

## Crown Reduction of Trees in Community Park

In June, the City of Parksville removed the crowns or tops of eleven trees in the Community Park. During the week of September 26, another 25 trees will have hazardous portions removed to ensure the safety of the area. This work came about as a result of an assessment by an independent International Society of Arboriculture arborist. The City is applying sound arboriculture practices and will remove only the dead and structurally failing portions of the affected trees.

Work will begin on Monday morning, September 26 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. This will complete the project for the City of Parksville.

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 park has mature species which have been subject to stresses such as heavy winds, previous poor pruning practice, including topping, age and soil compaction from vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Aware that the trees would require eventual replacement, the City has been underplanting the older trees with new. In accordance with best urban forest management practices, the City continues 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.

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. Residents may wish to refer to an educational website [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com) for tree care information.

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For more information:

Kevin Campbell, City Arborist

250 248-5412