

**AGENDA**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers**  
**Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

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To listen to this meeting by telephone call **1-833-214-3122** and use code **269 438 598#** during the time noted above. NOTE: MS Teams callers are identified by their phone number which can be viewed on screen by all attendees of the meeting.

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**\*\*\* Territorial Acknowledgement & Inclusivity Statement \*\*\***

- 1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
  - June 23, 2021; and
  - September 13, 2021
- 2. CHAIR'S REMARKS**
- 3. LOCAL AREA PLAN UPDATE** (P. Hartling, Senior Planner)
- 4. BOULEVARD TREE UPDATE** (A. Connell, Development Review Coordinator)
- 5. INVASIVE SPECIES IN PARKS UPDATE** (E. Riccius, R. Hatch, K. Turner, Parks)
- 6. POP UP DOG PARK SUMMARY** (G. Darrah, Manager Park Planning and Development)

**\* Adjournment \***

**Next Meeting: November 24, 2021**

**In order to ensure a quorum, please call Lynn Merry at 475-5494 ext. 3501 or  
lynn.merry@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.**

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers  
**June 23, 2021 at 4:00 pm**

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Kathleen Burton, Leigh Campbell, Pamela Carroll, Pat Danforth, Lyndsay Edgar, Amy-Jade Louie, Dexter Owen

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Tiana Solares, Senior Manager, Recreation; Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner Designer; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Ted Austin, Annie Djiotsa, Kyle Danielewicz

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### **Minutes**

**MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by D. Owen: "That the Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held May 26, 2021, be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair reported that the motion from PTR to ask staff to report on a district-wide dog strategy has been approved by Council. Parks staff will create a report to go to Council in July with an outline of steps needed to be done for a district wide dog strategy.

### **RECREATION SERVICE EXPANSION**

The Senior Manager of Recreation presented information regarding the plans to reopen recreation services. She noted that:

- The province announced a restart plan and we are at step 2 of restart plan (July 1 is step 3.) Saanich has had a more specific approach than usual.
- Steps 3 and 4 are dependent upon the directives given, however a framework is in place.
- High intensity indoor classes will be added again after July 1st. It is anticipated that the mask order will be lifted and masks will be recommended and not mandatory. People have reported that they do not like to do exercise with masks on.
- We have brought back low intensity indoor group classes and families can now watch sports outside.
- At the pool there is increased lane density and lockers are open again although distanced. An increasing number of people are swimming but pre-registering is still necessary.
- Adult sports are now permitted again.
- The Cedar Hill Golf course is re-opening the putting greens and with limited food services.
- When Step 3 has occurred there will be an increase in capacity in classes. More direction is expected from the Public Health Officer.
- At SCP there will be increases in lane density for all swimming (public and clubs).
- Public will remain as reserved drop-ins and items such as slide and spray areas will be layered on in July and August. Staff want to enhance and increase services as we go and will need to hire more staff (eg. lifeguards).

- The capacity at SCP is almost 700 and things will increase slowly and safely. The public needs to get used to the increase in participants again.
- Tournaments and events will return at the Cedar Hill Golf Club.
- It is expected that in September it will be more business as usual but we keep some things learned during COVID-19 (eg. reserved spaces for fitness classes) and maybe not do things at 100% capacity.

In reply to a question, the Senior Manager of Recreation Services stated that scheduling swims and programs around the allowable capacity is a big challenge. Along with increasing the capacity, the schedules will change in weight rooms and pools. When looking at something like family swims, it also has to do with entry and egress requirements.

