



POLICY

Policy No. 72 364 21/10/12
Department: Parks

Schedule "A" to October 12, 2021 Regular Minutes

NANTON'S URBAN FOREST

PURPOSE:

To establish a framework for the consistent protection, management, and sustainability of the Town's urban forest within the limited resources and capacities available.

POLICY:

The Town considers the Urban Forest an important asset that enhances the quality of life for the community. The Town shall ensure the Urban Forest is managed through range of bylaws, policies, community long term plans, programs, applicable arborist practices and Municipal Engineering Standards.

DEFINITIONS:

"Town" means the Town of Nanton

"Town Owned Property" means a parcel of land including any buildings, structures, and devices, or where the context so requires, a chattel owned by the Town or for which the Town has assumed responsibility. Examples include natural and park areas, road right of ways, and Town facility grounds.

"Public Trees" means all trees on Town owned property.

"Natural Area" means land or water dominated by native vegetation in naturally occurring patterns. Such areas could include grasslands, forests, wetlands, or riparian areas but does not include parks.

"Naturalization" means an alternative landscape management technique; natural processes of growth and change are less restricted and the landscape is allowed to become more natural than ornamental by restricting mowing and by planting native vegetation found locally on similar landscapes.

"Park Area" means any Town owned lands, developed and managed by the Town and designated as Town Parks or Town Playgrounds. This does not include parks or playgrounds under the ownership or authority of area School Divisions or other private property.

"Private Trees" means all trees located on land that is not Town owned property.

"Tree Canopy" means the uppermost layer in a forest, formed by the crowns of the trees in the urban forest. The tree canopy is typically represented by the percentage of ground area covered in a defined area.

"Tree Diversity" means a range of tree species and ages which support a healthy urban forest.
"Urban Forest" means the trees and associated vegetation located within Town limits, whether planted or naturally occurring within both private and public property. Examples include trees and associated vegetation in parks, natural/naturalized areas, the river valley, ravines, trails, and roadways.

"Urban Forest Management Plan" means any long-term strategic plan for managing the urban forest in the Town of Nanton that is created by a qualified professional or department head and adopted by Council subsequent to this policy.

Responsibilities

1. Council shall review and consider the budget to ensure this policy is resourced appropriately as proposed by the Chief Administrative Officer.
2. The Chief Administrative Officer or designate is responsible that this policy is applied effectively through any approved urban forest management plan and associated administrative policies, standards, procedures, and practices cross-referenced in this policy.

Standards

1. The Parks and Recreation staff shall develop and monitor a Tree Planting and Maintenance Operational Plan on an annual basis.
 - 1.1 The Tree Planting and Maintenance Plan shall detail the quantity, species, and locations where new trees are to be planted in the Town.
 - 1.2 The Tree Planting and Maintenance Plan budget will be presented to Council within the annual operating and capital budgets.
 - 1.3 If a knowledgeable arborist or horticulturalist presently sits on Council or a Committee of Council, their knowledge as a volunteer should be accessed during this process.
2. The Chief Administrative Officer shall be supplied with a written internal or externally sourced report in relation to tree health, inventory changes and programs at least once per term for discussion with Council or a responsible Committee of Council.
3. The Town shall recognize that the overall tree canopy in Nanton includes all private and Public Trees.

Public Trees

1. Public Tree removal, replacement and planting is executed in accordance with the *Public Tree Management Bylaw*, as amended, including guiding criteria for removal and replacement methodology, applicable to both the public and the Operations Department.
2. The donation of new Public Trees or funds for their purchase is done in accordance with the *Public Asset Donations Policy*, as amended.
3. Species selection guidance for the Town is contained within Schedule 'A' of this policy and the *Town of Nanton Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan (2019)*, Appendix 3: Drought Resistant Plantings.
4. In the interests of effective donations and municipal investments in Public Trees, species that are frequently prone to diseases should represent a smaller proportion of plantings to minimize the risk of severe loss and/ or major tree management costs:

