

Tree Work Continues in City Parks

This is a bad news, good news story. A forest of ghosts stands watch over the trails in Shelly Creek Park South and Mark's Nature Park. It has been a haunting scene to see just how many dead trees are in City parks. Seeing them fallen like dead soldiers makes the stand of habitat trees left in Shelly Creek Park a memorial to lost trees.

Most trees have been taken to ground; however, selected trees have been left throughout the parks to provide habitat opportunities for forest fauna. As well, the standing trunks will create a sense of a forest. Habitat trees are also cost efficient in that they reduce the contractor work on the tree and reduce the amount of large woody debris left on the ground for the City to remove or manage in place. Parks staff continue to consider the educational opportunities these spaces present.

This phase of work is now complete in Renz Park, Mark's Nature Park, Bridgewater Park and Shelly Creek Park South. Work will continue in the wooded areas in Springwood Park as well as removal of some ornamental trees throughout the City which have failed or are in the process of failing. Some of the coarse woody debris will be removed in selected parks.

Operations crews are actively planting replacement trees in Renz Park, Bridgewater Park, Shelly Creek Park South, Mark's Nature Park and Foster Park. Staff installed new signs to denote wildlife trees which remain to provide food, shelter and nesting sites for resident urban forest animals.

This past week, operations staff had the opportunity to work with twenty-four students from Pass Woodwinds along with two students from Ballenas Secondary School to plant about 300 trees in Renz Park. A mix of alder, arbutus, pine and Douglas fir were enthusiastically planted by students from Italy, Mexico, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Austria, along with other students from the Parksville area. The City appreciates the support received from the students as well as the schools.

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See photos included with release.



- Top three photos from Shelly Creek Park South
- Forest at work - a nurse log with a troop of mushrooms at Shelly Creek Park South
- Replanting 300 trees in Renz Park