



LUMSDEN, IN THE QU'APPELLE

## **THE URBAN FORESTRY POLICY**

### **Town of Lumsden**



**January 2015**

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**Appendix A** – Recommended Species for Planting

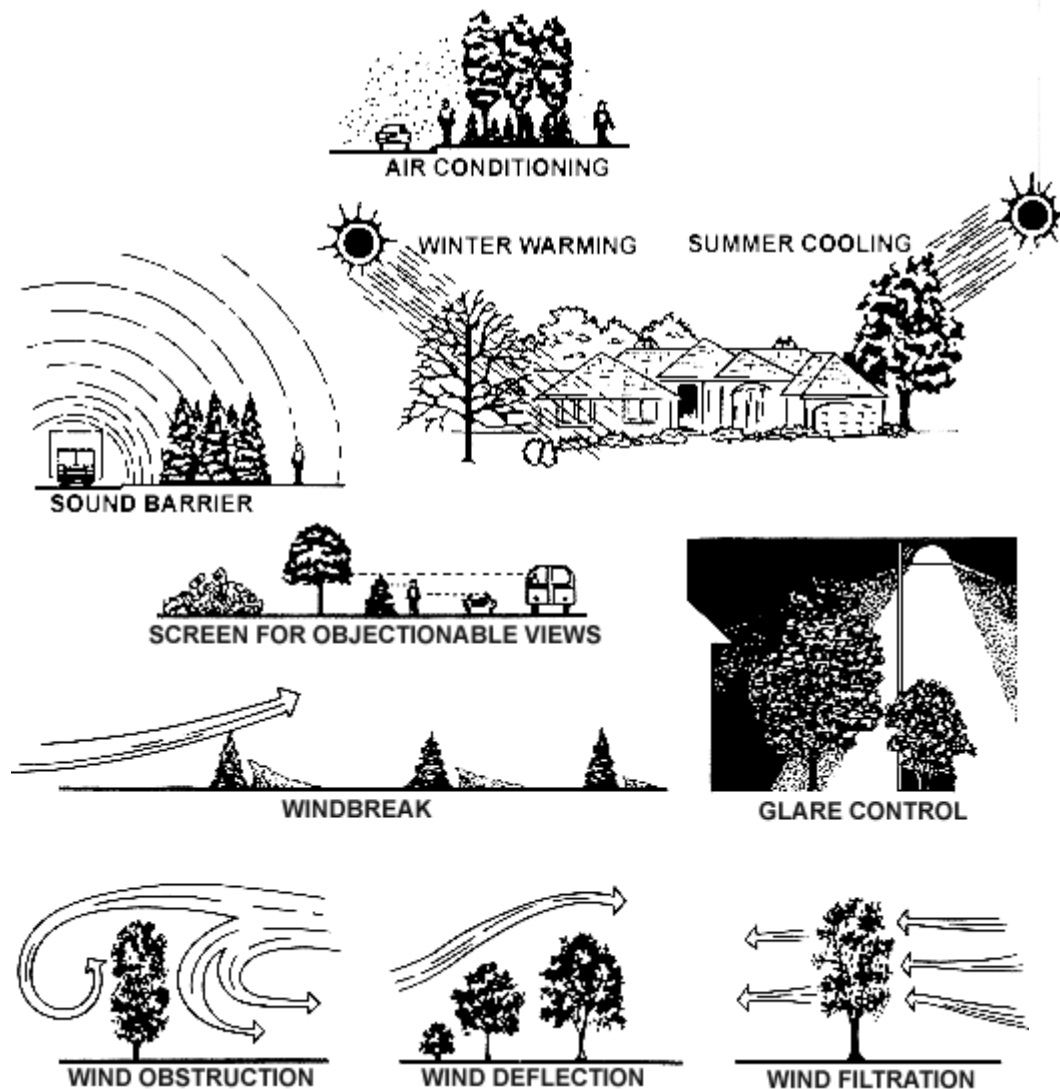
**Appendix B** – Sight Triangles

**Appendix C** – Tree Pruning or Removal Request

## 1.0 Background

Trees play a significant role in our quality of life and amplify the beauty of our valley town for both residents and visitors. The trees that grow in the Town of Lumsden are part of our urban forest, including trees on both private and public property.

