



Tree News

October 2020

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Nuisance tree policy

Thank you to everyone who called, emailed or spoke to their City Councillor regarding the proposed amendment with proposed changes to the tree protection policy - **they heard you!** At the August 31 Council meeting the council defeated the proposed amendment 6-5, a vote opposing the amendment was a vote in support of the current policy. The intent to incorporate a grievance process and clarify and define the definition of a nuisance will be looked at as the City Urban Forestry Master Plan returns to City Council in December.

How your Councillor voted in regards to the addition of a Nuisance Tree

amendment; SOS Trees advocated for the proposed changes to be defeated and hoped they would oppose the amendment

Ward 1 - Darren Hill 306-384-9273 opposed
Ward 2 - Hilary Gough 306-717-4533 opposed
Ward 3 - Ann Iwanchuk 306-380-6870 in favor
Ward 4 - Troy Davies 306-361-0201 in favor
Ward 5 - Randy Donauer 306-244-6634 in favor
Ward 6 - Cynthia Block 306-244-2228 opposed
Ward 7 - Mairin Loewen 306-229-5298 opposed
Ward 8 - Sarina Gersher 306-250-9256 opposed
Ward 9 - Bev Dubois 306-220-5075 in favor
Ward 10 - Zach Jeffries 306-249-5513 in favor
Mayor Charlie Clark. 306-975-3202 opposed

Special thanks to Linda Moskalyk & John Penner who both presented at the council meeting. Council received letters from Joanne Blythe, Stan Shadick, Jan Norris, Sara Bryson, Saskatoon Nature Society and Tony Zuck. We also heard from a number of members and concerned citizens who called or wrote their Councillor. Thank you all.

The next step is SOS Trees will continue to work with the city administration to move the Urban Forestry Master Plan forward and ultimately pass a city tree protection by-law.



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
— **Margaret Mead**

Get Involved

Civic elections are coming, do you know where your councillor stands on our urban forest and the environment? If not it is time! You can check at <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/saskatoon-election-who-s-running-1.5692196> for a complete listing of candidates and links to their websites and platforms. We just saw 6 counsellors and the Mayor vote to continue protecting the trees of Saskatoon by opposing the nuisance tree amendment. Get active, once you have determined who you will support, get active, sign up on their website for a lawn sign, volunteer, etc. We speak for the trees, let your voice be heard.

Dutch Elm Disease in Saskatoon

Dutch elm disease was found in September in Saskatoon, and the city's response.

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/news-releases/dutch-elm-disease-identified-one-saskatoon-tree-0>

Vigilance is needed especially regarding people storing elm wood for firewood, which is strictly prohibited..

For a Dutch Elm Disease fact sheet

https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/community-services/parks/ded_basic_info-sept_2020.pdf



2020 Annual General Meeting

Two new board members were elected to the board of directors, John Penner & Caroline Dinter. James Wood retired, and was recognized as our past President who moved the coalition forward, creating new partnerships within like minded organizations.

Linda Moskalyk- President
Richard Kerbes - Secretary
Cliff Speer - Treasurer
Tom Gode - Communications and Membership
Rae Hearn - Member at Large
Doug Mitchel - Member at Large
John Penner - Member at Large
Caroline Dinter - Member at Large

SOS Trees Coalition in the news

From Trees Canada:

<https://treecanada.ca/blog/prairie-regional-urban-forest-update-july-2020/?fbclid=IwAR2FxfIBmqUOGDaG7psYrFyOOigYurPh8a8hQrfEBqSJ764KZ0hgg00ee8c>

From Saskatoon Tourism:

<https://www.tourismsaskatoon.com/blog/post/saskatoon-is-canadas-unlikely-city-of-trees/>

From EcoFriendlySask:

<https://www.ecofriendlysask.ca/2020/09/sos-trees-coalition.html>

I recommend you sign up for the calendar from EcoFriendlySask, it is the most comprehensive listing of environmental events in the province.

