

Re: 2018 Summer 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.

2018 Summer Tree Maintenance Program

This spring 49 City trees were identified as either dead or in significant decline and require removal.

There are 4 trees in your neighbourhood that have been identified for removal. The specific trees, their conditions and their locations are as follows:

Address:	Species:	Diameter:	Condition:
1930 Fern St	Laburnum x watereri	55cm DBH	Large decay columns in the trunk.
1830 Fern St	Acer macrophyllum	89cm DBH	Significant internal decay at the base of the tree and throughout the trunk.
2311 Lee Ave	Acer rubrum	34cm DBH	Severe canopy decline and an overall loss in vigor.
2611 Shelbourne St	Quercus garryana	112cm DBH	Decay throughout the trunk and buttress roots with an overall loss in vigor.

These tree removals will take place between July 19th and August 31st. New trees will be selected and plantings will begin in the fall of 2019.

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 being beautiful, these trees help improve air quality, absorb water during storms and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in our environment. They also help shade our streets and buildings, helping to cool our city.

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 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 spring, 49 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.

- City of Victoria, Parks Department