## **NATURAL INTELLIGENCE**

The Senior Manager of Parks presented information on Natural Intelligence and mentioned the assistance provided by Ron Proscow, Marketing Coordinator at Saanich Parks and Recreation on this presentation. This presentation was previously given at a National Parks meeting and looks at last summer's marketing campaign and what was learned. The following was noted:

- We live in an important Coastal Douglas fir zone. Is a small area and most of it is privately owned. As a government agency we have an obligation to know what is happening on our lands.
- The importance of nature is becoming more mainstream; the goal is to get every resident involved in enhancing the natural world by 2025.
- In 2019 with the soft launch, Saanich website had informal survey about what people do when outside and how long they are spending outside. We are way higher than most of the Canadian average. The most active are mainly women 35-60 years old. Staff will investigate building ongoing outreach to include other demographic groups.
- Last summer staff created an Awareness and Education Campaign. It has a lot of components (eg. TV ad, hike the island series on CTV, radio ads, social media ad popups, branded content stories).
- The results in social media engagement was almost 23,000 public engagement posts and 779 hours public spent reading natural intelligence website content on the web. This is a big increase from 2019.
- A conceptual model was shown on building natural intelligence. There are many existing programs and ideas and concepts were also shown. There are any components to this and staff want to grow everyone's knowledge and involvement.
- Information was provided about newly created Great horned owl nesting platforms which has successfully housed owls in Saanich.
- The theme for this summer is more focused on parks keeping us healthy and how can we keep parks healthy. It is about respect and the gift of nature.

Committee comments/questions and staff responses:

- Effort by some members has been made to get out into nature more last year.
- Will there be more YouTube and Instagram ads? Member recommends YouTube and Instagram Geofencing can help target people in certain areas.
  - Instagram will be put more in focus this year and we will invest in YouTube this year. As we build a video library we may make our own section or channel.

- In terms of return on investment/effort, what do we see people doing?
  - We want people to volunteer more and become more engaged to the next level. One thing we are doing is looking at baseline research and see what we can ask of our community now and then in 5 years we can hopefully see there has been an increase in stewardship.
- One committee member is doing their Thesis on natural intelligence. This summer they will talk to residents to find baselines to put together a thesis. Part of this will ask people where were you at with natural intelligence and what does it mean to you now, before and after the pandemic.
- We need to make sure everyone is included in this process and not just able-bodied, caucasian, middle-class people.
- Is there any reaching out to with VIHA with health perspective?
  - Staff recently received an email from the CEO of the BC Parks and Recreation Association who is working with the Ministry of Health. They are looking for specific parks examples to provide the Ministry of Health as to where municipalities provide healthy spaces.

The Senior Manager of Parks noted that this is not the kind of program to do quickly. It needs to be a slow build so sustainability can be built in. Staff want everyone to feel engaged and see where they fit into the process.

## **PARK ACQUISITIONS IN GROWING NEIGHBOURHOODS**

The Senior Manager of Parks introduced the Park Planner and they both presented information on park acquisitions. Saanich has 170 parks over about 826 hectares and the total park land in the municipality is over 1,700 hectares including CRD. Staff noted:

- Saanich has an opportunistic approach to new park acquisitions. When a homeowner asks if we want to buy or receive land, we look at and see if it meets certain criteria. If it does, it goes to Council who decides whether or not to acquire the land. A recent example of this is a property at the corner of Dysart and Walter. This was a house lot that was donated and it makes a great neighbourhood park.
- The role of urban parks is strong and this has been seen in the last year across the world (the importance of parks in urban settings). Parks are no longer just nice to have, they are an essential service.
- Lots of research has been done on this report by Park People in Toronto; they did a national survey about the importance of parks and it and reinforces what we are saying today.
- Google analytics show park use and the general trend over the last year shows how much park use has increased.
- We have plans to increase density in two parts of Saanich (Shelbourne and Uptown Douglas) and we need to figure out where those people can walk a dog, play with children, etc.
- Shelbourne Valley has Cedar Hill, Mt. Tolmie, Lambrick and Browning Parks. There is not a lot of green space in the actual corridor. We will not be able to fulfill the goal of an extra 26 hectares of parkland, knowing that areas will be densified.
- Uptown Douglas, population increase estimation is about 4000 people, we are missing about 20 hectares of greenspace (about the size of Cuthbert Holmes). Staff have the challenge of how can we meet the needs of those people and provide high quality greenspaces.
- We need to plan greenspace early on in the process and have intentional connections from trails to greenspace.

