
Crown Reduction of Trees in Community Park

On Friday, June 3, the City of Parksville will act on the report by an independent International Society of Arboriculture arborist to reduce the crowns (top) of eleven trees in the Community Park. The hazardous portions of the trees will be removed to ensure the safety of the area.

In April, a Douglas fir was removed due to extensive decay and since that time an assessment of the trees in the area has been conducted. The report covers the native trees in the area bordered by the children's playground (Lions Venture Land) to the north, chain link fence to the west, the open area to the south where the picnic shelter was located and the ball field parking area to the east.

About 35 years ago, many trees in the Community Park were topped. This procedure, never considered to be a sound arboriculture practice, has caused the trees to decay and is the reason that the trees are dying from the top down. The City is applying sound arboriculture practices and will only remove the dead and structurally failing portions of the affected trees. The remaining work will be carried out over the next six months in balanced stages.

Trees are rated using the TRACE (Tree Risk Assessment in Urban Areas and the Urban/Rural Interface) method which is designed and administered by the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and has been recognized by WorkSafeBC as the standard for assessing trees in urban areas and at the urban/rural interface.

The park has mature species which have been subject to various stresses over time. Stresses such as heavy winds, previous poor pruning practice, including topping, age and soil compaction from vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Some of the trees are declining in health and some have extensive decay. The species affected in the Community Park are Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*) and Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*).

Over the past 15 years, the City has been aware that the trees would require eventual replacement and has been underplanting the older trees with new. In accordance with best urban forest management practices, the City will continue to assess each tree and will continue to replant the understory of the existing trees to maintain this unique urban environment within the Community Park.

Residents may wish to refer to an educational website www.treesaregood.com for tree care information.

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For more information:

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