



Tree News

August 2025

Once, in another time,
I believed that souls resided in trees.
I worked a lifetime tracing branches
Seeking out the one tree that would hold my spirit.
"The Last Arborist" by Paul Wilson



Sadly Linda Moskalyk passed away surrounded by her family on August 4th, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Linda was dedicated to her career in horticulture with the City of Saskatoon, being especially passionate about preserving the city's urban forest. This passion for trees and nature translated into her admired artwork, a talent everyone knew her for.

Linda was involved with SOS Trees for nearly 30 years and led the organization since 2020 as President. She initiated Arbor Week and expanded collaborations with other environmental organizations and City administration and brought an expanded life to our organization.

Not one ever scared of taking risks, Linda decided to take an early retirement after

attending an art residency in Costa Rica, relocating there part time after being inspired by the old growth rainforests and environmental preservation efforts. She spent the next 15 years reforesting exhausted agricultural land, mentoring interns and researchers at Cloudbridge Reforestation & Nature Reserve while continuing to lead SOS Trees.

A prairie girl at heart Linda continued her dedication to environmental activism in Saskatoon and internationally. She spent untold hours in quiet conversation about our need to protect the environment for future generations. If you knew Linda you knew she would take the time to talk to anyone.

If you wish to honor Linda, donations can be made to SOS Trees Coalition at <https://www.sostrees.ca/membership.html> and/or follow her passion and plant a tree.

Tree planting opportunities

Thursday, August 21st (9:00 AM - 11:00 AM) Tree Planting with Tree Canada and Meewasin @ Ellis Hall across from University Hospital's old entrance. You must register here prior to the event:

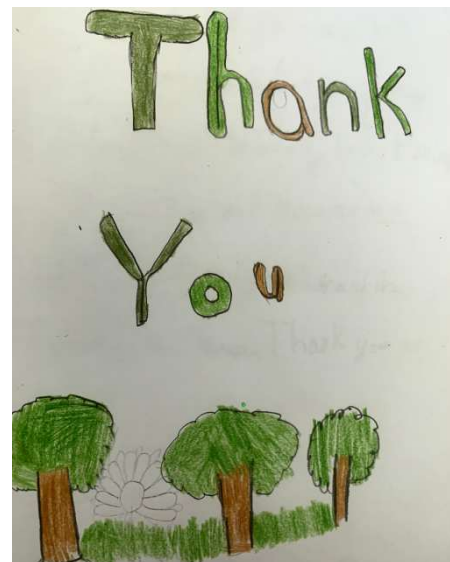
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGSdrMYbVN3xTBbUmNRPyn26MMXiCKMK5a4iHArD2p06PC9Q/viewform>

It would be great to have a good turnout of SOS Trees participants as we will be planting 120 trees and shrubs.

Information sheet with details for your information is here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u9akijAEo5oZpLHGeU2zmFzDbxz7HwO-rci379kUcCc/edit?tab=t.0>

Saturday, September 27th (1:00pm to 3:30 pm) Tree Canada is working with the City of Saskatoon Urban Parks Dept. and the Meewasin Valley Authority to host a **National Tree Day Planting Event** here in Saskatoon. The planting site is at the intersection of Bates Crescent and along the north side of 14th St East between Preston Ave and Leslie Ave where we will be planting 400 trees and shrubs. Join us. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/tree-canadas-national-tree-day-planting-event-in-saskatoon-tickets-1504384276869?aff=oddtcreator>



Sutherland School 3rd grade student

Volunteer opportunities

Broadway Street Fair - Saturday September 6th

We have been invited by Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation and Pollinator Paradise to share a booth. We are looking for volunteers to join volunteers from the other organizations in distributing the Tree Tour booklet, refrigerator magnets and generally talk with interested individuals about the value of trees in Saskatoon.

We have the following shifts: 9-11, 10:30-12:30, 12-2, 1:30-3:30, 3-5+take down. Set up is 8-9:55 am, Take down is 5-7 pm. To volunteer email us at trees@sostress.ca.

SOS Trees Annual Meeting

The annual general meeting for SOS Trees Coalition is Tuesday September 2nd at 7:00 PM at Sunnyside Care Home (2200 St. Henry Ave.). This is an open meeting, Join us.