- Sometimes hard spaces can be turned into small high quality greenspaces. Rights of way can be turned into parks, private land owners agreeing to create a park space beside their development can also help.
- The goal is building-in nature (pollinatory planting, water features or something that creates nature and respite for eye and senses).
- Pocket parks: the most recent is at the corner of Cedar Hill and Shelbourne Street (Gore Peace Memorial Park). It is being used quite a bit. More trees will be planted.
- The main message is we want to think about being intentional now about park potential in densified areas, and when opportunities arise we can be ready to work with developers or the school board to create public spaces.

Committee comments/questions and staff responses to questions:

- The Strategic plan has a variety of targets for the amount of greenspace per 1000 people. We have informally mapped the 10 minute mark (1/2 km). This has not been adopted by Council yet.
- It will be important to create greenspace and dog spaces. These are things Council can look at.
- There is no doubt a little greenspace is calming in an urban area.
- This is part of the natural intelligence piece and how parks help with emotional intelligence as well.
- Covid has shown that parks are part of a healthy community.
- Sometimes streets can be so green just with trees lining them. This is part of the new approach to community planning. Shelbourne Valley has language around the memorial trees. The Cordova Bay draft plan also has specific language about streetscapes.
- The Engineering department plans complete streets that include cars, bikes, walkers and trees. Trees used to be left out of this planning. Even commercially, things are changing, more people will go in a commercial area with trees.
- A greenway is planned in the Shelbourne Valley following Bowker Creek along the Browning Park.
- Question raised about the process to identify corner or easement gardens; are there community gardens.
- Corner gardens (eg. horticultural displays at McKenzie/Cedar Hill Cross Rd, Richmond/Cedar Hill Cross, Glanford, etc.) purpose is to add colour and interest into the landscape. There are no plans for more unless the opportunity presents itself.
- There is a policy on community gardens to have at least one community garden in every neighbourhood in Saanich. This has proven to be a challenge. There hasn't been demand for these except in Gorge Tillicum park. We do need a commitment from a neighbourhood group to help in the stewardship and take on the management of them.
- Suggestion that SCAN be made aware that this is an option. Also some seniors work with community gardens. There is a community garden brochure on how to create a community garden. It's a great way for social connection but difficult to get up and established.

#### **UPDATE – PAWS IN PARKS TEMPORARY DOG PARKS**

The Senior Manager of Parks provided information regarding the temporary pop up dog park pilot project and noted.

- The short-term dog parks will be set up for two weeks at each location and this will be flexible in case something has to change.
- Parks will not be placed in natural areas, rather fields will be used.

- Sites and schedules were given. Fowler, Hyacinth, Gorge Rudd and Cadboro-Gyro parks will be among the parks hosting the temporary dog parks.
- A student has been hired to be an ambassador to the program; he is working on a survey to obtain feedback from these dog park users.
- Saanich Communications team will put out a news release and this will also be promoted in various ways.

Committee comments and staff responses to comments:

- Not all members would use a dog park. Some prefer to play frisbee freely in a field or go hiking with their dogs.
- People did see that on social media there are some people that are excited about this pilot project. This could be good for pups learning obedience and socialization.
- A goal is to find out what dog owners are looking for. It may be that areas could have larger rocks, stumps or something that makes it more engaging for dogs.
- Some have heard concerns about dogs having their shots.
- The parks having the pilot are various sizes. It is unknown how people will use the space to play. It may be that this is for dogs playing socially as opposed to throwing balls/frisbees. People who like to have their dogs off leash in unfenced area may benefit.
- Some people have had people ask questions around the potential of dogs spreading germs. We may want to add this to the survey (as a safety question).
- There could be concerns with water bowl sharing. Staff noted water won't be provided.
- Gyro park was put on the list last because of some technical issues and in discussion about migratory birds. No dogs are allowed in Gyro park until August 31.
- There could be problem with people thinking these temporary areas are the only place dogs can go. We will need to clarify that dogs are still allowed in main parks.
- Could there be a separate bin for dog poop collection? Is it compostable?
- This is a pilot and we will gather information.

