

City Arborists Deal with Loss of Cedar Trees

Although the last few years have been difficult for trees in Parksville and the signs of drought are apparent, the City continues to plant hundreds of trees annually. Through a partnership with the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve, we were fortunate to recently work with Snaw-Naw-As First Nation, TimberWest and Vancouver Island University plant 1,000 trees at Top Bridge Park. As well, ornamental trees were planted in the Community Park, downtown and outer park areas and native species were replanted in Eagleview Park with plans for 600 more trees to be planted in our urban forested areas this year.

Arborist staff with the City are dealing with the devastating loss of cedar trees in our parks with hundreds of trees already inspected throughout our parks. Summer droughts over the past few years put severe stress on most of the trees in our urban forests with cedars the most susceptible. Work has progressed on many parks; some work is complete, some work is scheduled and in some parks, no further action will be taken at this time.

Dead cedar trees are noted for standing safely for years and it is a priority for staff to inspect each tree to determine if they are hazardous or not. At this time, cedar trees look quite ugly as the dead brown scale-like leaves hang on the trees. The leaves will soon fall leaving the silver ghosts to populate our forest. These trees will remain on an inspection list and staff will monitor decline and determine if further action is necessary. Other tree species which tend to deteriorate more quickly may be removed as a higher priority.

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For more information:

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