How Does Planting Urban Trees And Creating Urban Green Spaces Help To Reduce Temperatures?

1. Trees Provide Shade

If you've ever enjoyed the shade of a tree on a hot summer day, you already understand the importance of green urban spaces! Trees and vegetation reduce surface and air temperatures by providing shade — in fact, shaded surfaces, for example, can be as much as 20–45°F cooler than unshaded areas at peak heat. How? During the sunnier seasons, an urban tree's leaves and branches only allow about 10-30% of solar radiation to pass through its canopy. The rest of the solar energy is absorbed by the tree's leaves or reflected back into the atmosphere. To harness this powerful benefit, trees should be planted in strategic locations around buildings or paved areas like streets and parking lots.

2. Trees Help With Evapotranspiration

Simply put, evapotranspiration is the process of transferring moisture from the earth into the atmosphere via evaporation. Trees and plants do this by absorbing water through their roots and releasing it via their leaves. Water is also released as vapor gas from plant surfaces such as tree trunks and the surrounding soil.

Evapotranspiration — alone or in combination with shade-related temperature reductions — can help reduce peak summer temperatures by an estimated 2–9°F (1–5°C). This process reduces temperatures by taking heat from the air and using it to evaporate water within the tree, similarly to how sweating helps cool our skin.

3. Trees Reduce Energy Use

According to the US Department of Energy, carefully positioned trees can reduce a home's energy costs by 25% — including air conditioning. While switching to renewable energy would also help, this reduces pressure on our power grid during heat waves, helping to prevent catastrophic power failures. How? Research shows that planting deciduous trees in strategic locations around buildings helps reduce the amount of solar energy that gets absorbed into building materials — especially if these trees shade windows and part of the building's roof. At a time when extreme heat forces urban dwellers to rely on expensive air conditioning to stay safe, this is more vital than ever. Another benefit? When fans and air conditioners don't have to run as often, they release less "waste heat" into the atmosphere.

From our friends at [One Tree Planted](#)

Dutch Elm Update what you can do:

Containing the spread of Dutch elm disease is a community effort. There are three ways residents can help stop the spread of the disease:

1. Do not bring firewood from another jurisdiction.
 - Beetles that carry Dutch elm disease are most likely to be brought to the city in firewood, so remember to always “burn it where you buy it.”
2. Remove bark beetle habitat.
 - Prune elm trees between September and March to remove dead, dying and diseased branches (video).
 - Provincial law and municipal bylaw require elm tree owners to prune dead and dying branches from September through March.
 - All elm wood must be disposed of immediately by burning, burying, chipping or disposal at the Saskatoon Landfill.
3. If you see signs of Dutch elm disease, call 306-975-2476. Signs of Dutch elm disease:
 - Brown staining in the sapwood can be seen by removing the bark of infected twigs.
 - From the latter half of June to the middle of July, the leaves on one or more branches may wilt, droop and curl. The leaves then turn brown and usually remain on the tree.
 - If the tree is infected later in the summer, the leaves will droop, turn yellow and drop prematurely. Late season infections are easily confused with normal seasonal changes.

- Beetle emergence holes, the size of the diameter of a pencil lead, and/or sawdust on the bark, indicate burrowing beetles.
- Do not combine elm wood with food scraps or other collected waste.

Please Note Elm wood disposal at the City landfill is free, however it cannot be mixed with other woods. All other woods can be disposed of at the City compost site.



Going Topless Linda Moskalyk

Your thoughts are important in the development of Saskatoon's National Urban Park

Meewasin Valley Authority (Meewasin) <https://meewasin.com/> and many partners are working together to explore the potential of a National Urban Park (NUP) in the Saskatoon region through Parks Canada's NUP program <https://parks.canada.ca/pun-nup>. Have your say: share what is important to you. Take the Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/NUPEXploration>

Help Us Update the City of Saskatoon's Climate Strategies!

The City of Saskatoon (City) is updating our climate action strategies by exploring how we can further reduce carbon pollution and better prepare for the impacts of a changing climate. Over the last year we engaged with various organizations across Saskatoon on how they have been impacted by our

changing climate. Through this survey, we are now looking for additional feedback from the community on:

- How has a changing climate impacted our community?
- How can the City lead carbon pollution reduction efforts?
- How should the City prioritize climate actions?