## **UPDATE – FOOD TRUCKS IN PARKS**

The Senior Manager of Parks provided an update and the following was noted:

- Three parks will host food trucks this summer.
- There has been lots of interest from food truck vendors, 18 people applied and a random draw was done for 10 vendors.
- The eight vendors that were not chosen have been drawn as reserved vendors in case something goes wrong with anyone. A list of participating vendors are noted on the Saanich website.
- Sometimes the primary vendor is not able to commit to the total week so the reserve vendors are being contacted to fill any empty spaces.
- Survey to be done with the vendors after the pilot is done.
- Vendors Must have own garbage and recycling containers for customers.
- Vendors are able to be set up between 9am – 9pm. Vendors must be out of the park by 10 p.m. They will set their own schedule and are not required to be there the whole 12 hours.

Staff confirmed that the food vendors are all local. In reply to a comment wondering if we'll get calls about music or garbage lying around, staff are hoping that vendors will take a look around the area for garbage. The student that will be overseeing the dog park and food truck project and will remind vendors to look around for garbage and can call out the maintenance group to pick up over-full garbage bins.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 22, 2021.

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Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers  
**September 13, 2021 at 4:03 pm**

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Ted Austin (via Teams), Leigh Campbell, Pamela Carroll, Pat Danforth (via Teams), and Amy-Jade Louie

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services (via Teams); Gary Darrah, Manager, Park Planning and Development; Julie Lommerse, Park Planner Designer; Chris Filler, Programmer II Recreation (via Teams); Regan Pemberton, Community Programmer II Child & Youth Services (via Teams); Lynn Merry and Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerks

Regrets: Kathleen Burton, Annie Djiotsa, Lyndsay Edgar and Dexter Owen

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### Minutes

**MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by L. Campbell: "That the Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held May 26, 2021, be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

### CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair commented on the impact the heat has on the elderly and residents that live in homes that do not have means to combat the heat. She also made reference to the impact the heat has on certain species of trees.

### SUMMER CAMP WRAP UP

The Community Programmer and the Programmer II presented the Summer Camp Report 2021 (PowerPoint on file) and made the following comments:

- Over 500 summer camps and programs were offered in 2021 with over 8,000 registrants.
- Saanich received a 60% increase in the Canada Summer Jobs grant.
- Registration revenue was over \$1 million.
- The safety of the children attending and staff with respect to COVID was paramount.
- A mentored leadership program was offered this summer with each participant volunteering for 2-4 weeks.
- Parents commented that they appreciated a safe harbour during COVID times.
- The focus next summer will be on recruitment and retention and the provision of high quality programs; this summer, staffing was challenging due to the lack of University of Victoria students.

The committee made the following comments:

- It was appreciated that it was so easy to make changes in the reservation system.



## **PEOPLE, PETS AND PARKS TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Park Planner Designer presented the People, Pets and Parks Update (PowerPoint on file) and made the following comments:

- A key objective of the project is to develop a framework that welcomes pets in parks in a manner that is acceptable to park users and protects wildlife and the environment.
- Consultation will take place to ensure residents' concerns are heard and reflected in the framework.
- A consultant will be selected in late 2021 with the work to start in January 2022.
- A statistically valid questionnaire will be part of the first consultation process in order to solicit a cross section of responses.
- The report will be finalized in 2023.
- The budget for the project is \$175,000 with \$20,000 earmarked for engagement.
- The final report will include the recommendations based on public engagement and a guide for monitoring success and progress.
- Animals at large are out of scope for this project.
- The report will come back to the committee prior to it going to Council.

