



TREE MANAGEMENT

Department	Environmental Services	Policy No.	0340-73
Section	General	Date Approved by Board	March 31, 2022
Repeals	0340-52	Board Resolution #	RD/22/03/27 (31)

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1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the Tree Management Policy is to set specific guidelines for the inspection, management, conservation, and removal of trees located on Peace River Regional District (PRRD) owned and occupied properties.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This Statement of Policy applies to current Regional District owned and occupied properties.
- 2.2 Properties include all PRRD owned or managed Regional and Community Parks, Transfer Stations, Landfill Sites, Unattended Bins, Water Stations, Sewer Receiving Facilities, PRRD Offices, Warehouse, Fire Halls, Community Halls and Recreation Facilities, as described in the appendix to associated procedure document.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 **Certified Tree Assessor:** refers to an individual in good standing as either a Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture, Registered Professional Forester in B.C., Registered Forest Technician in B.C., or completion of the Wildlife Danger Tree Program who has successfully completed the Tree Risk Assessment Course in assessing tree risks in urban areas and rural/urban interface.
- 3.2 **Danger/Hazard Tree:** refers to a tree identified in writing by a Certified Tree Risk Assessor as having defects sufficient to significantly increase the likelihood that all or part of the tree will fail, resulting in a risk of personal injury, death, or property damage.
- 3.3 **Target** means any person or property that could potentially be damaged or injured should a tree failure occur.
- 3.4 **Tree Removal** means to fall, cut, drop, or otherwise take down in whole or in part a standing tree.
- 3.5 **Utility Service** means all overhead and underground services including hydro, telephone, cable, water, sewer and natural gas lines.



- 3.6 **Wildlife Tree** means a standing dead or live tree with special characteristics that provide valuable habitat for the conservation or enhancement of wildlife.
- 3.7 **Storm event** means a severe weather event, including but not limited to high winds, heavy snowfall, significant precipitation, freezing rains, etc. that may have the potential to increase the risk of tree damage or windfall.

4. Policy

- 4.1 The PRRD will inspect trees at the following frequency:
 - a. Regional and Community Parks (as described in the PRRD Tree Management Procedure)
 - i. Proactively inspected at minimum of twice per year by a Certified Danger Tree Assessor.
 - ii. Following a storm event, sites will be inspected by PRRD staff and/or contractors.
 - iii. Upon observation of safety concerns by PRRD staff, contractors or the public.
 - b. Transfer Stations, Landfill Sites, Unattended Bins, Water Stations, Sewer Receiving Facilities (as described in the PRRD Danger Tree Procedure)
 - i. Proactively inspected at minimum of once per year by a Certified Danger Tree Assessor.
 - ii. Upon observation of a safety concerns by PRRD staff, contractors or the public.
 - c. PRRD Offices, Warehouses, Fire Halls (as described in the PRRD Danger Tree Procedure)
 - i. Inspected upon observation of safety concerns by PRRD staff, contractors or the public.
 - d. Community Halls and Recreation Facilities (as described in the PRRD Danger Tree Procedure)
 - i. Inspections are the responsibility of the Licensee, however, the PRRD may conduct inspections and the removal of danger/hazard trees at these facilities if the Licensee fails to do so. The cost of the inspection(s) and removal(s) may be passed onto the Licensee.



4.2 Upon receiving any report of observed defects or following a storm event, the Regional District and/or contractor will attend the site of the reported defect to inspect the subject area. The Regional District and/or contractor will determine which of the following defect categories, if any, the identified tree falls within. When assessing likelihood of failure, the Certified Tree Assessor should take into consideration:

- i. Tree defects and conditions;
- ii. Site factors;
- iii. Response growth; and
- iv. Weather and other load factors.

4.3 The Regional District will then schedule the tree for any actions, repairs, or follow-up in accordance with the area or asset’s risk rating;

Reported Risk	Description	Timeline for Inspection
High	Reports of broken hanging branches or leaning trees over campsites, parking areas, playgrounds, trails, picnic areas or road ways or following a storm event.	Within 72 hours
Moderate	Reports of broken, hanging branches or leaning trees away from highly used areas.	Within 5 working days
Low	Deadfall in natural areas.	During regular inspection cycle or when PRRD is conducting regular park maintenance

4.4 Upon inspection of the area and determination of the severity of the risk (if present), the PRRD will schedule the tree for any actions, repairs, or follow-up;

Risk Rating	Description	Timeline for Response
High	It is clear that the tree is not reasonably safe and presents a possible risk of failure or injury to users of the property.	PRRD will hire a qualified firm to mark the area immediately and re-inspect within the inspection schedule identified in this policy.
Moderate	The area or asset is not likely to result in immediate failure or injury users of the property but may develop into a higher risk concern with time.	PRRD will hire a qualified firm to mark the area within 5 days and re-inspect within the inspection schedule identified in this policy.
Low	The area or asset is not hazardous. It is not likely to fail and does not present a risk of injury to users of the property but may need attention for some other reason.	PRRD will hire a qualified firm to mark the area and re-inspect within the inspection schedule identified in this policy.

4.5 If a hazard tree is identified, access to the target area should be restricted (using physical barriers) or signage until such a time as an assessment and remediation has been completed.

4.6 The PRRD will not remove hazard trees in proximity to any utility service.



- 4.7 If a hazard tree is identified near a utility service, the hazard will be reported to the PRRD and the appropriate Utility Service owner. Following all inspections and tree removals, the Certified Danger Tree Assessor will prepare and maintain documentation.
- 4.8 When a tree is identified by a Certified Tree Assessor, tree assessment documentation must be completed.
- 4.9 Tree assessment documentation will be submitted to the PRRD.
- 4.10 A tree will be authorized for removal from a PRRD property only when risk rating of high or moderate have been met or at the discretion of the PRRD.
- 4.11 Trees in natural areas will be managed within the principles of natural ecological process and minimal intervention.
- 4.12 Selective tree management work may be undertaken to address issues related to tree health, to meet management plan objectives, if the tree is a demonstrated risk to infrastructure, for worker or public safety considerations, or for habitat value.
- 4.13 Efforts will be made to retain or replace identified trees for ecological or other community benefit.
- 4.14 When a tree is removed, a “no net loss” approach will be taken to replace the tree with an appropriate species in a suitable location within the same property, when possible.

Affiliated Procedure	Tree Management Procedure
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Disclaimer: Federal and Provincial Acts, Legislation, and Law supersede this policy