



Tree News

March 2026

Dutch Elm Disease (DED)

There has been a lot of activity around Dutch Elm Disease both in the 2026 & 27 budget discussions and a **supplemental funding request** (<https://www.ctvnews.ca/saskatoon/article/prevention-is-no-longer-feasible-dutch-elm-disease-is-here-to-stay-in-saskatoon/>) in February.

As John Penner speaking on behalf of SOS Trees at City Council stated *“The loss of so many trees and the loss of tree canopy will have a devastating environmental and visual impact on our city. It is therefore imperative that City Council provides the financial resources to mitigate these effects, more financial commitment than has been typical of the last decade. Timely removal of infected and dead trees and replanting are key components.”* It is time for each of us in our conversations with friends and family to reinforce the values of Saskatoons trees and the need for the City to not only remove infected trees rapidly upon diagnosis, but to also replant immediately any tree locations where trees do not exist.

City 2026 & 27 Budget outcomes: you will find a synopsis of the budget outcomes at https://sostrees.ca/pdf/Meeting_Budget_Update_Green_Network_Jan_12_2026.pdf. The Parks Department has a very modest budget for the urban forest considering the significant challenge we have in establishing and maintaining a healthy urban forest.

Thank You

To all of you who donated to SOS Trees Coalition in memory of Linda Moskalyk. SOS Trees was a cornerstone to Linda’s passion of leaving the world better than we found it. We appreciate your support in driving her vision forward.

“Anyone can love a beach, but it takes a special soul to love a foggy forest.”

Volunteer Opportunities

It is time to get involved. With the sudden increase of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) in Saskatoon over the past two years, volunteers are more important than ever in helping to care for our urban trees. Whichever of these opportunities interests you, let us know by emailing SOS Trees Coalition. We look forward to working with you.

Gardenscape, March 27-29, 2026

We have shifts available Friday, Saturday and Sunday, primarily 2.5 hour blocks. Check the schedule below. Volunteers will talk with guests about trees, Dutch Elm Disease and distribute the new Tree



Photo courtesy of Saskatoon Prairieland Park

Tour Booklet. There will be 2 people per shift. No worries if you aren't an expert on all things tree related.

We will have information sheets available and support pamphlets. You will get in free and may want to take advantage of checking out the rest of this spring inspired event. To sign up to help please email SOS Trees Coalition at trees@sostrees.ca.

Gardenscape Booth

Thursday, March 26	1-4pm (set-up)	3 hours
Friday, March 27	10:30am -1:30pm	3.0
	1:30 to 4pm	2.5
	4 to 6:30pm	2.5
	6:30 to 9pm	2.5
Saturday, March 28	9 - 11:30am	2.5
	11:30am - 2pm	2.5
	2 - 4:30pm	2.5
	4:30 - 7pm	2.5
Sunday, March 29	10am -12:30 pm	2.5
	12:30 - 3pm	2.5
	3 - 6pm	3.0

Public Policy Committee

The public Policy Committee continues to monitor and advocate on behalf of the urban forest. Join us, let's move the policies to protect and expand our urban forest.

Arbor Week

The committee is currently planning for the 2026 Arbor Week, this year we will be conducting our community/school tree planting in the Mount Royal neighborhood.



Information You Can Use

From our friends at [EcoFriendly West](https://ecofriendlywest.ca) and others

Book Review: The Genius of Trees: How They Mastered the Elements and Shaped the World by Harriet Rix
<https://ecofriendlywest.ca/book-review-the-genius-of-trees-how-they-mastered-the-elements-and-shaped-the-world-by-harriet-rix/>

Forests around the world are undergoing a major shift, becoming more uniform, losing biodiversity, and growing less resilient. Protecting slow-growing tree species is increasingly urgent. [**Science Daily**
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/02/260208233836.htm>]

Every few years, trees such as oak, dogwood, and chestnut produce extraordinary quantities of seeds, nuts, and fruits – not just in one location but across a very wide area. [**Cool Green Science** <https://blog.nature.org/2025/11/17/the-mystery-of-the-mast-year/>]

In dry regions, grassy areas can have a net warming effect. Planting hardy trees is a better option as they provide shade and their long roots can tap moisture deeper underground, allowing them to dispense large volumes of water, even during hot spells that dry out topsoil. [**Yale Environment 360** <https://e360.yale.edu/digest/urban-greenery-heat>]

Shade: The Promise of a Forgotten Natural Resource by Sam Bloch <https://sambloch.com/> : “There is still no technology known to man that cools the outdoors as effectively as a tree. These communal parasols are also misting machines that cool the air ... Shade’s fall from favor has paralleled and fueled the destruction of the global climate. If we reintegrate shade into our daily lives in small and big ways, the impacts could be thorough and profound – from a subtle return to a life outside, to the slowing of warming and the righting of social wrongs.”

Drax, Britain’s largest power plant, continues to burn 250-year-old trees from Canada’s old-growth forests. In return, they receive billions of pounds in green-energy subsidies.