The committee made the following comments:

- The Capital Regional District (CRD) has completed extensive work with respect to trail use; it would be helpful to include the CRD in the consultation process.
- Council should consider the creation of designated dog parks.

The Senior Manager, Parks stated:

- There were pop up dog parks in five parks this summer.
- Overall, the dog parks were well received by residents.
- The results of the survey with respect to the dog parks will feed into the consultant's work and could be presented to the committee at a future meeting.

## **PARKS AND ADAPTING TO HEAT**

The Manager, Park Planning and Development presented and made the following comments:

- During park renewal, tree planting is considered a design feature.
- Irrigation is installed for regular watering during the first few years to ensure the trees endure.
- Certain trees are better for specific areas; arborists have developed a parks and boulevard palette.
- Shade structures near play structures are incorporated into new park design.
- Misting stations could be considered next year as a pilot project.
- At least one large and one smaller park are renewed each year.
- Once the parks work plan and budgeting for 2022 is complete, staff could present to the committee on what parks renewals are coming up.

## **CHURCHILL DRIVE GATE CLOSURE ON LONG WEEKENDS**

The Senior Manager, Parks presented:

- Traditionally, the Churchill Drive gate is closed to vehicles until noon every day.
- During COVID, residents requested that the gate be closed during long weekends because of increased park use and safety concerns; this is equivalent to 10 holidays and long weekends per year and works out to about 26 of 365 days (depending on which day of the week some holidays falls, e.g. Remembrance Day).
- Less than ten complaints of the gate being closed during long weekends were received from residents.
- Trail use data, corrected to remove vehicle use show an average of about 1,000 visits per day, with Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays trending higher than other days of the week; staff estimate annual non-motorized visits on Churchill Drive to be close to 400,000.
- Residents are now used to the daily and long weekend closures.

The committee made the following comments:

- There is concern with the impact the closure has on those not physically able to walk to the top of Mount Douglas.
- There are approximately ten long weekends in a year that the gate would be closed.
- There are safety concerns with vehicles and the number of pedestrians at the summit.
- Communications to residents could emphasize the time that the gate is open for vehicles.

**MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by A. Louie: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that Council approve that the long weekend closures of the Churchill Drive gate be made permanent.”**

**CARRIED  
with P. Danforth OPPOSED**

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS UPDATES**

The Community Services and Parks updates were received by the committee.

Discussion took place on doing a park walk for the next meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m. The next meeting is October 27, 2021.

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Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary

# Memo

**To:** Parks, Trails & Recreation Advisory Committee

**From:** Judy Brownoff, Chair, Parks, Trails & Recreation Advisory Committee

**Date:** October 12, 2021

**Subject:** **BOULEVARD TREES**

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Growing and protecting trees is the most economical and simplest known way of capturing and storing carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere to counteract climate change.

Trees and shrubs improve soil and water conservation, store carbon, moderate local climate by providing shade, regulate temperature extremes, increase wildlife habitat and improve the land's capacity to adapt to climate change.

For every 10% increase in urban tree canopy, ozone is reduced by 3-7%. Research has also shown a 60% reduction in particulates from car exhaust fumes on streets lined with trees. Plus, for every 5% of tree cover in a community, storm water runoff is reduced by 2%.

We also know that trees can save up to 10% of local energy consumption through their ability to moderate local climate. It has been found that a 20% increase in vegetation cover resulted in a 7.18% decrease in 24 hour average temperature in Phoenix, Arizona where, as we know, hot dry conditions dominate.

This past summer, we went through our first "heat dome" effect with the unfortunate deaths of people from the impacts of heat. Due to the continued rising temperatures, consideration must be given to the requirements for watering new boulevard trees that are installed as part of new developments longer. As well, there is a need to install trees in locations where they will help to reduce particulates along major corridors to encourage walking to services. We also need to look at how to work around utility infrastructure that may be present in boulevards.

