

Tree Conservation

References: *Migratory Birds Convention Act, S.C. 1994, c. C-22*
Wildlife Act, RSA 200

Cross-reference: SER-009-041 Conservation of Biological Diversity

Policy Statement

Strathcona County strives to conserve upland forest within the County's rural and urban areas by managing individual trees and tree stands to ensure the sustainability of the overall forest habitat.

Strathcona County will take steps to ensure the conservation of trees within Strathcona County before, during, and after development. The County will inspect and manage the trees on County lands in order to conserve the urban and rural forests within Strathcona County.

The County will also encourage the conservation of trees during development on private land by requiring developers to plan for tree conservation during development, through the subdivision and development agreement processes. The intent is not only to retain trees within a development, but to prevent damage to trees during the construction and maintenance of a development.

Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to ensure the County has processes designed to conserve trees within Strathcona County during development activities.

Definitions

Tree Conservation Report (TCR) means an assessment of trees in urban and rural development areas for conservation planning.

Tree Protection Plan (TPP) means an outline of activities required during construction and maintenance to ensure the recommendations of the TCR are met.

Guidelines

All development initiated by a private developer or by Strathcona County, will be subject to the requirements set out in this directive and associated procedures.

Prior to Development

Strathcona County will strive to protect the trees and forests within the County by requiring each developer to prepare a Tree Conservation Report (TCR) and a Tree Protection Plan (TPP) prior to commencing any development. The TCR and TPP must be reviewed and approved by the County prior to any construction activities.

The *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, S.C. 1994, c. C-22, prohibits the damaging, destroying, removing, or disturbing of nests or migratory birds. Therefore, a migratory bird nesting survey is required prior to any tree management activities, and as a part of a TCR and TPP. Qualified professionals employed or contracted by the County will be responsible for conducting migratory bird assessments prior to tree management activities on County lands.

During Development

Strathcona County may conduct regular inspections of trees, tree stands, and forests that are identified in approved TCRs and TPPs to ensure compliance with the TCRs and TPPs.

After Development

Strathcona County will regularly inspect and manage trees on County lands. The County will strive to provide the community with safe and healthy trees and forests. Any tree on County land that poses a health or safety hazard to the public will be assessed and prioritized for repair, removal, or other disposition in order to mitigate the hazard.

The assessment, inspection, prioritization, and maintenance activities concerning trees on County lands will be conducted by certified arborists employed by or contracted to the County.

Policy Record

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Replaces: SER-009-034,
SER-009-035

Administrative Review: Planning and Development Services

Approved by:

Signed - Darrell Reid

Chief Commissioner

August 1, 2023

Date