There are many trees in the Town of Lumsden with historic value, including the native Cottonwood species. Benefits of established trees include shade, windbreaks, visual interest, wildlife habitats and more, illustrated below:



As a profession, urban forestry is the systematic management and cultivation of trees in an urban environment. The Community Coordinator with the assistance of the Public Works Department of the Town of Lumsden is responsible for the planting, maintenance and protection of trees on public property, including boulevards and parks.

## **2.0 Purpose:**

To establish the criteria for pruning, removing, replacing and planting trees on public property and trees shared with private property owners, as well as protecting established trees of historic value and ensuring public safety.

## **3.0 Definitions**

**“Arborist”** means a professional certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) in the practice of arboriculture;

**“Arboriculture”** means the cultivation, management and study of individual trees, shrubs, vines and other perennial woody plants;

**“Coordinator”** means the Community Coordinator of the Town of Lumsden and anyone acting or authorized by the Coordinator to act on his or her behalf;

**“Council”** means the Council of the Town of Lumsden;

**“Pest”** includes insect pests, and any other Tree related pest so declared under *The Pest Control Act*;

**“Private Tree”** means a Tree on Private Land;

**“Public Land”** means any real property owned, maintained or controlled by the Town;

**“Public Tree”** means a Tree on Public Land and owned by the municipality;

**“Public Works Foreman”** means the Public Works Foreman of the Town of Lumsden and anyone acting or authorized by the Public Works Foreman to act on his or her behalf;

**“Relocation”** includes all necessary measures required to remove, transport and re-plant the Tree at another location;

**“Removal”** includes stump removal, clean- up and site restoration;

**“Sight Triangles”** means a specified area along an intersections approach and across the included corners allowing an unobstructed view of approaching vehicles and pedestrians;

**“Street”** means any road, street, road allowance or lane vested in the Crown in the right of Saskatchewan, or set aside for the purpose of the Crown in the right of Saskatchewan pursuant to any Act, but does not include a provincial highway within the municipality as designated pursuant to the provisions of *The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997*;

**“Town”** means the Town of Lumsden;

**“Tree”** means a living woody plant with one or more stems and a minimum caliper width of 2.5 centimetres and a minimum height of 1.5 metres.

## **4.0 Tree Planting**

All trees planted in the Town of Lumsden should be of a species that are suited to the climate zone and soil conditions. Whenever possible, species diversity should be considered in reforestation.

*See Appendix A – Recommended Species for Planting*

#### **4.1 Planting on Public Land**

The Town of Lumsden's residents are encouraged to plant trees on the frontages of Town property in residential areas to help enhance their neighborhood. However, application for approval must be made to the Town with written approval required prior to commencement of planting.

*Steps to be taken for approval to plant on public land:*

1. Application must be made in writing to the Coordinator;
2. All trees planted must conform to the criteria placed on the planting of trees as determined by this policy;
3. Final placement of trees will be at the discretion of the Coordinator with staking done to assist the homeowner in the best location of new trees;
4. Failure to comply could result in some or all of the trees planted being removed from the property on which they are located with the cost being the sole responsibility of the property owner.

*See Appendix A – Recommended Species for Planting*

#### **4.2 Planting on Private Land**

The Town of Lumsden's residents are encouraged to plant trees on private property in residential areas.

*Steps to be taken for planting on private land:*

1. Ensure the location of the trees planted will not interfere with the Sight Triangles, if applicable.
2. Contact Sask 1st Call (National 'Call Before You Dig' Portal) at 1 (866) 828-4888 or [www.sask1stcall.com](http://www.sask1stcall.com) to locate underground utilities.
3. Be aware of overhead lines. Planting near overhead lines will likely require pruning that could deform or result in the death of large trees.

*See Appendix A – Recommended Species for Planting*

*See Appendix B – Sight Triangles*

### **5.0 Tree Pruning & Removal**

#### **5.1 Removal of Trees on Public Land**

The Coordinator or authorized representative may authorize the pruning and/or removal of any Public Tree.

The Coordinator may authorize the pruning and/or removal of a Tree on Public Land upon receiving a written request from an interested person and upon giving due consideration to:

- the reason for the request and the need for removal of the Tree;
- any reasonable options that would not require removal of the Tree;
- the possibility of relocating the Tree;
- the historic, environmental or other intrinsic value of the Tree in its current location;
- a recommendation from a certified arborist, if deemed necessary; and
- public safety.

If the removal is deemed necessary by the Coordinator, the Town of Lumsden will be responsible for all costs relating to the removal and replacement of the tree(s).

