



TOWN OF WAINWRIGHT

Policy Number: 2021- 06

Date of Issue: May 18, 2021

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Motion Number: 2021-146

Policy Subject/Title: BOULEVARD/TOWN OWNED TREE REMOVAL POLICY

Signature of Approval by Authorized Personnel:

Ed Chow, CAO

Supersedes:

N/A

Date of Last Update

N/A

Title & No. of Previous Policy if Applicable

POLICY STATEMENT:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for citizens and direction for Town of Wainwright staff regarding the removal and maintenance of town owned trees.

PROCEDURES:

1. All public trees on public lands shall be deemed to be the property of the Town of Wainwright and the care, custody and control of such trees shall be with the responsibility of the Town of Wainwright – Parks and Recreation Department.
2. No person shall remove a public tree or cause a public tree to be removed from any public lands without prior written authorization from the Parks and Recreation Department. Furthermore, the intent is to not cut down any town owned trees unless it is deemed critical and necessary.

Critical reasons include:

- Historical evidence stating the tree or its roots are causing major sewer issues for the Town of Wainwright or home owner. Trees removed for root damage determined to be on the home owner's property will be at home owner's expense.
- Historical evidence stating the tree is causing major utility issues for the Town of Wainwright or home owner and removal is the only recourse.

- Tree is dead or showing signs of dying or critical disease constituting a hazard to the life or property. For critical concerns the Town of Wainwright may employ the services of a tree pruning company or a horticulture specialist for insight, recommendations and further actions. Baring the recommendation, the Town of Wainwright Parks and Recreation department holds final discretion.

Non-Critical reasons normally will not result in tree removal include:

- Falling branches, leaves or buds.
- Hanging over branches causing vision, home or vehicle impairment.
- Branches in power lines can be trimmed by either the power company or a professional tree pruning company. Cutting of the tree is last resort.
- That, in the home owner's opinion, the tree has become too large.
- New development on the land adjacent that would prefer to have trees removed for parking or other reasons. Discretion will be given on a case-by-case basis.
- Detriment to the adjacent sidewalk or curb. Should historical evidence or safety be of concern, discretion will be given on a case by case basis. All attempts to keep the tree must be made in able for removal to be considered.

The Town of Wainwright will evaluate each tree in question and if needed will either trim or try rectify the problem themselves or employ a tree pruning company to help make the tree healthier, safer and less of a hassle.

Note - The Town of Wainwright currently has an annual boulevard tree pruning program. This program follows a block plan and trims a certain amount of boulevard trees per year thus keeping them healthy, safe and from being overgrown.

Note - The Town of Wainwright compiles a list of boulevard tree concerns as reported by citizens. These concerns are evaluated and if warranted are looked after as needed. Because of the Elm Tree pruning ban annually between April 1st - September 30th most of these concerns are dealt with in the early spring or fall unless they are a different species.

All tree removal and maintenance decisions can be made on a case by case basis pending circumstance and is at final discretion of the Town of Wainwright.

3. No person shall place, apply or spray any substance other than water on or near any public tree without prior written authorization from the Town of Wainwright Parks and Recreation Department.
4. The Town of Wainwright may remove from any town owned tree, any wire, rope, nail, poster, or any such contrivance, that may, in the opinion of the Town

of Wainwright damage the tree.

5. The Town of Wainwright may replace any town owned tree that has died or been removed provided that such replacement, in the opinion of the Town of Wainwright – Parks and Recreation Department is desirable.
6. Those disobeying this policy are subject to a fine under Part 4 of the 2018-04 Nuisance Bylaw.
7. Memorial trees that require attention will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis from the criteria set forth in the Memorial Tree Program Policy.