

Ongoing Work in City Parks

The City's operations department, along with a contractor, will begin work on Tuesday, September 3 for about ten days to facilitate the removal of dead cedar trees in Renz Park and Mark's Nature Park. Renz Park will be closed from September 3 to September 6 and Mark's Nature Park will be closed for about six days, estimated to be September 6 to September 19. No work will occur on weekends.

This work will be the primary phase of tree removal in our urban forests this fall. The dead trees in our parks have been inspected and will be monitored for up to three years. Trees are removed as budget allows and not all dead cedars in all parks will be removed this year. It is anticipated this program will continue in other parks over the next few weeks.

Where possible habitat stumps will be created to help enhance wildlife opportunities in our urban forest. Small debris will be chipped and coarse woody debris will be left in place until crews and equipment are able to remove. As part of this program, the City will consider replanting to preserve the urban canopy keeping in mind species of trees which are susceptible to droughts. Species selection will be park dependant but a variety of native deciduous and coniferous seedlings will be chosen to re-establish themselves in our parks once the fall rains take hold.

It is believed the decline of Western Red Cedar is a result of several years' drought. For interest, average rainfall for Parksville is recorded at 1326 mm per year. The City's records from 2005 show this average has not been met; each year since 2005 shows between 194 and 723 mm less than the average expected rainfall.

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