By completing the survey, you can enter for your chance to win a \$50 gift card to a retail store. The survey will remain until August 29, 2025. Your feedback, along with best practice research and internal considerations, will help in updating the strategies and informing City Council. Complete the Survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/climateplanupdate>

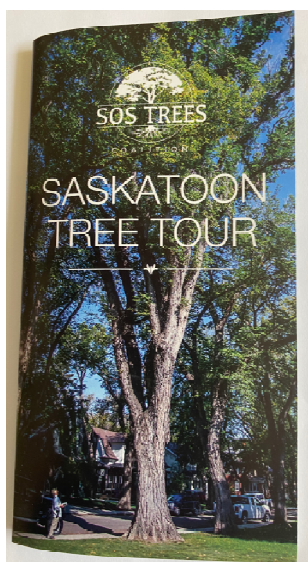
The 2025 ISA Tree Climbing Competition is fast approaching. Volunteers and sponsors are needed! Be a part of this exciting event! This is an exciting event watching some of the prairies top arborists compete up in the tree tops. For event details, registration, sponsor package and more, visit **Tree Climbing Competition - ISA Prairie** <https://isaprairie.com/tree-climbing-competition/>

From our Friends at EcoFriendly West

Communities can preserve mature trees while ensuring safe, walkable sidewalks by rerouting the sidewalk, installing permeable pavers, ramping over roots, narrowing the sidewalk slightly, pruning roots, and using suspended sidewalk slabs. [Strong Towns] <https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2025/8/7/chop-or-adapt-6-ways-to-fix-sidewalks-without-losing-urban-trees>

The Genius of Trees, Harriet Rix: “Element by element, trees have learned to control water, air, fire and the ground beneath us, as well as fungi, plants, animals, and even people, shaping them according to their own ‘tree-ish’ agenda.” [The Guardian] <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2025/aug/08/the-genius-of-trees-by-harriet-rix-review-how-trees-rule-the-world>

The vandals who cut down England’s [beloved Sycamore Gap](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2025/aug/08/the-genius-of-trees-by-harriet-rix-review-how-trees-rule-the-world) tree were sentenced to more than four years in prison. <https://apnews.com/article/britain-sycamore-gap-tree-trial-517a911bc158fc04b1013ea8dcb79a29>



[Calgary](https://livewirecalgary.com/2025/07/21/poplar-trees-are-a-peril-that-need-pulling-says-councillor-but-experts-disagree/#google_vignette) Poplar trees are a peril that need pulling says councillor, but experts disagree https://livewirecalgary.com/2025/07/21/poplar-trees-are-a-peril-that-need-pulling-says-councillor-but-experts-disagree/#google_vignette

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).

A poster for "Cinema on the Grass" featuring environmental documentaries. The background is a close-up of green grass. The title "CINEMA ON THE GRASS" is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below the title, it says "FREE OUTDOOR MOVIES SERIES FEATURING POWERFUL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTARIES. GROW IDEAS. SPARK CHANGE. AND BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER. BRING A BLANKET. TOUCH GRASS. AND WATCH A MOVIE UNDER THE STARS". The poster lists three events: Thursday, Aug 21st at USASK BOWL, Friday, Aug 22nd at Alexander Macgillivray Park, and Saturday, Aug 23rd at Victoria Park. It also includes information about seating, movie start times, and where to learn more. At the bottom, it is sponsored by "Building a sustainable future" and hosted by the Saskatoon Climate Hub.

**CINEMA
ON THE
GRASS**

FREE OUTDOOR MOVIES SERIES FEATURING POWERFUL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTARIES.
GROW IDEAS. SPARK CHANGE. AND BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER.
BRING A BLANKET. TOUCH GRASS. AND WATCH A MOVIE UNDER THE STARS

THURSDAY, AUG 21ND	FRIDAY, AUG 22ND	SATURDAY, AUG 23RD
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

Sponsored by "Building a sustainable future"

Hosted by **SASKATOON
CLIMATE HUB**

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!

DONATE NOW
powered by
canadahelps.org

<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.