



MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE Summary of draft TREE POLICY

MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE

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2. INTRODUCTION

The Tree Policy is to effectively preserve, enhance, conserve, and manage the urban and rural tree canopy, thus providing a better quality of life for municipal residents. Planning, management, and continued inspection of the tree canopy is essential to ensure a healthy, aesthetic, safe and green environment.

This policy is a tree overview as a whole regarding anything tree related within the Municipality of Kincardine.

The long-term goal is for the creation, protection and maintenance of a relatively low cost, healthy, tree canopy for the benefit of the community that is managed according to the principles of sustainable development.

Municipality of Kincardine staff maintain the trees on municipal property and 'Right of Way' specifically, the division of the tree management.

3.1 MUNICIPAL ROLE

To identify measures the Municipality can take within its own operations to preserve and enhance the urban and rural tree canopy. Divisions of the management as follows:

Public Works Department – Responsible for planting, trimming and removal of trees on Municipality streets, boulevards, trails, cemeteries, and roadways.

Parks Department – Responsible for planting, pruning, trimming and removal of trees in Municipality open spaces which consist of parks, sports fields, beach areas, and some trails.

Horticulturist – Responds to public inquiries with respect to municipal trees. Does site visits to inspect and make recommendations. Manages memorial tree program including planting of memorial trees. Assists with planting of new municipal trees. Prunes and trims trees. Sources and purchases trees for the Municipality.

Arborist – Professional, competent, and qualified arborists are contracted out on an as needed basis for tree removals, inspections, tree pruning and tree stump removals.

4. REGULATION OF MUNICIPAL TREES

No person shall fell a tree that is located on municipal property without having first obtained the written permission and approval of the municipal Horticulturist.

No person shall prune more than 20 percent (20%) of volume of a tree, located on municipal property, without having first obtained written permission and approval.

No person shall dig up or otherwise remove any tree or sapling, located on municipal property, without having first obtained written permission and approval.

Where permission of the Municipality has been received and the tree removal request has been approved to remove the requested tree off of municipal property, the Municipality will remove the tree and or will hire a qualified competent tree care contractor to remove the tree.

No person shall:

- I. Remove a tree or any part of a tree or cut any felled trees / wood unless approved by the Municipality.
- II. Abuse, attach, burn, cut down, carve, damage, destroy, injure, paint, peel, pull up, transplant, top or trim all or any part of a tree that is located on municipal land.
- III. Attach, tack, paste, tape any other thing or object to a tree or to a stake post guard or other object supporting tree that is located on municipal land.
- IV. Pour or spray any substance that will injure a tree that is located on municipal land within the drip line of the tree.
- V. Attach any decorative lighting without first obtaining approval.

5. REQUEST FOR TREE OR LIMB REMOVAL ON MUNICIPAL LAND

The Municipality prohibits and regulates the destruction or injuring of trees within the Municipality and its urban and rural tree canopy.

If the tree appears to be dead, diseased, damaged or appears unsafe / dangerous then a request can be made to the Municipality of Kincardine Public Works Administration.

The Municipality may require that a "Request for Tree or Limb Removal on Municipal Land" be filed to the Municipality for review by the municipal Horticulturist.

5.1 LAND SUBJECT TO REQUEST

This applies to urban and rural trees on municipal land within the Municipality of Kincardine but does not apply to woodlands that are governed by the County of Bruce that are over one (1) hectare (2.47 acres) in size.

5.2 REASONS FOR REQUEST DENIED

- Tree(s) are healthy.
- Tree(s) are being requested merely on dislike.
- Protecting the lakeshore areas urban & rural along Lake Huron.

- Protecting the bluff area along Huron Terrace in Kincardine (shoreline).
- Protecting significant and sensitive natural areas to ensure maximum environmental benefits of trees in both urban and rural settings.
- Prevent soil erosion, run off and enhancing the aesthetic values of land.

5.3 MATTERS OF OFFENCE

When the Municipality becomes aware of a contravention or contravention of an approved request application that is out lined within this document, then the following process may occur, but not limited to:

- The Municipality will give notice in writing to the person(s) to rectify and remedy the contravention and to restore the public property to its former condition at the expense of the person(s) involved.
- The Municipality designates that the removal / destruction of each tree for which an application or request is required is one (1) offence in a series of multiple offences.

