



Town of Pelham  
Solutions Manual:  
Public Works & Utilities Services

**Solution Title:** Tree Management Policy

**Council Approved:** April 4, 2016

S802-01

**HOW MIGHT WE:**

***How Might the Town of Pelham*** provide the community with safe and healthy trees on municipal property that are maintained and inspected regularly, while staying attentive to budgetary and staff resources?

**KEY FACTS:**

1. Trees moderate the microclimate through evapotranspiration, sequester air pollutants, reduce noise pollution, release oxygen and refresh our air supply and reduce the overall effects of greenhouse gas emissions, manage storm water runoff, increase property value and contribute to the better mental and physical health of the community.
2. By not regularly inspecting and maintaining trees, matters of public safety and liability arise, but also, the chance of such trees reaching their full maturity is greatly reduced. A tree at full maturity offers the most benefits to the Town, and can only reach this maturity with investment in maintenance and regular monitoring.
3. Tree maintenance includes health inspections, pruning, stake removal, mulching and canopy lifting.
4. The Town of Pelham schedules tree inspections on an annual basis, completed by a TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) certified arborist.
5. Response to health and safety concerns and/or hazards related to trees are prioritized and addressed immediately.
6. Every effort is made to develop a rotational schedule that allows the town to inspect trees within designated blocks.
7. This policy shall apply to trees on municipal property only.

**SOLUTION STATEMENT:**

Removal

- Decisions about the removal of trees shall be at the discretion of the Manager of Facilities & Beautification, in accordance with department procedures, taking into account technical staff input and supporting information about risks related to safety, location, utilities, tree health, liability and other factors.



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- The Town shall strive for no net loss of trees on urban boulevards, and where practical and viable, in parks and rural areas. In addition, where conditions allow, every effort shall be made to increase tree planting and greening in the Town, barring conditions related to invasive pests or diseases.

#### Selection

- Tree species selection for planting and replacement shall align with the Engineering Standards, Downtown Master Plan, East Fonthill Master Plan, or other similar Town- approved guidelines. Ultimate species selection shall consider such site conditions as: hydro lines, pedestrian traffic, soil conditions, neighboring trees, ecological conditions, and site development.
- Every effort shall be made to plant native species, while still increasing the species diversity of trees and avoiding monoculture plantings.

#### Maintenance and Inspection

- The health and vigour of public trees shall be ensured through a regular, cyclical inspection and maintenance regime, which may vary depending on tree location within the Town. The Town will strive to inspect approximately 20% of trees annually, including consideration of consultation with staff, past claims, and public service request history. Tree maintenance and inspection shall be further detailed in department procedures.

#### Communication

- Citizen participation and cooperation in the protection of public trees shall be encouraged, and relevant information from the Tree Planting, Maintenance & Replacement Policy shall be communicated to constituents through the website, the Community Guide, and through social media.