[**The Guardian** <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/nov/09/drax-still-burning-250-year-old-trees-sourced-from-forests-in-canada-experts-say>]

The City of Victoria uses technology to help maintain its trees. TreeKeeper tracks detailed information about each tree. Sonic tomography uses soundwaves to create an image of a tree’s internal structure, assisting city arborists to evaluate its health and safety. LiDAR (laser pulses) creates detailed 3D models of Victoria’s tree canopy. [*Sustainable City* newsletter, **City of Victoria** <https://www.victoria.ca/city-government/news/sign>]

A new study from UBC states traditional flood management focused on the “200-year flood” underestimates the growing risk as climate change and land-use pressures intensify. However, nature-based solutions (tree planting, wetland restoration, sponge cities, and lower-impact logging practices) can significantly reduce flood frequency. [**UBC** <https://forestry.ubc.ca/news/ubc-study-tracking-flood-frequency-key-to-protecting-b-c-communities/>]

Government and industry need to show leadership in adapting their forest management practices to address wildfire risk, even if it means less profit. The conversation has begun in Manitoba. [**The Narwhal** <https://thenarwhal.ca/manitoba-wildfire-strategy/>]

Using computer modeling, University of Alberta researchers can identify high priority areas, predicted to be less vulnerable to climate change, for conservation of old-growth forest. Less than 12% of BC’s old growth is both protected and within climate refugia. [**UAlberta** <https://www.ualberta.ca/en/folio/2025/11/new-mapping-tool-could-help-preserve-centuries-old-forests-in-bc.html>]

Microbes living in tree bark eat atmospheric gases such as methane, hydrogen, and carbon monoxide, cleaning the air and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Removing carbon monoxide could be particularly helpful in cities. [**The Conversation** <https://theconversation.com/we-discovered-microbes-in-bark-eat-climate-gases-this-will-change-the-way-we-think-about-trees-269612>]

Pressure on BC’s most at-risk forests appears to be intensifying as the government lends a helping hand to the forestry industry. A report from Sierra Club BC notes the province’s supply of unlogged, high-value trees that industry has long relied on is dwindling, rendering short-term fixes and freebies inadequate. [**The Narwhal** <https://thenarwhal.ca/bc-forests-logging-2025/>]

Prevent the Spread of EAB Across Canada: How You Can Save Our Ash Trees

Ash trees across Canada continue to face serious risk from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a highly destructive invasive insect. Learn how to identify ash trees, recognize early signs of infestation, and take practical steps that can help protect entire urban forests. First published in 2019, this resource has been updated with the latest knowledge and tools to reflect current best practices.

Read the article → <https://treecanada.ca/article/prevent-the-spread-of-eab-across-canada-how-you-can-save-our-ash-trees/?bblinkid=287849815&bbemailid=61196293&bbejrid=-955461592>

Emerald Ash Borer Woodpecker Surveillance

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a highly destructive tree pest that targets ash trees in the genus *Fraxinus*. It was first detected on the east coast in 2002 and has since killed millions of trees across Canada.

EAB has not yet been found in Saskatchewan. However, it poses a serious risk to Saskatoon’s urban canopy as ash trees make up nearly 23% of the city’s public tree inventory.

Using Woodpeckers to Detect EAB. Woodpeckers can be valuable allies in early detection. In areas where EAB is present, woodpeckers often feed on the larvae living beneath the bark. This reveals distinctive light patches bark known as “blonding” as they chip away at the outer bark.

While blonding alone doesn’t confirm EAB presence (woodpeckers regulate the activity of many wood-boring insects), it can be a useful indicator to prompt an inspection for EAB’s distinctive D-shaped exit holes and S-shaped larval galleries under the bark. Early reporting of blonding on ash trees can help us detect emerald ash borer before it spreads, giving us an important opportunity to protect our urban forest.

For more information and to learn how you can help: <https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/city-owned-trees/tree-diseases-pests>

Dutch Elm Disease Reminder

Help protect our beautiful elm trees and historic canopies by:

1. Not storing or burning elm wood
2. Disposing of elm wood at the Saskatoon Landfill (it's free for residential loads!)
3. Never pruning elms during the April 1 – August 31 ban
4. If you spot unhealthy elms or suspicious wood, report it by submitting a **photo online**
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/city-owned-trees/tree-diseases-pests/dutch-elm-disease#dedform>

Learn more at [saskatoon.ca/dutchelmdisease](https://www.saskatoon.ca/dutchelmdisease)



We Need You. Get involved! Stand up for our trees & join SOS Trees Coalition Today

SOS Trees Coalition is on the move and we have increased our efforts working with the City of Saskatoon to protect our trees. In addition to Arbor Week, our largest public education event, we are advocating for tree protection and increased City tree planting and monitoring of Saskatoon's Urban Forestry Management Plan. Every member and donor is crucial as we build our coalition. Please take a moment today and sign up for your [Membership](#) and/or donation today. Thank you!



<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/12757>

Memberships can also be purchased by printing out & sending our membership form: <https://sostrees.ca/pdf/SOS-Trees-MembershipForm-2022.pdf>. Payment can be mailed or sent to us via [e-transfer](#).

Create Your Tree Legacy

A planned gift may be one of the most impactful ways that you can support the trees in Saskatoon. A planned gift, life insurance, annuity, etc. to SOS Trees Coalition will make a difference. A great example is the gift left by Joan Browne. The Joan Browne fund has been a supporter of Arbor Week tree planting activities and other educational programs. We are very thankful for the forethought that Joan Browne had and her vision of Saskatoon with a healthy urban forest. For more information on how you can include SOS Trees Coalition in your estate planning email us at trees@sostrees.ca.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



PARTNER



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 to share your comments with us regarding our publication please email us 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 Saskatoon's urban forest. To become a member or supporter go to: [membership](#) or you can mail directly to: [1618 9th Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K3A1](#). SOS Trees Coalition is a registered charity.