## **5.2 Trees Spanning Privately Owned Property and Public Property**

The Coordinator shall authorize the pruning and/or removal of any tree spanning privately owned property and public land.

The Coordinator may authorize the pruning, removal or relocation of a Tree(s) spanning privately owned land and public land upon receiving a written request from an interested person and upon giving due consideration to:

- the reason for the request and the need for removal of the Tree;
- any reasonable options that would not require removal of the Tree;
- the possibility of relocating the Tree;
- the historic, environmental or other intrinsic value of the Tree in its current location;
- a recommendation from a certified arborist, if deemed necessary by the Coordinator; and
- public safety.

If the removal, relocation or pruning is deemed necessary by the Coordinator, the Town of Lumsden notify neighboring landowners prior to consultation with an arborist (if necessary) and will share the cost with the private property owner. A minimum of two quotes must be obtained prior to commencing any work. The cost share will be 50% - Town of Lumsden and 50% - private property owner, including any fees incurred during the consultation with a certified arborist. If the Town is required to provide additional services such as supplying staff time, machinery or equipment, purchase of trees, transportation or any other incidentals, those costs will be deducted from the Town's share.

If the removal or relocation of a tree is approved by the Coordinator, but is not deemed a necessity, the Town will not share in the cost of its removal or relocation.

## **6.0 Protection of Public Trees**

### **6.1 General**

The Community Coordinator may authorize qualified volunteers to prune or maintain trees on public property.

No person, unless authorized by the Coordinator or his authorized representative shall:

- plant a Public Tree without authorization;
- damage, disturb, prune or remove any Public Tree;
- attach any notice, bill, poster, sign, wire, rope, cord, nail or other object to or around any Public Tree;
- alter the grade level or drainage pattern in any manner so as to interfere with the access of water, air or nutrients to any Public Tree;
- commence or continue any work or activity which damages or interferes with the root system or upper structure of any Public Tree;
- Apply pesticide or any chemical to or within a two (2) meter radius of a sapling or a radius equal to the crown spread of a public tree.

Any person who is found to have pruned, cut or altered the appearance of a public tree, or administered any form of chemical that would cause the death of the tree, shall be responsible for all costs that may be incurred for proper pruning or the removal of the tree, including the replacement of the tree.

## **6.2 Pesticides**

The Town of Lumsden will not apply or administer any pesticide to a Public Tree.

## **7.0 Dutch Elm Disease Regulations**

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) is a deadly fungus that can kill an Elm tree in as little as three weeks. The disease clogs the water-conducting vessels in the tree, starving it of moisture. Once a tree is infected with DED it needs to be removed and disposed of properly by either burying it or burning it.

Every year the Saskatchewan Dutch Elm Disease Association (SDEDA) implements a pruning ban from April 1 to August 31.

Any requests for pruning and/or removing any Elm trees during the pruning ban must provide a written request to the Coordinator.

## **8.0 Reforestation**

The purpose of reforestation is to replace trees and supplement the existing forest areas with additional trees where the population is low.

### **8.1 Replacement Ratio**

For each tree that is removed, two trees shall be planted in its place. Replacement trees planted should be 6 feet tall or larger, whenever possible.

## **8.2 Replacement Location**

If it is not practical to plant the new trees in the same location, the Coordinator will decide on an appropriate place within the Town to locate the trees.

## **8.3 Replacement Species**

The preferred species of trees to be planted are described in *Appendix A – Recommended Species for Planted*.

## **9.0 Authority**

The Coordinator will execute authority over and administer The Urban Forestry Policy. The Coordinator has the authority to enforce this policy and to appoint any other person as his/her designate.

### **9.1 Appeal**

Appeals regarding decisions made through this policy must be made in writing to the Coordinator.

Failing a satisfactory response from the Coordinator, an appeal may be made to the Town of Lumsden Council.