Common Tree Disease Considerations		
Disease	Rank*	Description
Black Knot Fungus	1	Large knots of black knots that encircle branches. Very common disease of fruiting and ornamental plants in the genus Prunus (cherries, plums, mayday, apricot, flowering almond, lilac). Considerable ongoing tree inspection and care implications for municipal works/ contractors.
Fire Blight	2	A bacterial disease that browns and kills leaves, flowers and branches. Affects the rose family of trees and shrubs, including crabapple, pear, mountain ash, cotoneaster, raspberry, flowering almond, saskatoon, cherry, hawthorn, apple and plum. Considerable ongoing tree inspection and care implications for municipal works/ contractors.
Juniper-hawthorn rust	4	A fungal disease that affects junipers, cedars, and apple trees. Considerable ongoing tree inspection and care implications for municipal works/ contractors.
Oystershell Scale	4	It has the appearance of small clusters of oyster-shaped "shells" that cover bark on shrubs and trees. Fruit trees, lilac, ash, maple, dogwood, poplar, viburnum, cotoneaster and willow. Considerable ongoing tree inspection and care implications for municipal works/ contractors.
Dutch Elm Disease	4	Spread by elm bark beetles, affects all elm species. All elms require regular inspection for infection, resulting in arborist costs.
* Ranked in terms of how often the disease becomes a consideration for tree management in Nanton.		

- Replacement tree planting should be expedited with larger caliper specimens when appropriate space is available with no overhead concerns.

Private Trees

- The Town may provide public information to promote the health, care and planting of private trees in support of the Urban Forest.

Westview Private Tree Rebate

- As the Town continues to develop land for sale in the Westview area, and finds it desirable to provide incentive to purchasers to improve the Urban Forest canopy, an incentive scheme has been in place since 2008 and shall continue.
- Upon presentation of a tree purchase receipt, after the purchase of a serviced municipal lot, the Town will provide a 50 per cent rebate to a maximum value of \$100.
- Claims for a rebate must be made within 24 months of a development permit being issued for construction on the site.

4. The tree must be planted in the front yard area, away from underground services to the residence, utility rights-of-way and boulevards (a tree purchased for or donated to the boulevard in front of a home is not a private tree).
5. The species purchased must be one listed on Schedule 'A' of this policy.
6. The Town is not responsible for the purchasing, planting, maintenance and care or replacement of the tree.

Long Range Objectives

1. The Town is committed to improving the Urban Forest canopy over time, but it is recognised that any future Urban Forest Management Plan must reflect the budgetary and organizational capacities of the municipality.
2. Above ground seasonal irrigation systems or enhanced watering programs should be explored to bring on young trees and shrubs more effectively in most of the Town's parks.
3. An effective strategy for improving soil quality, drainage and nutrients should be investigated to improve both existing tree health in parks and facilitate improved outcomes from planting.
4. Shelterbelt areas for some parks should be identified to improve overall Urban Forest development and guide plantings.

Repeals

1. Policy statements #114-08/05/05 and #194 - 16/07/18 are hereby repealed.



MAYOR

October 12, 2021
Date



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

October 12, 2021
Date

Schedule 'A'

Planting Suggestions for the Town of Nanton

BOULEVARD PLANTINGS	PARK PLANTINGS	
Ash Elm Lilac (<i>Japanese Lilac/Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk'</i>) Oak	SHADE TREES Ash Elm Maple Poplar Willow	ORNAMENTAL TREES Aspen Birch Crabapple Hawthorn Linden Mountain Ash Ohio Buckeye
COMMUNITY FOOD GARDENS	CONIFEROUS TREES Douglas Fir Larch Pine Spruce	SHRUBS Alder Meadowsweet Birch Mock Orange Buffaloberry Potentilla Cherry Rose Currant Saskatoon Dogwood Viburnum Elder Willow Gooseberry Wolf Willow Hakusp Juniper

Prospective donors and staff should review common disease considerations within the *Urban Forest Policy* prior to major purchases.

Spring, summer or Fall bulb planting donations or plans, while not part of this policy or schedule, are also considered as part of the annual parks and recreation planning cycle.