

Assessment and Removal of Dead and Failing Trees

The City's operations department regularly inspects and assesses trees within City boundaries, part of a practice to monitor, remove or modify trees which are deemed to be hazardous. The City's tree maintenance program includes the general care of trees in our parks, road right-of ways, sidewalks, medians and other City-owned properties.

Arborists with the City of Parksville perform tree inspections and organize the necessary work which is then undertaken by City staff or by contractors. Hazard evaluations attempt to identify defective trees, assess the hazard posed by such trees and implement measures designed to prevent accidents caused by failures. Examinations are done in a systematic manner to ensure all trees in a target area are inspected. A standardized tree rating system which is a fundamental requirement of any hazard control program, takes into account the failure potential, size of part and a target rating.

The majority of the dead trees in our urban forest are Western Red Cedar and Grand Fir which are susceptible to drought. The Western Red Cedar is in serious decline on the southwest coast and the number of cedar trees is expected to be significantly reduced over the next decade. The hazard a dead tree presents can be species specific. Cedar trees are known to stand for years safely after they have died. Other trees such as alder and Grand Fir deteriorate more quickly and should be removed sooner.

The number of dead and failing cedar trees again this year in our municipality is quite obvious. The City's arborists are busy working through an inspection process to determine the risk posed by trees on City property. The inspection process will identify which of the dead cedar trees are a hazard. These hazardous cedar trees will be dealt with first along with other species of trees. City staff have prioritized inspections to cover our most-used parks and also those parks with adjacent homes.

Dead cedar trees which are not hazardous will either be added to a monitor list and reassessed regularly or will be removed in conjunction with hazardous tree removal in the immediate vicinity.

New hazardous tree complaints will be assessed in a timely manner. Other requests could see a delay as we work through the inspection of hundreds of dead and failing trees. The City reminds residents we do not respond to requests about tree size, shade, shape, leaf, flower, pitch or seed litter; these are inherent characteristics of trees.

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For more information:

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