Coexisting with beavers



On Sept 24th members of SOS Trees Coalition partnered with Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation and Meewasin for an evening of wrapping trees susceptible to beaver damage on the trail below the children's hospital. 30 volunteers and Meewasin staff wrapped wire screening around trees in the area of the beaver pond. For a great family evening, walk the Meewasin trail below the hospital at 6-7 PM and watch the beavers prepare for winter. In the past the policy has been to trap & kill the beavers. We hope that this will reverse the policy and allow the beavers (our national animal) to live peacefully in

our urban forest while protecting key trees.

This new fact sheet brings together research from Alberta and across North America. It shows that beaver coexistence tools such as pond levellers and culvert protectors are a cost-effective way to manage chronically flooded beaver conflict sites. [View the two-sided fact sheet](#) and please share with others that will find this information useful in building a business case for using coexistence tools in place of traditional management approaches (lethal beaver removal, dam removal, etc.).

George Genereux Urban Regional Park clean up



On Saturday Sept 19, members of SOS Trees Coalition joined the Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc. for the George Genereux Urban Regional Park clean up day. Cleaning up garbage left behind by contractors and people too lazy or too cheap to use the nearby landfill. There are many who enjoy this forest. The Saskatoon Nature Society band birds there, dog walkers enjoy the space, foresters revel in the delights of the woodlands, and citizen scientists record the flora and fauna on iNaturalist. Parents also enjoy the

scenery and natural beauty of the area with their children and infants. Let's hope we can keep it clean in the future.

During these weird times, community members and businesses cooperated in preserving the environment at George Genereux Park. We were impressed with the results where over [9,270Kg \(204,367 pounds\)](#) were removed from the park. Just in time for National Forest Week we helped to ensure the forest is loved and cared for.

George Genereux Urban Regional Park & the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area were created in 1979 the same year as Chief Whitecap Park, Cranberry Flats Conservation Area and Beaver Creek. We think that not too many residents in the City of Saskatoon know about Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area [330 acres] and George Genereux Urban Regional Park [147.9 acres] in the very south west of the city; they are Saskatoon's best kept secrets and locations where it is easy to maintain social distancing. It is very encouraging and uplifting that several community members are concerned enough to preserve their beauty, legacy and heritage of these afforestation areas in this era of climate change. What an amazing and wonderful city that we live in!

Developments



Saltbox Design saved this Oak

We have been after infill developers to follow the City tree protection policy on a regular basis - calling them out when necessary, attempting to educate, remind, advocate and finally embarrass when necessary. But we are excited this time to recognize a developer for doing a great job saving the trees at his construction sites.

Orion Morgan of Saltbox Design, blog; <https://saltbox001.wordpress.com> , facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/cormanparkgreenbelt/builds passive houses](https://www.facebook.com/cormanparkgreenbelt/builds-passive-houses). We had a chance to visit one of his builds at 328 & 330 2nd Street East. Orion had not only protected the city trees by accessing the building site from the alley way but had also protected a beautiful oak behind the new home as well . In addition he is saving and relocating several mature Saskatoon berry plants within the lots. On a previous build noted in a Star Phoenix article at <https://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/passive-homes> he saved two large spruce in the front yard. Hopefully we will see more infill developers following Saltbox Design's lead in protecting the trees in the older developed neighborhoods.

Other tree related links you might enjoy:

Prairie Hardy Tree Forum <https://www.facebook.com/groups/937746203368033>

Rare Trees of Saskatoon and Northern Prairies:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1119846438116835>

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SOS Trees Coalition is pleased to offer this electronic newsletter to our members and supporters who have an interest in trees in Saskatoon. Through sharing information we can all be more consistently informed and therefore become better advocates for our urban forest and the individual trees that make life so much more enjoyable. If you do not want to receive this newsletter or share your comments with us regarding our publication please email me at trees@sostrees.ca . You can also follow us on Facebook at SOS Trees Coalition <https://www.facebook.com/SOSTreesCoalition>.

Membership and contributions to SOS Trees Coalition support the protection and fostering of stewardship of Saskatoons urban forest. To become a member or supporter go to: <http://www.sostrees.ca/membership.html> or you can mail directly to; 1618 9th Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K3A1. SOS Trees Coalition is a registered charity and all donations in excess of \$20 will receive a tax receipt.