## **Resources:**

- City of Regina Forestry Bylaw #2002-48, [www.regina.ca](http://www.regina.ca)
- Written comments from Chris Nykoluk & Karl Beaulieu
- Written comments from Community Coordinator, Chris Exner
- Town of Shaunavon Urban Tree Policy, [www.shaunavon.com](http://www.shaunavon.com)
- Written comments from CAO, Darcie Cooper
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca)
- Dutch Growers Saskatoon, [www.dutchgrowers.ca](http://www.dutchgrowers.ca)
- Government of Saskatchewan, Publication Centre, [www.publications.gov.sk.ca](http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca)

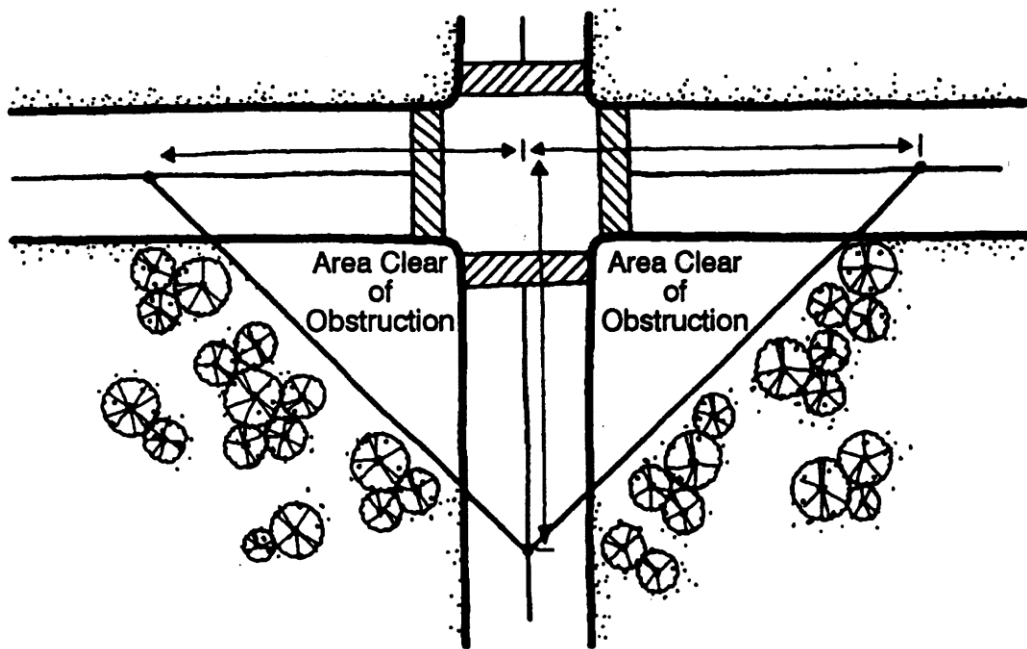


## **APPENDIX A: RECOMMENDED SPECIES FOR PLANTING**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada lists Lumsden in the “2b” Plant Hardiness Zone. Soil Capability and Drainage must also be considered when choosing tree species.

*These are recommended species and other varieties may be considered providing they are suitable and meet the requirements of this policy.*

## APPENDIX B: SIGHT TRIANGLES



## APPENDIX C: TREE PRUNING OR REMOVAL REQUEST

|                      |                     |                            |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Last Name</b>     | <b>First Name</b>   | <b>Home Phone #</b>        | <b>Cell Phone #</b> |
|                      |                     |                            |                     |
| <b>Tree Location</b> | <b>Tree Species</b> | <b>Approx. Tree Height</b> |                     |
|                      |                     |                            |                     |

|   |  |                          |  |
|---|--|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Please state the reasons for the pruning or removal request.</b> Please sketch the location of the tree using the attached Site Plan page (include buildings, roads and other important landmarks) |  |                          |  |
|   |  |                          |  |
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|   |  |                          |  |
|   |  |                          |  |
|   |  |                          |  |
|   |  |                          |  |
| <b>Applicant Signature:</b>   |  | <b>Application Date:</b> |  |

**For Office Use Only**

|                                  |                           |                            |                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Tree Species</b>              | <b>Tree Diameter</b>      | <b>Tree Height (ft)</b>    | <b>Tree Condition</b> |
|                                  |                           |                            |                       |
| <b>Removal/Pruning Cost (\$)</b> | <b>Relocation Cost \$</b> | <b>Replacement Cost \$</b> | <b>Other:</b>         |
|                                  |                           |                            |                       |

|  |  |              |  |
|--|--|--------------|--|
| <b>Community Coordinator Comments &amp; Recommendations:</b> |  |              |  |
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|  |  |              |  |
|  |  |              |  |
|  |  |              |  |
|  |  |              |  |
| <b>Coordinator Signature:</b>                                |  | <b>Date:</b> |  |

### Appendix C - Site Plan Map

