



Policy No.: G-21-2023	Section: General	Page #1 of 2
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Title:	Municipal Tree Protection Policy
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Rescind Policy:	NA
Legislation Reference:	MGA

Purpose: To protect, preserve and retain trees in public spaces owned or controlled by the Town of Smoky Lake.

- 1. Definitions:**
 - 1.1 *Boulevard* means the grass area between the curb and sidewalk.
 - 1.2 *CAO* means the Chief Administrative Officer.
 - 1.3 *Private property* means the area owned by the property owner adjacent to Town property and right of way.
 - 1.4 *Prune* means to cut or trim the branches of a tree.
 - 1.5 *Resident* means the person(s) who reside(s) on the property.
 - 1.6 *Right of way* means the area that is green space that exists from curb to private property and sidewalk to private property.
 - 1.7 *Town property* means property owned by the Town of Smoky Lake.
- 2. Tree Planting**
 - 2.1 Residents shall not plant trees on Town property without written approval from the CAO.
 - 2.2 When planning is underway for new development, trees are encouraged to be planted on private property.
 - 2.3 Planting trees on boulevards, right of ways and green spaces shall be at the discretion of the CAO.
- 3. Tree Replacement**
 - 3.1 The Town shall replace trees damaged by motor vehicle incidents or vandalism with the cost assessed to the person responsible.
 - 3.2 Trees destroyed by storms, disease or other acts of nature that are on Town property shall be removed and replaced by the Town.

3.3 Replacement of boulevard trees shall be at the sole discretion of the CAO and not the adjacent property owners.

4. Tree Removal

4.1 Boulevard trees and trees on right of ways shall only be removed at the sole discretion of the CAO and only in the event that it is deemed significant hazard is created by the tree or in the event that a tree needs to be removed for development or construction purposes.

4.2 Trees located on corners are not necessarily considered a hazard if the hazard can be mitigated by the vehicle edging out towards the laneway to see oncoming traffic.

4.3 In the event that a tree on public property is to be removed for purposes referenced in 4.1, the tree will be relocated when possible, or a replacement tree will be planted in another location on Town property.

5. Tree Pruning

5.1 Any tree or shrub that is growing on private property that is overhanging or interfering with the use of the street, lane, sidewalk or town property shall be the responsibility of the property owner, as per Municipal Bylaws.

5.2 Where traffic signs or directional signage is affected by trees owned by the Town, the trees shall be pruned back or removed, as approved by the CAO.

5.3 Trees located on Town property, including alleyways, boulevards and right of ways, shall be pruned by the Town staff.

5.4 All maintenance of elm trees on town property or private property shall be managed by the guidelines established by STOPDED.

5.5 Where trees affect utility or power lines, the appropriate utility company shall be contacted to have the maintenance properly handled.

	DATE	RESOLUTION NUMBER
Approved	August 28, 2023	463-2023
Amended		
Amended		

ORIGINAL SIGNED

**Amy Cherniwchan
Mayor**

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**Dawn Phillips
Chief Administrative Officer**