

Schedule “B”
Proposed Tree Planting, Maintenance and Replacement Guidelines
for the Town of Pelham
Staff Recommendations

OBJECTIVES

- 1_ There shall be no net loss of trees on public land (i.e. public trees) in the Town, and every effort shall be made to increase tree planting and greening of the Town.
- 2_ Species native to the Niagara Peninsula area shall be planted wherever possible on public land.
- 3_ Every effort shall be made to increase the species diversity of trees lining any given street, or in any public park or woodlot within the Town.
- 4_ The health and vigor of public trees shall be ensured through a regular inspection and maintenance regime.
- 5_ Opportunities shall be provided to educate the citizens of the Town on the ecological, aesthetic, economical, and social benefits of trees.
- 6_ Citizen participation and cooperation in the nurturing and protection of public trees shall be encouraged.

TREE INVENTORIES AND INSPECTIONS

Inventories

1. *Inventory of all trees within the urban service area must be taken and it will take into account:*
 - (a) *location of each existing tree*
 - (b) *size (dbh – diameter at breast height)*
 - (c) *species*
 - (d) *available planting spaces*

2. This inventory will be compiled in a computer database along with inspection

information. Records of all trees removed, planted or pruned will be recorded. The work necessary to complete this inventory may be carried out in the summer with the help from students at the School of Horticulture at Niagara College.

Inspections

1. Public trees should be inspected at least once every 5 years by a qualified

arborist to determine their state of health. Any work that must be done will be recorded on a tree inspection form.

2. All requests for tree work received from the public, elected officials, or Town

staff, must be filled out on a tree inspection form. This form will detail the results of the inspection and work required to be done by forestry personnel.

3. When a tree inspection form is completed for a public tree adjacent to a private

property, a copy of the form will be given to the adjacent property owner either in person or by mail.

TREE PRUNING

Objective

Trees are pruned primarily to prevent damage to human lives and property, and to preserve healthy trees.

Pruning for safety

Pruning for safety should be done:

1. to remove dead, split, dangerous and broken branches. Branches are considered to be dangerous when they are decayed, hollow or split to the point of being structurally unsound;
2. to lighten crown loads when a structural defect is present;
3. to remove low hanging live branches to a height of 2.2m when they interfere with pedestrian traffic;
4. to remove low hanging live branches to a height of 4.3m when they interfere with vehicular traffic;
5. to remove branches that obscure clear vision of warning signs, traffic signals or traffic movement;
6. to avoid interference with street lights, overhead wires, roofs, and other structures.

Pruning for health of trees

Pruning for health of trees should be done:

1. to remove broken, dead or diseased branches to prevent pathogenic organisms penetrating into adjacent parts of the tree and to reduce the threat of spread to other trees;
2. to remove live branches to permit penetration of sunlight and circulation of air through canopy to prevent the proliferation of powdery mildew and to promote formation of flower buds;
3. to reduce wind resistance of the tree crown and help prevent breakage;
4. to increase structural stability by removing branches that form an acute angle of attachment as they are prone to breakage during ice storms or high winds.

TREE PLANTING

New subdivisions

1. All new residential or industrial developments must provide **street** trees, whether on private or public land. Trees shall be provided by the developer or may be planted by the Town using a cash contribution from the developer.
2. There should be a minimum of one (1) per lot, two (2) per side yard for corner lots

3. The minimum size of new trees is **70mm** (dbh). Trees should be healthy, balanced, with undamaged trunks, free from pests and diseases and have healthy root systems.
4. New trees must be staked using 3 stakes and well mulched at the base.
5. Native species selection should be a priority and rare species encouraged, but in all cases the choice of an appropriate tree for the planting site is imperative.
6. A minimum of 5 different tree species on each street is required.

