

Urban Forest Management Update Fall 2017

Compared to 2016, there are less tree removals in our urban forest this year although regular inspections and requests for service calls have resulted in hazard mitigation including removals. Other reasons for tree removals in addition to the dry weather include the protection and development of infrastructure.

Our partnership with BC Hydro and the TD Canada Trust assists the City in keeping our parks and streetscapes treed. We received two grants to replant trees in the City this fall. TD Tree Days occurred in September to great success. Volunteers from the TD Bank along with family members, Friends of Foster Park and the local Sparks pack and their leaders, joined staff to plant 244 trees, shrubs and other plants in the forested area of Foster Park. The second grant from the BC Hydro Re-Greening program funded the planting of more than 300,000 trees across the province over the past two decades. Through this program, the City received funding for replacement trees in our urban forest and along City streets.

In December, the City will remove a number of trees along the eastern fence line of the Community Park. This strip of poplars behind the labyrinth parking has caused extensive damage to the asphalt walkway, parking areas and threatens the adjacent fence. The trees have suckered and created issues and hazards along the fence with some of the roots travelling up to 50 feet or more to heave the asphalt. The issue with this species of tree is that any cut to a root would result in both the severed root side and the side attached to the tree to sucker enormously. Root pruning which is only used in certain circumstances, may create a public safety hazard. With the support of BC Hydro, a more appropriate tree species chosen for the space will be planted later this year. The pine trees adjacent to the walkway, much closer than the poplars, appear to be causing little to no damage and will remain.

Two trees were recently removed adjacent to the splash park to accommodate construction in 2018. Weather dependent, demolition of the site will begin later this month.

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For more information:

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