



TOWN OF CASTOR TREE REMOVAL POLICY 2021-01

Definition: The Town of Castor is responsible for maintaining trees on public property (Town-owned trees). Property owners are responsible for maintaining the trees on their private property. These are privately owned trees. If the tree is between the sidewalk and the curb, it's a Town-owned tree. If there isn't a sidewalk or the tree is located on your front yard, contact the Town office to have a tree technician come out to measure property lines and determine if the tree is privately owned or Town-owned.

Municipal tree services include:

- Tree removal
- Tree trimming
- Tree planting (spring and fall)
- Fertilizing
- Disease diagnosis
- Pest diagnosis
- After hours emergency service, such as tree damage during a wind storm

Cutting/Trimming or Pruning: Pruning is the act of removing branches from a tree to accomplish a specific purpose. Cutting or trimming of Town-owned trees is a violation of this policy. Homeowners must confirm ownership of a tree on or near their property before doing any work on it, such as trimming.

- a. Always follow the 1/3 and ¼ rules of **pruning**. Make sure to not remove more than ¼ of the **tree's** crown and the side branches should be smaller than the diameter of the trunk by 1/3. It is ideal for most **tree** types to have only a single turn
- b. Reasons to Prune:
 - **Hazard Pruning** - for safety reasons is top priority such as the tree/limb having the potential to fail (break or fall), it existing in a location that may contribute to its failure, and if a person/property would be injured or damaged should the failure occur
 - **Crown Raising** - lower branches are removed to provide clearance for traffic, sight lines, and pedestrians.
 - **Crown Cleaning** - removal of dead, dying, diseased or broken branches.

- **Crown Thinning** - removal of obstructing, weak or crossing branches to improve light penetration, air circulation, and the structural integrity of the tree
- c. Town-maintained trees should only be pruned by the Town. Where a non-Town-maintained tree or hedge is overhanging a sidewalk, or a multi-use pathway, the property owner is responsible for providing a vertical clearance of 2.5 metres for pedestrians and other users.
 - d. Trees need to be trimmed in lanes to provide a vertical clearance of 4.5 metres to allow access for service vehicles.

Removal: We remove trees when they are a safety hazard or dying. We prioritize removal schedules by severity of the issue. It can take our staff months to complete the large number of requests we get.

- a. Removal of a public tree include:
 - The tree is dead, diseased, or damaged beyond repair.
 - There is evidence the tree has caused major damage to or is interfering with underground utilities or hard surfaces and all other remediation options have been considered.
 - The tree poses an immediate hazard to the public or property.
 - The tree is too large to be transplanted to accommodate municipal infrastructure improvements.
- b. Trees will NOT be removed for the following reasons:
 - Poplar fluff, excess shade in a yard, quantity of seeds or leaves falling onto public or private property.
 - Aesthetic reasons or to improve a view.
 - Honeydew from aphids falling on sidewalks or vehicles.
 - To facilitate use of a boulevard for a construction laydown area
 - To improve sign visibility for businesses
 - Its roots encroach on a private lawn.
 - A homeowner doesn't agree with the placement of the tree.
 - Protection: The Town of Castor shall protect trees on both public and private lands pursuant to applicable by-laws and policies, recognizing their importance to the ecology, aesthetics, culture, and heritage of the Town.
 - Removal of Obstruction: The Town of Castor has the authority to remove any and all obstruction which are located on Town Boulevards which are creating an encumbrance to the general maintenance; repair and operation of the roadway; and safety for the use of the roadways and the sidewalks.

This policy approved on June 14 of 2021

Mayor

Christopher Robbles

Chief Administrative Officer



Town of Castor – Application for Pruning, Trimming or Removal of Trees on Town Controlled Land

Requested by: _____ Date: _____

Applicant’s Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

- The proposed tree work involves Thinning Pruning Removal Other
- If pruning or thinning, will cuts be kept to less than 4” diameter? YES NO
- Valid reason for the proposed work to trees on Town-owned property _____

The Following Information Must Accompany This Application

- A photograph identifying exactly where trees are to be thinned, pruned or removed (attach on reverse of this form)
- A map indicating location of trees, the location where the photograph was taken and distance in metres from applicant’s property (attach on reverse of this form)

Bond

Before final approval is given to carry out the proposed work, a bond may be required in order to cover the cost of clean up or any other possible deficiencies. The amount of the bond will be determined by the Town based on the work being proposed.

Policy & Procedures

Please see “Pruning/Trimming/Removal of Trees on Town-controlled Land” (Policy attached).

By signing below, the owner/occupant declares that they have read and understood the above policies and procedures. This form is an application only and is subject to refusal by the Town.

Expiry Date

Application is valid for **60 days** from the date of approval.

Applicant’s Signature

For Office Use Only - Town of Castor Approval

Director of Public Works APPROVED
 DENIED

CAO

Attending Arborist

Applicant

Attach Map Here
Mark affected trees with an 'X'

Applicant

Attach Photograph Here
Indicate exactly the line of proposed cut (loss of vegetation)