11. TREE REPLACEMENT

The Municipality will make every effort to replace a removed tree within one (1) year of the stump removal and or tree removal depending on availability of funding, tree availability and weather conditions. Residents wishing to plant a tree of any size on municipal land must have approval of the municipal Horticulturist prior to planting.

11.1 TREE SPECIFICATIONS

Deciduous trees shall be 45 – 60 mm diameter at 1.4 meters (4'1/2") from grade and Ball and Burlap W.B. of No.1 Nursery stock. Coniferous trees shall have a height of at least 200 cm (6.5 ft.) and of No.1 Nursery stock.

11.2 TREE REPLACEMENT RATIOS

Tree replacement for every tree removed ratio (with exceptions upon approval):

- Municipal: **minimum** of one (1) tree planted for every one (1) tree removed.
- The same or similar species will be replanted as to the removed tree or a tree to suite the location and environment.
- Residents may request a replacement tree in front of their property. Requests are to be made to the Municipality of Kincardine's Public Works Administration.
- The Municipality does not guarantee planted trees.
- Tree(s) must be on the approved Municipal Tree Species Selection List (with exceptions).

11.3 UNJUSTIFIED / UNAPPROVED TREE REMOVAL ON MUNICIPAL LAND - TREE REPLACEMENT RATIOS

Any person who does not go through the appropriate request approval process, may be required to compensate the Municipality of Kincardine with below tree replacement ratio and invoiced for the planted tree(s).

- Replacement: **minimum** of two (2) trees planted for every one (1) tree removed.
- The same or similar species will be replanted as to the removed tree or a tree to suite the location and environment.
- Tree(s) must be on the approved Municipal Tree Species Selection List (with exceptions).

16. PROTECTION OF TREES & TREE ROOT SYSTEMS

The protection of trees and tree root system is a crucial aspect to help trees survive in and around construction or disturbances.

Protected trees are trees with a DBH of 30 cm (11 ¾") or a multiple-stemmed tree whose cumulative DBH for three (3) largest stems added together to calculate DBH.

Protected trees, but not limited to:

- Has been planted as a replacement tree.
- Was required to be planted for a subdivision, development, building or demolition permit.
- Tree(s) located within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).
- Noteworthy, historically significant and memorial trees.
- Time protected reasons where there is evidence of habitat life (Example: nesting Aves).



*Diagram showing how to find diameter at breast height (DBH).

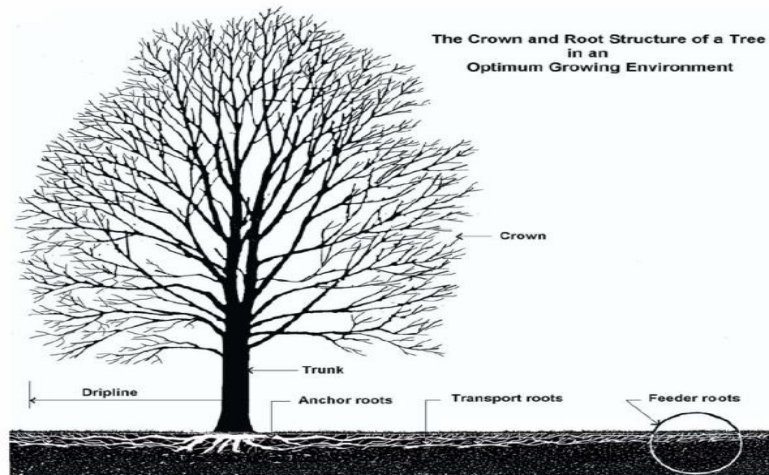
16.1 TREE PROTECTED ZONES (TPZ)

Above and beyond the physical damage that are visual that occurs from the result of construction, excavation and heavy equipment, the Root system is also very sensitive to the above as damage to the root system is permanent and can be fatal.

Root Cutting: is a type of physical damage that can significantly impact the health of a tree. The majority of tree roots are found in the upper 30 to 60 centimeters (12 to 24 inches) of soil. Excavation for foundations or utility installation may cut roots if the excavation is done too close to a tree. Trees can become destabilized and may fall over, as well as the tree will become weaker and die back due to fibrous roots (feeder roots) being cut or damaged. Fibrous roots are crucial to a tree as these roots are what absorbs nutrients and water to feed a tree.