In June 2021, Saanich embraced the 3-30-300 rule as a guiding principle; that residents should be able to see at least 3 large trees from their home, that there should be 30% tree canopy in all neighbourhoods, and that all residents should have a park within 300 meters of their home. The rule should be considered a guiding principle to be used to plan for the future.

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee is requested to consider making a recommendation to Council to review and update policies with respect to boulevard trees. The review should include ensuring policies are cohesive with planning new development and Saanich work. The review should include, but is not limited to, consideration of the following policies:

- Boulevard Tree Policy (last updated in January 1994);
- Blue Dot Initiative – Everyone’s Right to a Healthy Environment (January 26, 2015); and
- 2020 Climate Plan – 100% Renewal & Resilient Saanich.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Brownoff', written in a cursive style.

Judy Brownoff  
Chair, Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee

## COUNCIL POLICY

<b>SUBJECT:</b> BOULEVARD TREE POLICY		
<b>DATE:</b>	MARCH 14, 1988	<b>REFERENCE:</b> 88/CW
<b>Revised:</b>	June 27/88, Jan. 2/90, Jan. 27/92, Jan. 4/93, March 15/93, Jan. 17/94	

### 1. Removals

#### a) Dead or Hazardous Trees

- i) Dead or hazardous trees or trees identified as a traffic or safety hazard by the Administrative Traffic Committee will be removed at the direction of the Administrative Traffic Committee after consultation with the Director of Parks and Recreation, at municipal expense. Payment of the replacement tree fee is not a requirement of these removals.
- ii) Trees are not removed because of a temporary pest infestation, or a litter problem from leaf fall.

#### b) Trees on the Prohibited Planting List

- i) Trees that are on the Prohibited Tree Planting List may be removed from boulevards for driveway installations in connection with building permits, interference with municipal underground services and extreme root suckering in lawns and driveways. The Engineer will authorize these removals after consultation with the Director of Parks and Recreation and these trees will be removed at Municipal expense.
- ii) The total removal cost and replacement fee set by Council within the annual Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Schedule will be charged to the Engineering Department if the request is made by that department.
- iii) A replacement tree is a condition of all tree removals (except in No. iv below) even if the replacement cannot be located at the location of the removal. The replacement fee for tree planting will be set by Council within the annual Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Schedule.
- iv) A replacement fee will not be required from individual property owners where the tree is included in the Prohibited Planting List and is causing problems to the home owner's property.

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c) Trees on the Desirable Tree Planting List

Live trees that are on the Desirable Tree Planting List may be removed upon written request to the Director of Parks and Recreation.

- i) The person making the request shall be obligated to pay for the total removal costs and will be required to pay the tree replacement fee set by Council within the annual Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Schedule.
- ii) Trees approved by the Director of Parks and Recreation to be removed must not be removed until written confirmation is received indicating the specific location.
- iii) In situations that the Director of Parks and Recreation judges to be particularly sensitive or unclear, a written report will be submitted to Council for its consideration.
- iv) The person making the request has the right to appeal a decision denying removal by forwarding a letter of appeal to Council within ten (10) working days. The Director of Parks and Recreation will submit a written report to accompany the appeal for Council's consideration.

d) Trees in Very Poor Condition

If a tree is in very poor condition because of insect or disease, is badly disfigured or has been subject to poor planting practices, the Director of Parks and Recreation may authorize the removal. This tree removal will be at municipal expense and will not require payment of the tree replacement fee from the adjacent home owner.

2. Pruning

- a) No topping or dehorning of trees shall be permitted.
- b) Trees are not to be pruned to accommodate views or sunlight.
- c) Pruning of the top, the centre, or one side of a tree only, shall not be permitted for utility line clearance. A balanced pruning and shaping of the entire tree shall be the general practice and shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Parks and Recreation or his duly authorized representative.
- d) It shall be the policy of the Director of Parks and Recreation to cooperate with the Municipal Engineer, and vice-versa, in the placement and height of

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lighting standards and the development of a system of tree pruning to give effective street illumination.

