

STREET TREES



Background




- **Street Tree By-law**
 - First enacted in 1917. Gives care and custody of Vancouver street trees to the Park Board and establishes the street tree protection and maintenance policy.






Background

- **Integrated Pest Management Policy**
 - Enacted in 1987. Establishes a process for dealing with pest problems in an environmentally-sound way, using the best combination of cultural, biological and chemical methods.
- **Street Tree Management Plan**
 - Enacted in 1990. Establishes standards of inspection, pruning, planting removal and maintenance of Vancouver Street trees.
- **Tree Removal Policy**
 - Enacted in 1990. Establishes level of authority required for removal and replacement of park and street trees.



Background

- **Tree Inspection Policy**
 - Enacted in 1993. Provides for the annual inspection of park and street trees.
- **Private Tree Bylaw**
 - Enacted in 1994. Provides removal and replacement criteria for trees on private property and protection for trees during development.
- **Pesticide Bylaw**
 - Enacted in 2006. Establishes restrictions on pesticide use in Vancouver.







Street Tree Management Plan




- Over 134,000 street trees in Vancouver
- Established an appropriate street tree stocking level of 70%.

VanTree: Tracking Software



- Information gathered (tree species, cond, ht, size, location) on a computerized inventory called VanTree.
- VanTree also records service requests from specific addresses as well as work histories regarding specific street trees





Tree Planting

- Average of 3,500 street trees planted each year, from the middle of October to the end of March.
- Since the implementation of the 1990 Street Tree Management Plan, over 50,000 new street trees have been planted throughout the city.



Tree Planting

- This has been accomplished through Capital Plans since 1993
- In addition to the Capital Planting program, all removed trees are replaced from funding in the arboriculture operating budget.





Tree Planting

- New street trees are also a requirement of:
 - Local Improvement Projects (new sidewalks and curbs)
 - Street Engineering Projects
 - Commercial Development



Planting in Commercial Areas

- Structural soil and soil cells
- Ground penetrating radar





Tree Farm

- The Park Board operates a 20 acre Tree Farm on regional parkland (GVRD) in Langley.
- About 2/3 of the annual street trees needed come from the farm and the rest are purchased from local nurseries.



Tree Maintenance

- We are on a 7 yr pruning cycle – our street tree inventory allows us to set pruning goals for each neighbourhood
- For maintenance purposes, we use the 22 Vancouver neighbourhoods, separated into three sections: North, Central and South





Inspections

Prior to entering a neighbourhood, superintendents perform a drive-by inspection of every street in the neighbourhood to set priorities.

- All park trees in high use areas and trees on public golf courses are also inspected annually and the work prioritized



Pruning

- We aim to prune at least 1/7th of the trees in each neighbourhood, each year
- Our large trees are maintained with hydraulic boom trucks with a two person crew
- Smaller trees are pruned from the ground or with ladders with three or more people involved.





Tree Removals

- We remove about 1,200 dead or diseased trees annually and grind out the stumps for replanting
- Except in emergencies, we always notify adjacent residents in writing when we plan to remove a tree.



Wood Disposal

- Chips are used as mulch or hauled away by contractors and disposed off at no cost, used as fuel or trail building.
- Logs too big to chip are sometimes sent to a sawmill, but usually cut and left on the boulevard for local residents for use as firewood or carving





Pest Management

- Some of the treatments we use are:
 - Aphids – predatory insects / safers soap
 - Skeletonizer – Soap
 - Winter moth – banding
 - In the fall we run a “tree ambulance” for mature trees in decline through age or construction impacts.
 - Remove and replace with disease resistant species



Staffing



- We have about 70 full time arboriculture staff with additional staff hired seasonally for planting, watering and pest management.
- Almost all of our tree maintenance work is performed by CUPE staff. We occasionally hire contractors who have specialized equipment



Public Response

- Service requests
- Ways of communication
 - phone, letters, email, website
- Resident notification (planting, pruning, removal, pest management)

