



Policy E04-99-03

Tree Policy

Department: All Departments, Public

Policy Number: E04-99-03

Section: Environmental Services

Effective Date: January 1, 1999

Subject: Tree Policy

Revised Date: June 2001; February 14, 2006

Authority: Municipality of Brockton Resolution 99-05-90

1. Objectives

That the Council adopt a Municipal Tree Policy and program as follows: "That the Municipality of Brockton recognizes the importance that trees hold in Brockton and strive towards maintaining a healthy tree population in urban and rural areas of the Municipality. In addition to the positive natural benefits provided by trees, one of the outcomes would be improving the visual appearance of our local parks, cemeteries, road sides and boulevards for the enjoyment of existing and future generations".

2. Benefits

Healthy trees:

- a) Aesthetically enhance real estate value within the community.
- b) Help reduce air and noise pollution.
- c) Assist in conserving energy. The shade produced by trees cools the air by as much as 10% in urban areas.
- d) Help to filter water, stabilize soils, and provide habitat and food for wildlife such as birds.
- e) Supply oxygen in the air and help absorb carbon dioxide.
- f) Help reduce the effect of high winds.

3. Responsibilities

3.1 That a standing sub-committee called the "Municipal Tree Committee" (made up of individuals, see Appendix "A") act as an advisory body implementing the policy.

4. Prior History

See Appendix B.

5. Implementing the Municipal Tree Policy

5.1 Tree Inventory/Survey

- a) The Works Department and the Parks & Recreation Department will determine health and planting locations with the assistance of the Tree Committee, if required

5.2 Tree Planting Program

- a) Undertake a tree-planting program to replace trees that have been removed due to disease and old age. Attempt to replace these trees at a rate of 5 trees to 1 removed, if possible. These locations would be determined from observation and community feedback. This replanting program to be under the direction of either the Works Department or the Parks and Recreation Department and subject to budget considerations and tree availability.
- b) Co-ordinate the planting of trees that is native and hardy to the growing conditions of Bruce County. See Appendix C.
- c) Occupied and unoccupied utility (i.e. overhead wires, gas lines, water lines) standard locations shall be avoided when planting trees.

5.3 Tree Nursery Program

- a) The municipality will maintain a nursery, which will be used to grow saplings to a plantable size.
- b) The trees will be a variety of species and size as outlined in Appendix C.
- c) Maintenance of any tree nursery to be taken care of by the municipality.

5.4 Tree Preservation and Protection

Unless authorized by the Municipality, a person shall not do, cause, or permit to be done, any of the following to a tree located on lands owned by the Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton.

- a) Remove or cut down a tree or any part of a tree.
- b) Mark, cut, break, debark, deface, damage or in any manner injure or destroy a tree, or any part of a tree.
- c) Tack, paste, or attach a bill or note or any other thing, or object to a tree or to a stake, post, guard, or other object supporting such tree.
- d) Deposit, place, store, or maintain any stone, brick, sand, soil, concrete, vehicle, equipment or other material that may impede the free passage of water, air or nutrients to the roots of a tree.
- e) Chemically spray, fertilize, prune, trim, disturb, or alter a tree or any part of a tree.
- f) Alter or change soil levels in the vicinity of any tree in a manner likely to cause injury to the tree.

5.5 Tree Pruning and Removal

- a) In order to prolong the safe life of trees, the municipality will coordinate whenever possible the pruning of dead and dying branches in trees on municipal property.
- b) Trees that are dead or diseased as determined by the municipality may be removed following these conditions:
 - Trees that are requested for removal will be described in the Brockton Buzz to notify the public.

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- Trees that are requested for removal will be marked with an “X” indicating which trees are going to be removed.
 - If any resident has an objection to the removal of a tree on municipal property that cannot be resolved by way of discussion with the Municipal Tree Committee the resident must submit their objection in writing for evaluation by Brockton Council for a final decision.
- c) Any tree posing immediate danger, (from windstorm, ice, etc.) at the discretion of the Tree Committee, is exempt from the above rules.
- d) The cost, for any tree requiring pruning or removal that is on part municipal land and part private land, will be shared equally between both parties.
- e) Anyone wishing tree removal for any reason not covered in this policy must submit a written request, with an explanation, to Brockton Council for their decision.

5.6 Subdivision Agreement

The municipality shall include in their development of a policy for new residential developments the following points:

- a) Planting a minimum of 2 (or 1 as space permits) trees on the frontage of every new home.
- b) Species and size as identified in Appendix “C”.
- c) The Developer will be responsible for the purchase and planting of the trees.
- d) The Municipality is to supervise all tree plantings.

5.7 Boulevard Planting Program

- a) The municipality shall keep a list of residents that wish to have a tree planted in the boulevard in front of their residence. On a yearly basis, the Municipality will endeavour to plant enough trees on boulevards to satisfy the requests made by residents.

Appendix A

The Brockton Tree Committee shall consist of the following:

One (1) Brockton Municipal Councillor

Brockton Works Superintendent

Brockton Recreation Manager

Brockton Municipal Landscape Gardener

Two (2) Brockton Community Members

Appendix B
History

Practices prior to 2001:

- a) The Works Department had been performing tree pruning and removals with the assistance of contractors. The Parks and Recreation Department had been responsible for minor tree removal and trimming in all parks settings with the assistance from the aforementioned on larger trees.
- b) Tree replacement on boulevards had been done by the Works Department at the request of the local residents.
- c) Tree replacement in parks had been performed by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- d) Nurseries were being maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department and Works Department. (located in the Cemetery and behind Lobies Park).
- e) Tree purchase occurred annually through a program offered by the S.V.C.A. based on funding available.
- f) Trees had been planted by volunteers organized through the Tree Committee in the spring of 2000 and 2001.

Appendix C

Sizes and species may vary upon availability.
Suggested size is 2 meters in length.

Shade Trees – Large

Hackberry	Celtis-occidentalis
Maple, Sugar	Acer-saccharum
Maple, Red	Acer-rubrum
Oak, Pin	Quercus-palustris
Oak, White	Quercus-bicolor
Oak, Red	Quercus-rubra
Oak, Bur	Quercus-macrocarpa

Small Trees (for Confined Spaces)

Maple, Amur	Acer-ginnala	(4 – 6 meters tall)
Maple, Tatarian	Acer-tataricum	(4 – 6 meters tall)