



TOWN OF HIGH RIVER POLICY

Policy Number:	POL 12-100-00
Policy Name:	Tree Protection Policy
Related Procedure Number:	N/A
Related Procedure Name:	N/A
Approval Date:	February 23, 2009
Revision Date:	
Policy Category:	Environment
Responsible Department:	Community Services – Parks & Recreation

Policy Statement:

The Town of High River (the “Town”) is committed to maintaining and managing the quality of trees within the Town. The Town’s primary concerns are the impact of private development, construction, and general public use on the quality and quantity of trees on Town property and the overall impact any reduction in the number of trees within the Town will have on the health and well being of the Town’s citizens.

The Town will maintain a comprehensive tree management program that will include:

1. planting new trees;
2. monitoring the condition of trees on Town property; and
3. seeking out alternative solutions to removing trees that hinder infrastructure or development projects.

Purpose:

This policy is intended to provide a framework for the Town of High River’s Parks and Recreation Department to manage and maintain trees on Town property.

Parks and Recreation Department Responsibilities:

The Parks and Recreation Department, its staff and contracted firms are responsible for monitoring and ensuring the provisions of this Policy are followed.

The Parks and Recreation Department shall develop tree planting plans on an annual basis that will detail the number and areas where new trees are to be planted in the Town. The tree protection plan budget will be presented to Council prior to implementation.

Considerations:

When no reasonable alternatives exist, Public Trees may be removed for the following reasons:

1. Public safety concerns such as un-repairable damage, traffic visibility and safety setbacks
2. Tree is dead or in declining health, or is proven to have a disease or infestation of pests as defined by Alberta's *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation*, Alta. Reg. 184/2001 as amended from time to time.
3. Tree has a condition rating of less than 40%
4. Utility repairs above ground or below ground, overhead utility clearance, or repeated history of utility conflicts
5. Capital construction of roads, utility infrastructure or development, provided that the Town receives adequate compensation for the loss of the tree(s).

Tree pruning and removal of a Public Tree is not permitted for:

1. Mitigation of minor nuisances such as fruit, seeds, fluff pollen, sticky bud caps, leaves, minor pest infestation, etc;
2. Mitigation of landscape damage; or
3. Creation of views for advertising signs.

Compensation:

The Town of High River requires compensation for damage to public trees.

The standard for assessing the value of trees is the Council of Tree and Landscaping Appraisers' "*Guide for Plant Appraisal*" (As updated from time to time by the International Society of Arboriculture). All compensation requirements for damage or loss of public trees by private development, construction, and the general public shall be based on this assessment.

Notification to the Public:

Park staff shall notify public when performing major tree maintenance on Town owned trees that may affect adjacent landowners or when performing necessary maintenance on trees owned by other landowners. (ie: Sidewalk Clearance)

Related Information:

Bylaw 4223/2009 Tree Protection Bylaw

End of Policy

Approval

This policy shall come into force and effect upon adoption by Council at a Regular or Special Meeting.

February 23, 2009 Meeting of Council
Resolution #068/2009

MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR

TOWN MANAGER/
DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

DATE