



Tree News

July 2025



Arbor Week was a success

A big thank you to our Arbor Week committee, our volunteers, partners, sponsors and everyone who made it a success. Arbor Week events have become a significant education and public awareness event in Saskatoon. We planted two beds of native trees and shrubs at Pierre Radisson Park, a park that must be one of the most barren parks in town. The SOS Trees Arbor Week school planting took a twist when at the last minute the 5th graders from Henry Kelsey School were restricted to remain inside the classroom due to smoke. The trees had been delivered, the water truck was there and our 11th graders from the outdoor school arrived via bike. So we went ahead and planted the majority of the trees. We saved 8 trees to plant the following week with the 5th grade students and both groups of students were quite excited about the opportunity. The planting was preceded with in class presentations by Yvan Lebel & Sharon Lynch. Film Night at Outer Limits was an evening about Canada's forests and the relationships that people have with them. Whether you participated in one of SOS Trees events, events hosted by partner organizations or you planted a tree in your yard or simply sat under and appreciated a tree we hope you had a memorable experience.

Elms were looking bad

We were hearing from folks about the defoliated Elms. Cankerworm populations were up again this spring with pockets of severely defoliated elm (and to a lesser extent apple and maple) all over the city. Spring pest defoliation is not fatal, and the second flush of leaves has already started pushing out on some of the affected trees. We expect they should be back to full canopy within 3 weeks.

The best thing you can do for your trees is water your/city trees. A long deep watering will do miracles toward helping them bounce back. A good practice to get into in our semi arid environment.

Here is a PSA released by the City: <https://www.saskatoon.ca/news-releases/cankerworms-abundant-saskatoon-again-year-0>

SOS Trees Board is currently accepting applicants

The SOS Trees Board is currently accepting applicants for the Board of Directors. For more information or to schedule an interview email us at trees@sostrees.ca

Be a Tree Steward

Join us for an hour or two at our 2023 Arbor Week tree planting at Sutherland School, 211 - 111th St W. Tree Stewards will be working Fridays: July 18, August 1, August 15 & August 29 - 9:00 am to 11:00 pm. Try it for an hour or two, you might like it.

Get your hands dirty and give back to Saskatoon's urban forest this summer! Join our tree stewards and help establish our naturalization planting at Sutherland School, volunteers will be watering and removing invasive species in our native trees and shrubs. Every hour helps get the planting established.

Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Please email trees@sostrees.ca for additional information or to confirm your interest.

Information You Can Use

From our friends at [EcoFriendly West](#) and others

Policy Toolkit: Protecting [Urban Trees on Private Land](#) A four-step plan with examples for protecting and retaining urban trees during their most productive, mature years. [\[Biophilic Cities\]](#)
<https://www.biophiliccities.org/mature-urban-tree-policy-toolkit>

The City of Edmonton launched the [Urban Forest Ambassador Program](#) will teach residents how to detect threats to trees, like Dutch elm disease and emerald ash borer.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/edmonton/article/the-city-wants-your-help-to-protect-its-trees/>

The City of Regina sees [Increased Dutch Elm Disease](#) New studies indicate reforestation's potential to combat climate change is much more limited than previously anticipated with insufficient land and money available and the increasing threat of wildfires limiting tree planting's ability to sequester carbon. [\[The Energy Mix\]](#) <https://www.ctvnews.ca/regina/article/regina-experiencing-outbreak-of-dutch-elm-disease-city-says/>

Trees respond to the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, with changes to their growth and reproductive strategies. Research suggests longest day is a cue for beeches and other species to launch their growth strategies. [[The Guardian](#)]

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jun/21/trees-summer-solstice-celestial-starting-gun>

In [Take to the Trees](#), Marguerite Holloway says, “Everything that flows from trees and forests – clean air, biodiversity, cooler temperatures, clean water, human health, carbon kept solid and out of atmospheric currency, rain, regional weather patterns, culture, history – is unraveling. If trees are to continue to sustain us and to help us address our apocalyptic mess, we need to pay them more attention, give them more care. We need to take to the trees.” <https://www.margueriteholloway.com/>

What to Watch This Summer [Reducing Extreme Heat on School Grounds](#) Part of our Schoolyard Forest Design Lectures Series, in this webinar experts from UCLA and Arizona State share current research and best practices for reducing extreme heat and improving thermal comfort for children on school grounds, including the drawbacks of artificial surfaces and the many benefits of shade trees.

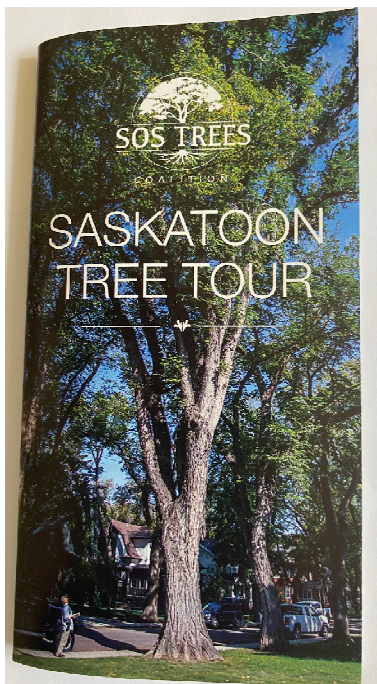
https://youtu.be/iB75Olc5pf0?si=y_LK71a04L-yMGPB

Connecting with the Spirit, Mother Earth and all our relations.

The mission of Green Spirit Chaplaincy is to support all who are practicing or exploring any form of ecological spirituality, and to help us connect with the Spirit, with Mother Earth, and with all our relations (human and more-than-human). The Green Spirit Chaplain is Shawn Sanford Beck, who can be reached at greenpriest@hotmail.ca Check it out: <https://linktr.ee/greenpriest>

National Tree Day 2025

This September Tree Canada celebrates its 14th National Tree Day with a community planting event in Saskatoon. Eager to participate? Pre-register to be notified as soon as event registration opens! Here is the volunteer form: <https://treecanada.ca/ntd-volunteer-form/>



The new SOS Tree Tour Booklet is now available

This edition includes more tree species and multiple locations around the city for each species. Tree Tour Booklets are available at:

Steephill Co-op, Early's, Western Development Museum, The Wild Bird Store and Dutch Growers.

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).



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THURSDAY, AUG 2 ND	FRIDAY, AUG 22 ND	SATURDAY, AUG 23 RD
USASK BOWL	ALEXANDER MACGILLIVRAY PARK	VICTORIA PARK
"LATER IS TO LATE"	"HOW TO BOIL A FROG"	"BOREALIS"
8PM - 10PM	8PM - 10PM	8PM - 10PM

SEATING AT 8PM MOVIES STARTS AT 8:30PM
LEARN MORE AT [CINEMAONTHEGRASS.CA](https://www.saskatoon.ca/cinemaonthegrass)
OR SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS

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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!

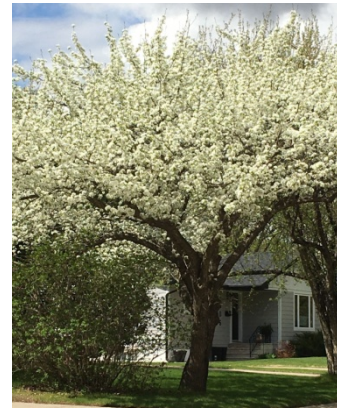


<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/12757>

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.