

# Tree Management

## *2022 Tree Management-related activities*

1. Tree pruning programs/strategies
2. Tree inventory overview
  - Adding different trees and shrubs to West Stettler Park
  - Adding different species of trees in street tree locations
3. Pest management program and strategy
4. Tree parks
6. Annual Christmas tree (see Environmental Action)
7. Streetscaping (see Community Appearance)
8. Bylaws regarding trees (see Community Appearance)

## Attachments:

- Trees and shrubs recommended for Stettler

# Tree Management

## 1. Tree pruning programs and strategies

Town staff have taken training in proper pruning techniques and safety. Pruning techniques for Dutch Elm Disease Prevention are practiced, and DED is monitored for, as a part of the provincial DED monitoring program.

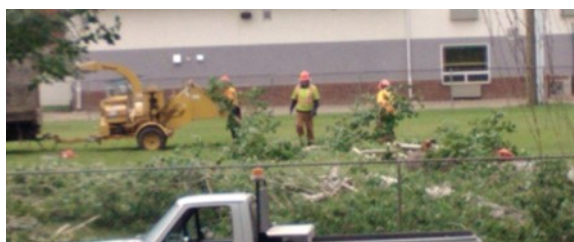
In recent years, the amount of street tree pruning has increased significantly, with at least 2 months of pruning performed in the fall or late winter. Pruning is focused on removing deadwood and raising the heads of street trees. Neighborhoods are targeted annually.

Town residents are encouraged to report trees with broken limbs or branches, or other issues (disease, in-



sects, etc.). Residents can phone Parks and Leisure Services or the Town of Stettler Office to report specific locations. Reports are responded to promptly.

Invasive or less suitable trees (e.g., cottonwoods) are gradually being replaced with better species. Fuzz producing poplars and poplars causing damage are removed. Approximately 15- 20 Poplars are being removed yearly on the boulevards. They are being replaced with Green Ash or other, more suitable species. Trees prone to Black Knot are also being replaced, either by businesses or town, depending on location.



*Town staff removing immense poplar*



## 2. Tree inventory / Species overview

Soil quality and climatic restrictions are limiting factors in the number and types of trees that are part of Stettler's urban forest. Stettler has a number of tree lined streets consisting of large American elms and green ash. Other species are used elsewhere, if possible and suitable. Some of the new trees that were planted in the renovated streetscape on Main Street are different species than typically planted, however options are restricted/limited. Alternative tree species are being used around town, including Little Leaf Linden, Ohio Buckeye and different maples.



*Treed neighborhood of Stettler*



*Tree-lined streets of Stettler*

*Elm & Green Ash*

Tree inventories have been considered but are currently not in place, other than an inventory of the elm street trees, as a part of the DED management plan. Future efforts to create a comprehensive tree inventory will be evaluated when resources permit.

In some areas (e.g., West Stettler Park), planted trees are typically not successful, therefore, naturalized seedling growth (natural groves) is encouraged. Only hardy trees and woody plant material are planted. As the groves develop, the undergrowth is cleaned up to create a tidy area. Currently, there is a high priority plan to add more trees to West Stettler Park, using proven techniques.



*Combination planted and "naturalized" grove*

Limiting soil quality issues have been overcome with some success through the use of raised berms for planting. Trees are planted at the top of constructed berms to allow trees some buffer between poorer quality layers of soils. Tree beds rather than rows are being developed throughout town.



*Berm planting system*



*Street replacement– narrowed street with widened green footprint*



Street replacement– 50 A Avenue  
Narrowed street with widened green footprint



Trees planted along highway and walking paths

Street replacement / improvement projects include narrowing streets to widen the green belt/footprint under existing trees, rather than removing large, beautiful specimen trees.

Walking pathways are hard landscape features that crisscross the entire town. Trees have been planted to add variety to some pathways that run adjacent to the highway.

50 tree markers were purchased in 2013 by the Heartland Beautification Committee to allow labeling of trees in various parks, starting with Memorial Park. Unfortunately, they no longer remain.

A series of recommended tree and (large) shrub information posters (and short videos) were developed by members of the HBC, under the *Stettler Trees* brand. This list outlines species that are suitable for Stettler, (see attached) including information on size, use, interesting characteristics, as well as negative characteristics.

### 3. Pest Management Programs / Strategy

Stettler is a participant in the **Dutch Elm Disease monitoring / prevention program** run by the Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED). Town staff installs and collects the beetle traps for STOPDED

Public trees are regularly pruned for removal of diseased material, particularly Black Knot of *Prunus*.



**Critters to Crud**  
*Insects Pests & Diseases in your Yard & Garden*

**BRING SAMPLES!!!**

Saturday, Aug 8  
1:30 - 3:30PM

Stettler Public Library

**Trees:**  
*From Bark to Branches (& Leaves)*  
Tree ID / Tree Walk

WED, Sept 16  
7:00 - 8:00PM

Memorial Park  
/ Centaph

**OHIO BUCKEYE (*Aesculus glabra*)**

**BARK** = Grey, patterned  
**ROOTS** = Tap  
**FLOWERS** = White or pale yellow; late June  
**LEAVES** = Large, palmately-shaped  
Up to 7 leaflets (3-6in. long)  
Long, pointed tips & wedge-shaped bases

**FRUIT** = not edible

#### 4. Tree Parks

**Memorial Tree Park** – the focus of this park is trees that were purchased in the memory of a loved one (also see heritage conservation)

**Rotary Millennium Tree Park** – Rotary Millennium Park was planted in 2000 by students of the Stettler Elementary School as well as members of the community. The park was established using donated funds, with thousands of small seedling trees and shrubs planted in a large mulched block. Large boulders were placed to add a vertical presence. The trees and shrubs have grown quickly, forming a forested park. Pathways were cut out to wind through the park. Minimal maintenance is required. Visitors can walk in the shade, sample fruit from some of the trees and enjoy the diversity of species. Mulch pathways are replenished regularly. Gradually, Parks staff members have been cleaning up dead trees, which opens up the space.



*Rotary Millennium Tree Park*



*Pathways in Millennium Tree Park*

A community orchard component was included in a third Community Garden site funding application to the TD FEF grant. A portion was approved (the tree/shrub part), and the money was used to plant over 200 fruiting shrubs at each of 2 community gardens (that did not have fruit), resulting in **over 4000 sq ft of mulched orchard space** added. They are growing nicely and are producing fruit for the public.



*Mulched haskap, raspberry, black currant, sour cherry orchard at  
Community Gardens #1*

**Memorial Park** – This park (with cenotaph) is recognized as one of the Wonders of Stettler (informal community vote), with some distinctive feature specimen trees, including some huge mugo pines, a massive May Day tree and a range of other species. Pathways wander through the hedged park. This park is often used for photographs.





*Pathway at Memorial Park*

**Pioneer Park** – the majority of trees were donated from a local farmstead years ago, with the site being developed over time, to include a perennial-filled monument bed. Shale pathways crisscross the park. A large old-fashioned threshing machine sits on the north east corner of the park. (also see Heritage Conservation)



**West Stettler Park** – due to the challenging soils, this park has natural seedling groves that develop in a naturalized planting/growth strategy. A large number of trees were donated, planted and mulched by Brennan Auto-body, on the Northwest corner of WSP, in 2017.



In 2022, during strategic planning, parks and green spaces was one of the top 5 priorities. A committee has been developed to prioritize and brainstorm to improve and unify these areas