

Ongoing Tree Maintenance for City

For the information of our residents, we wish to advise of planned tree removals in several City managed spaces. This work is a continuation of the City's ongoing tree removal program, generally for dead and dying cedars in our wooded parks.

Woodland Park - scheduled for June 29 to July 3

Woodland Park is a 3,358 square metre or .83-acre park close to downtown, off Jensen Avenue West via Cypress Street. As can be seen from the multiple dead tops, the City has been managing the decline of these trees for at least a decade. Thirteen semi-mature cedar trees are scheduled for removal and a selection of replacement trees will be planted this fall.



Springwood Park - scheduled for July 13 to July 17

The area of work at Springwood Park is about 2,000 square metres or .5 acres along the start of the RDN Rail Trail in the park. At Springwood Park for many

years, we have been monitoring and systematically scheduling removals based on arborist recommendations and working within our budget. At issue are multiple mature dead cedar trees, a partially declining spruce tree and perhaps some big leaf maple tree modifications. Final selection for removal and modification will be made onsite by our arborist in conjunction with the contractor. We anticipate twenty to thirty trees will removed or modified. The area will be replanted with native plant material.



Top Bridge Park - scheduled for the week of June 15 or June 22

Routine removal of dead trees that present a hazard to parking lot, trail or infrastructure. Trees in question are less than 30 cm caliper.

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Birch trees at Parksville Civic and Technology Centre - scheduled week of June 15 or June 22

Two stands with five birch trees each are scheduled to be removed; one stand is situated on Craig Street near the Cenotaph and one stand is located at the eastern end of the greenspace behind the Parksville Community Centre. Both stands are suffering from the bronze birch borer, which is native to North America and targets all species of birch. Several ornamental white birch trees throughout the City have already been removed.



Residents may suspect a birch tree has the bronze birch borer (*Agrilus anxius*) because the tree is showing signs of branch dieback and thinning in the crown of the tree and or discolouration of foliage and premature leaf drop. The key identifier is the D shaped adult emergence holes on the branches and trunk. The hole is roughly the size of a D in a print document and the flat side of the D is along the top.

Foster Park - upcoming planting cycle

The management of an urban forest area is never complete as the living organisms in the park progress through their lifecycle living and dying generationally. As part of this cycle, City staff and the contractor are moving through the anticipated final stage of dead tree removals at Foster Park. About 2,800 plug-size native plants are on order for planting this fall including the superstar pioneer species, the nitrogen fixing, “fire resistant” red alder. Coarse woody debris, important to the cycle of a forest will form an important part of the habitat in the park. The more flammable smaller diameter debris and fine twigs have been chipped and moved off site as part of a fuel conversion technique. Some of the benefits of coarse woody debris that directly apply to our situation in Foster Park are:

- Affords a source of food, water, shelter and cover to a wide array of wildlife and invertebrates.
- Provides refuge for microorganisms and plant roots.
- Offers growing sites to vascular plants, bryophytes and fungi, including ectomycorrhizae.
- Absorbs and retains large amounts of moisture.
- Provides a slow release source of nutrients (e.g. for plants and trees growing in nurse stumps and logs).
- Stores carbon.
- Greatly contributes to soil structure, stability, moisture content and pH levels.
- Increases the vertical and horizontal structural diversity and total surface area of the forest floor.

Successes in 2019

In 2019, the City planted 1,000 trees in Renz Park, Bridgewater Park, Shelly Creek Park South, Mark’s Nature Park and Foster Park and the Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society planted almost 250 ferns and native shrubs in Shelly Creek Park South at the top of Corfield Street. City staff worked with the local beavers, cubs and scouts to plant an additional 300 trees at the Parksville Wetlands last year.

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