- e) Where extensive tree trimming or removal is required through pole relocations initiated by the Municipality, the Utility Company concerned shall undertake such works with the approval of the Director of Parks and Recreation, and shall include pruning charges into the overall job costs assessed to the Municipality. The Municipality reserves the right to do complete tree removals where necessary on a prearranged basis.
  - f) All cuts shall be made with a saw or pruner and only at the nodes or crotches. No stubs shall be left. No spurs or climbing irons shall be used in the trees, except when trees are to be removed or at the direction of the Director of Parks and Recreation.
  - g) All dead, crossed, and rubbing branches shall be removed, where evidence indicates previous pruning practices created the condition as determined by the Director of Parks and Recreation.
  - h) All tools being used on a tree suspected to be infected with a contagious disease shall be disinfected before being used on another tree; i.e. Household Bleach, Rubbing Alcohol, etc.
  - i) Whenever streets are to be blocked off to public service, police and fire departments shall be notified of the location and length of time street will be blocked. Notification shall be given to these departments upon the removal of such barriers or if such barriers are to remain longer than originally expected.
  - j) To protect the public from danger, suitable street and sidewalk barriers, highway cones, or signs shall be used when pruning a tree. Flashing signals or flares shall be placed on all barriers or obstructions remaining in the street after dark.
  - k) Where special instructions are not provided, the stumps of all removed trees shall be cut to ground level. If the area where the tree is removed is to be paved, the tree stump shall be removed completely.
3. Spraying - (Insect & Disease Control) - on a request basis as funds permit
- a) On ornamental trees only.
  - b) To protect the health of the tree.



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- c) To reduce the associated nuisance problem caused by the pest.
  - d) Generally, spraying is used as a last resort; control by natural or introduced biological agents is the preferred choice.

#### 4. Planting

- a) Where a tree is removed, a replacement tree will be planted as near to the location of removal in the area as space permits.
- b) New boulevard tree plantings by request of home owners - the home owner selects a tree from the Preferred Tree List; obtains or purchases the tree at their expense; notifies the Parks and Recreation Department who will plant the tree on the boulevard free of charge at a location mutually agreed upon; the home owner is responsible for watering; the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for all other tree care; the tree becomes the property of the Municipality. Normal planting time September - May. Home owners are not permitted to plant trees on the boulevard on their own.

#### 5. Boulevard Improvement Work Adjacent to Municipal Trees

- a) Plans for curb and gutter, sidewalk, driveways and other surface improvements shall be submitted through the Municipal Engineering Department.
- b) For trees six (6) inches or larger cutting of anchor roots two (2) inches or larger shall be avoided. Tunnelling under roots should be the practice. Utility Agencies shall seek the advice of the Director of Parks and Recreation where such work is anticipated in order to avoid unnecessary damage to the tree.
- c) Placing of concrete construction within six (6) feet of any tree shall not be permitted without approval of the Director of Parks and Recreation. Planting of boulevard trees shall not be permitted within six (6) feet of existing above or below ground utility structures without prior consultation with the appropriate utility agency.
- d) Repair of the boulevard adjacent to any construction shall be required of the utility agency, private contractor, or person(s) causing the need for repair.
- e) Prior to construction, removal and/or replacement of any irrigation system, approval by the Director of Parks and Recreation is required. The Municipality will consult with the appropriate utility agency prior to sprinkler installation work adjacent to existing above and below ground utility structures in order to avoid undue water damage to same.