Tree replacement

1. Any public trees removed must be replaced by the next planting season.
2. For every tree removed, 2 must be planted. The second tree does not have to be planted in the same location.
3. New trees should be planted 1.5-2m (5-6 ft.) from the location of the previous stumps.
4. Planting could be done on abutting private property (with the property owner's consent) in order to avoid conflict with overhead wires.
5. The minimum size of replacement trees is **70mm** (dbh).
6. Trees should be healthy, free from pests and diseases, with undamaged trunks, well balanced and have healthy root systems.

7. *Species selection should maintain the character of the street, while ensuring a variety of species.*
8. *Emphasis should be placed on native species and rare species should be encouraged.*
9. *Care should be taken to plant species appropriate to the location. Where future conflict with utilities may arise, trees of smaller stature may be chosen over large shade trees.*
10. *Developers are required to replace any diseased or damaged street trees in their subdivisions prior to acceptance of the subdivision by the Town.*
11. *New tree planting and tree replacement requirements as outlined above should also be applied to commercial properties along regional roads, and the Region of Niagara should adhere to the stipulations of the town trees policy.*
12. *New replacement trees should be planted near where trees are projected to be removed within the next 5 years in order to allow time for the new trees to establish themselves before the old ones are cut down.*
13. *In the rural areas of Pelham, there are many available planting sites for large shade trees, and they will be suitable locations for species such as tulip trees and other native and locally rare species which are not suitable for planting in an urban setting.*

TREE MAINTENANCE

Small street tree maintenance

1. The first few years after planting are the most crucial in terms of maintenance, to ensure good growth and the development of a strong, well-balanced tree.
2. Tree stakes must be removed before the tree ties girdle the tree trunks, normally 1 or 2 years after planting. When stakes are loose or broken, replacement is required.
3. An annual inspection is to be conducted each year in the first three (3) years after planting.

TREE REMOVAL

Tree removal in general

1. Public trees should be preserved whenever possible and removed only when no other alternative is feasible. Trees are mainly removed to prevent human injuries or property damages. Trees that require removal will be top priority and should receive attention as soon as possible to protect human life and property from possible damage.
2. Every effort will be made to cooperate with property owners when public trees adjacent to their property are to be removed. A written notice must be given to such property owner **no fewer than 14 days** from the planned operation unless it becomes an emergency situation. Following tree removal, the adjacent property owner shall be given the first opportunity to remove wood from the site.

3. A public tree shall only be removed when they fall into one of the following categories:
- (a) The tree constitutes a serious safety hazard to public health or private properties.
 - (b) The tree is dead or has declined to the point where it is anticipated to die within the next year.
 - (c) The tree is structurally unstable and cannot be made safe by pruning or other methods such as cabling.
 - (d) The amount of dead wood or damaged wood makes it impractical to prune.
 - (e) The tree is infected with a disease or infested with insects or other pests that cannot be controlled, eradicated or cured, so that if left standing, it will pose a threat to nearby trees or public safety.
 - (f) When new municipal construction is proposed in the vicinity and it is substantially more economical to remove the tree or there are no suitable alternatives.
4. The following are **not** sufficient reasons for removing a tree:
- (a) A tree will **not** be removed when sanitary sewers are blocked by the roots of the tree. The presence of tree roots indicates that the sewers are damaged and repairs are in order.

- (b) A tree will **not** be removed because of complaints about the following: falling leaves, seeds, small twigs, or the presence of wildlife or other non-threatening natural occurrences.
5. When trees are removed in a public woodlot or preserve, the wood and brush should be left *in situ* in a safe manner.
 6. Building permits for new construction should include a site plan to illustrate all trees in new construction vicinity including those within the road allowance.

Stump removal

1. After the removal of a tree, the stump should be removed mechanically as soon as possible, unless it is not accessible. The stump should be ground to 150mm below ground level. In cases where grinding to such depths may interfere with underground utilities, the grinding depth can be reduced accordingly. Wood chips should be removed and the area levelled with topsoil and grass seeded.
2. Stumps are not to be removed from woodlots or preserves.