

City of Mississauga
Memorandum



Date: 2024/05/24

To: Chair and Members of the Environmental Action Committee

From: Amory Ngan, Manager, Forestry

Meeting Date: 2024/06/04

Subject: Tree Care Standards and Best Practices

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional information on the City of Mississauga's tree care standards and best practices as a follow-up to the Environmental Action Committee meeting on September 5, 2023.

Standards and Best Practices

The City's approach to urban forest management, including tree planting and tree care operations, is to align with industry standards and best practices. This includes the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) A300 Tree Care Standards, the ANSI Z133 Safety Standard, and the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) Best Management Practices.

The City employs a highly qualified workforce of arborists, urban foresters, ecologists, landscape architects, foresters, technicians, and by-law officers to ensure that the urban forest is managed to a high standard. Our workforce includes Registered Professional Foresters, ISA Board Certified Master Arborists, ISA Certified Arborists Municipal Specialists, ISA Certified Arborists, ISA Certified Tree Climbers, and personnel that are ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified.

The City is among 18 Canadian municipalities to have received the designation of Tree Cities of the World by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Arbor Day Foundation. We have held the designation for four years in a row since the program's inception, which requires meeting five core standards, including: establishing responsibility for the care of trees, setting rules for managing trees, having an updated inventory of local tree resources, allocating resources for tree management, and celebrating achievements for trees. The City also achieved Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) certification (FSC® C018800) for the management of 36 woodlands. This requires meeting the FSC® standard for forest management and being evaluated against 10 principles ranging from maintaining high conservation values to monitoring the environment and social impacts of forest management.

Public and Private Trees

Qualified forestry staff oversee the planting and care of public trees on City streets, parks, and properties. For example, all new and replacement public trees are selected to ensure that the right tree is being planted in the right place. This includes a careful evaluation of the location and site condition to determine appropriate species, spacing, setback, proper planting techniques, including correct depth, and post-planting measures such as proper mulching and watering to support tree establishment and long-term tree health and survival. Newly planted

trees are inspected during and after installation. Inspections are completed throughout the 3-year warranty period, including a final inspection at the end of the warranty period. Forestry inspectors will assess the tree's health and structure, potential targets, site factors, load factors, species profile, and defects and conditions that could affect the likelihood of failure. Tree care work is determined based on these inspections.

The planting and care of trees on privately-owned land is the responsibility of the property owner. While the City's trees are managed in accordance with applicable industry standards and best practices, adoption of these standards and best practices are not universal across private property owners, resulting in poor tree care practices, such as volcano mulching. The City's approach is to first educate residents and property owners on proper tree care practices to encourage voluntary adoption.

Where poor tree care practices rise to the level of tree injury or destruction, enforcement under the Private Tree Protection By-law 0021-2022 may be considered, where applicable. The Private Tree Protection By-law prohibits the injury or destruction of a tree with a diameter of 15 cm or greater located on private property without a valid permit.

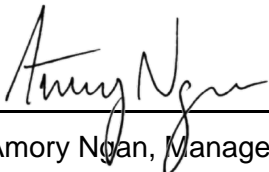
Public Outreach and Education

Additional content and material on proper tree care and mulching practices have also been developed, including additional online resources and content to be published on various social media platforms for inclusion in future marketing and public outreach campaigns. Close to 550,000 trees have been planted to-date as part of the One Million Trees (OMT) program. Residents, businesses, and community groups have been able to help expand and enhance our natural areas through tree planting and stewardship. Participants of OMT events are provided hands-on training on proper tree care and mulching practices.

Next Steps

The City is committed to continuous improvement and quality assurance across all tree planting and tree care operations. For example, all contracted tree plantings on City streets and parks are subject to rigorous quality control, including inspections at the time of planting and post planting. The most recent warranty inspections data for newly planted trees indicates a success rate of 88% for street trees and 84% for park trees.

Should there be any questions or concerns about a City tree, residents can call 311 or submit a service request [online](#) so that Forestry staff can be alerted to the concern and respond.



Amory Ngan, Manager, Forestry