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## 6. Tree Protection

- a) Staff shall prepare simple, clear specification sheets regarding vegetation preservation and shall distribute these sheets to all applicants for rezoning, subdivision, building permits, soil removal, deposit of fill, house moving, or other development.
- b) Building Inspectors and other staff involved in development regulation shall receive training in methods of vegetation protection during development.
- c) The Development Division shall begin to conduct “introductions to the site” with applicants for building permits or other development, to ensure careful assessment and understanding of physical characteristics and vegetation on site, and to fit the proposal to the site.
- d) The protection of trees and vegetation shall be a high priority consideration in the development process, including:
  - i) the alignment, width and right-of-way clearances of roads;
  - ii) the alignment, installation and maintenance of sewers, drains, and other underground utilities;
  - iii) the alignment, installation and maintenance of electrical, telephone or television cables or other above-ground utilities;
  - iv) the design of subdivisions; and
  - v) the building setbacks, driveway locations and other zoning requirements.
- e) Large publicly-owned lands which are heavily treed shall be managed in such a way as to retain their urban forest character; and the Parks and Recreation Department shall investigate means to encourage retention of contiguous forests on private lands.
- f) Municipal public works crews shall receive training in tree pruning and maintenance, and shall be encouraged to be conscientious and careful in their actions around vegetation.

**(This article was written by Prof. Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch and originally published on LinkedIn on 19 February 2021)**

Urban forests provide a wide range of essential benefits. Current global challenges, such as climate change, environmental degradation, and the COVID-19 pandemic, have resulted in increased awareness of the importance of urban trees and green spaces. When working with cities, national governments, and international organisations, I am often asked for specific guidelines for developing successful urban forestry programs. I have mostly declined, because every city is different, which makes it difficult to set transferable targets across various contexts and settings for e.g., urban tree canopy cover.

However, the current state of research and practice, the urgency to green our cities and neighbourhoods, and the call for guidance from decision makers have made me to reconsider. While situations will always be complex and different, and guidelines are not written in stones, I would like to argue for a new rule of thumb for urban forestry and urban greening: the 3-30-300 rule. This rule focuses on the crucial contributions of urban forests and other urban nature to our health and wellbeing. It also recognises that we have to consider many different aspects of the urban forest in order to be successful. It also addresses the need for urban forests to percolate into our living environments. At the same time, it is straightforward to implement and monitor.

### **3 trees from every home**

The first rule is that every citizen should be able to see at least three trees (of a decent size) from their home. Recent research demonstrates the importance of nearby, especially visible, green for mental health and wellbeing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, people have often been bound to their homes or direct neighbourhoods, placing even greater importance on nearby trees and other green in gardens and along streets. The Danish municipality of Frederiksberg has a tree policy that calls for every citizen to see at least one tree from their house or apartment. We should take this one step further.

### **30 percent tree canopy cover in every neighbourhood**

Studies have shown an association between urban forest canopy and, for example, cooling, better microclimates, mental and physical health, and possibly also reducing air pollution and noise. By creating more leafy neighbourhoods, we also

encourage people to spend more time outdoors and to interact with their neighbourhoods (which in turn promotes social health). Many of the most ambitious cities in the world in terms of greening, including **Barcelona**, **Bristol**, **Canberra**, **Seattle**, and **Vancouver**, have set a target of achieving 30% canopy cover. At the neighbourhood level, 30 percent should be a minimum, where cities should strive for even higher canopy cover when possible. Where it is difficult for trees to grow and thrive, e.g. in arid climates, the target should be 30% of vegetation.

### **300 metres from the nearest park or green space**

Many studies have highlighted the importance of proximity and easy access to high-quality green space that can be used for recreation. A safe 5-minute walk or 10-minute stroll is **often mentioned**. **The European Regional Office of the World Health**

**Organization** recommends a maximum distance of 300 metres to the nearest green space (of at least 1 hectare). This encourages the recreational use of green space with impacts on both physical and mental health. Of course it will be important to work with local context, as the needs in e.g., lower-density suburban areas will be different from those in denser urban areas. But also here efforts need to be made to provide access to high-quality urban green space, e.g., in the form of linear green spaces that double as cycle corridors and walking paths.

Applying the 3-30-300 rule will improve and expand the local urban forest in many cities, and with that promote health, wellbeing, and resilience.