chipped. Arborist companies use freshly chipped DED elm for planting projects. There are 2 dump sites within the City for elm chip and wood at no charge to the company.
- City of Regina has a specific location to dump elm, by permit only at no charge.
- City of Moose Jaw elm chips are dumped at their yard at no charge to the company.
- The provincial DED control contract is a bit different in that they have designated burn piles within their various buffer zones.
- City of Edmonton allows elm wood and chips in with all other wood to their recycling sites where they have tub grinders. They do not charge a disposal fee. They did charge, then they didn't, then they did charge and now they don't.
- City of Calgary does not mandate elm wood be separated at wood waste sites.

As you can see there is rarely a charge to dump elm chips across the prairies. City of Saskatoon needs to be forward thinking as we plan for the possibility of more DED cases in the City.

What I recommend is:

1. That all elm should not go to the landfill anymore. Instead it should be sent to a designated processing center at 11th street. 11th street frequently has the tub grinders around to process wood into chip. They also do a great job turning the chip into compost. In fact, I have talked to the City landfill crew and they are afraid of disposing elm trunks and wood at their site because of the risk of damaging equipment. This went to the media a few years ago and the size of wood going to the landfill was discussed.



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2. That there not be any charge for elm chips or wood. Instead what I propose is a small fee to cover administration (perhaps \$300-400 per year) could be charged to companies dumping elm. This would be a blanket business license the same as what is done currently at 11th street compost. The fee is for the company only and should have not be paid on a per truck basis (like is charged now), it should just be a blanket license for that company to dump there.
3. Any company dumping elm at 11th street must have an ISA Certified Arborist on staff. This will dictate that those who are dumping elm can identify what elm is.
4. Loraas dump site should have an elm disposal center opened an available for dumping of elm wood and be processed at that location. We need to have the option to go to either spot in case we are overloaded with elm removals.
5. That the City look to the research (for example by Richard Westwood University of Manitoba) and see that once diseased elm is chipped it can be used in the landscape with minimal risk of spreading DED. This will make it easier for our companies so we don't have to separate the chipping of elm with the chipping of other wood into our trucks. Quite frequently we encounter elm and non-elm trees on the same site.
6. There needs to be a meeting soon about elm disposal that include private arborist companies, COS Urban forestry, SOSTrees (formerly SOSElms) Sask Environment and the City 11th street compost staff.

In conclusion, we applaud the City in taking steps to get rid of the charges for elm disposal, however they need to take into account that the commercial haulers and private arborist companies do most of the tree removals and therefore should be allowed to dump for chips and wood for free.

Robin Adair
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Director- Landscape Saskatchewan
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