

Letters to Neighbourhood Associations

Dear Burnside Gorge Community Association,

Re: 2019/2020 Winter City Tree Removals

The purpose of this note is to advise your neighbourhood association about the upcoming removals of City trees in your area that are at the end of their healthy lifespan.

2019/2020 Winter Tree Maintenance Program

This fall, 287 City trees were identified as either dead or in significant decline and require removal.

There are 28 trees in your neighbourhood that have been identified for removal. The specific trees, their conditions and their locations are as follows:

Species	Diameter (DBH)	Address	Street	Reason for Removal
Grand fir	64	2815	IRMA ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Red maple	8	535	ELLICE ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Bowhall red maple	10	535	ELLICE ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Red maple	18	2555	GOVERNMENT ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Red maple	34	2513	GOVERNMENT ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Armstrong red maple	37	3122	IRMA ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Sycamore maple	112	243	GORGE RD E	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Arbutus	16	2900	GALLOPING GOOSE REGIONAL TRAIL	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Arbutus	19	2900	GALLOPING GOOSE REGIONAL TRAIL	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Arbutus	40	2900	GALLOPING GOOSE REGIONAL TRAIL	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Paper birch	15	31	LOTUS ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Paper birch	17	2804	IRMA ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.

Species	Diameter	Address	Street	Reason for Removal
Paper birch	22	1961	DOUGLAS ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Paper birch	24	2001	DOUGLAS ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
European birch	27	715	BAY ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
European birch	31	21	LOTUS ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Paper birch	55	723	FIELD ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Hawthorn	50	210	MADDOCK AVE E	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Tulip	116	3180	DOUGLAS ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Tulip	19	410	GARBALLY RD	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Lombardy poplar	27	2900	GALLOPING GOOSE REGIONAL TRAIL	Tree is dead
Cherry	13	2959	DOUGLAS ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Cherry	18	3100	BLANSHARD ST	Dead
Cherry	24	246	GORGE RD E	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Cherry	26	1907	STORE ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Cherry	29	3069	WASHINGTON AVE	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Mountain ash	18	517	SUMAS ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.
Mountain ash	28	505	SUMAS ST	Severe decline where pruning is not an option.

These tree removals will take place between December 2nd, 2019 and March 2nd, 2020. New trees will be selected and plantings will begin in the winter of 2020.

Caring for Our Urban Forest

Planning for a healthy urban forest is very important to the City of Victoria. We manage 33,000 City-owned trees, most of which are on 300 kilometers of boulevards and in our 137 parks and open spaces.

In addition to aesthetic beauty, our urban trees provide public health and social benefits, cut building energy consumption, improve air quality, absorb and disrupt rainwater during storms and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in our environment. They also sequester and store carbon and are critical infrastructure to achieve carbon neutrality in the City by 2030.

Guided by the Urban Forest Master Plan, our Arboriculture team develops plans that involve identifying areas for planting new trees to expand the inventory, as well as identifying existing trees that are at the end of their healthy life. Removing unhealthy and/or unstable trees reduces safety risks and opens up space to plant new, young trees which will grow into our future urban forest.

The City of Victoria Urban Tree Inventory completed in 2012 found that 64% of public trees are in good or excellent condition and 30% are in fair condition and 6% are in poor condition.

This fall, 287 trees were identified as either dead or in significant decline and require removal. Each tree was identified through a 'request for service' from the public or by City staff, and was inspected by our Certified Arborists, using an internationally recognized assessment process.

Removal of any tree is always a last resort. Pruning and other options to mitigate the risks of the unhealthy tree are always considered first. Our practice with each removal is for a new tree to be planted, with consideration for the species that will have the best chance for success given a particular location.

We thank you for your understanding as we work to improve the health of our urban trees. Residents that live close to a tree on the removal list will receive a letter and tree removal notices will be posted to each tree.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Parks office at 250.361.0600 or parks@victoria.ca if you have any questions.