Compaction of the Soil in the tree root zone: is one of the leading cause of tree decline within an urban tree canopy. Soil compaction primarily occurs from vehicles and equipment moving across the root zones. Soil compaction causes the pore spaces in the soil, which contains air and water necessary for root growth, to be reduced. Without space available for oxygen and water, tree roots will suffocate, and the tree decline will follow.

Other: root destruction can also be caused by changes to the existing grade. Adding soil on top of tree roots can smother them by reducing the amount of oxygen and water they can receive. Only a few centimeters of soil can have a detrimental impact on tree health.



***Diagram of a tree root system which shows how vital Tree Protected Zones are.**

16.2 TREE PROTECTION PLAN

A tree protection plan may be asked for where proposed construction may be commencing, as such a competent qualified individual may be asked to report. The "Tree Protection Plan" shall show details such as, but not limited to the following:

- Shows all existing buildings, structures, hard surfaces and all existing trees within the area of consideration.
- Site plan where proposed work to be undertaken.
- Shows areas on neighboring properties that may cause disturbance to trees due to over digging, compaction of soil and construction staging.
- Indicate location of any excavation that requires root pruning.
- Indicate tree(s) proposed to be removed and or injured and a plan for replanting / replacement moving forward.
- The extent of proposed tree injury, where applicable.

16.3 TREE PROTECTION BARRIERS

Protection measures that may be required consist of, but not limited to:

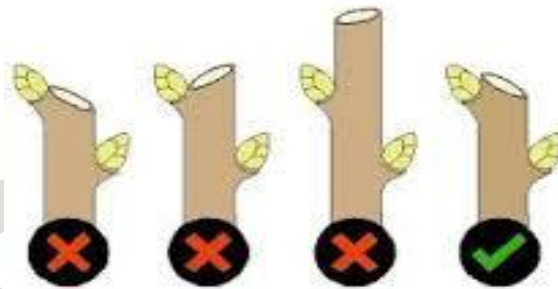
- Temporary plywood barriers that extend around the tree at a distance from the trunk, which is determined by the tree trunk diameter.
- To accommodate low branches and or where visibility is a consideration, plastic web snow fencing secured with stakes can be used and is determined by the tree trunk diameter.
- Signage attached to the barrier listing what its purpose is along with contractor and or property owner contact information.

Tree Trunk Diameter (DBH)		Barrier Distance Around Tree	
20 cm	8"	1.2 m	4'
30 cm	12"	1.8 m	6'
40 cm	15 ¾"	2.4 m	8'
50 cm	19"	3 m	10'
60 cm	24"	3.6 m	12'
75 cm	29 ½"	4.5 m	15'
100 cm	39"	6 m	20'



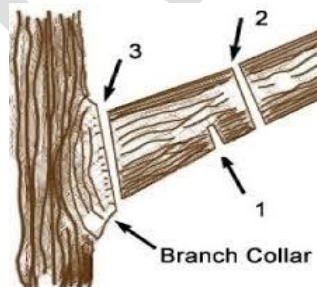
*Chart showing tree diameter to barrier distance.

Wrong branch cut Vs. Correct branch cut angle:



*Diagram showing wrong pruning cuts to the correct pruning cut.

To avoid damage to the tree - the following method should be used:



*Diagram of steps to follow when trimming branches.

- 1) Make a cut on the underside of the branch, stopping about a quarter (¼) of the way through the branch.
- 2) The second cut is to be made approximately 20 cm (8") from the first cut. Cut until the limb breaks off.
- 3) Make a third cut at the outer edge of the branch collar. Do not make a flush cut. No wound dressing is to be applied to pruning cuts.

SCHEDULE A - REQUEST FOR TREE OR LIMB REMOVAL ON MUNICIPAL LAND

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

REQUEST FOR:

☐ Tree / Limb is entirely on municipal land ☐ Tree / Limb is on partially on private land

REQUESTED TREE(S):

<u>Subject Tree(s)</u>		
<u>Tree Species:</u>	<u>Tree Diameter (1.4 m above ground level):</u>	<u>Tree Height:</u>
<u>Condition of proposed Tree / Limb:</u>		

<u>REASON FOR REQUEST & TREE / LIMB LOCATION</u>

<u>Applicant Signature:</u>	<u>Approved:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Pending	<u>Date:</u> (yyyy-mm-dd)
<u>Staff Signature:</u>	<u>Date Received:</u>	<u>Date Completed:</u>