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Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Trees & Ravines

Toronto, the largest city in Canada has an urban forest with an estimated 10.2 million trees covering approximately 18,000 hectares. Forty percent of this valuable resource is situated on public property, including an estimated 3.5 million trees within our parkland system and approximately 600,000 trees on our streets. Learn about Toronto's urban forest

Announcements

New Application Form and Fee to Injure or Destroy City and Private Trees

Urban Forestry, Tree Protection and Plan Review (TPPR) has a new application form that can be used for both City and private trees. In addition, application fees to injure or destroy City and private trees have increased. The use of the new application form and new fees will be effective on Friday July 4th, 2014.

Urban Forestry Ice Storm Information

Urban Forestry Ice Storm Information

The December 2013 ice storm impacted trees across the city indiscriminate of age, species, size, condition or location. Recognizing the necessity to address hazardous situations promptly, Urban Forestry temporarily relaxed the process for dealing with hazardous trees on private property. This period has now ended.

For more general information, visit the Frequently Asked Questions page.

What To Do With Leftover Ice Storm Wood Debris

Toronto Tree Information

City-owned Trees

A major responsibility of Urban Forestry Services is the maintenance of City owned trees, particularly trees that grow on the City road allowance and in parks.

Privately-owned Trees

Private trees are an important part of the urban forest nurtured and are protected by Urban Forestry. Trees on private property can be protected and regulated under the provisions of municipal by-laws.

Tree Planting

Urban Forestry Services plants trees on City-owned street allowances fronting residential properties for free. Periodically, Urban Forestry Services will canvass neighbourhoods for tree planting opportunities.

Why Hire an Arborist?

An arborist is a professional with knowledge of tree biology and physiology, and experience in arboriculture - the cultivation, management and study of individual trees. Learn when and how to hire one.

Trees Need Water

Trees need water to survive. Water is used by trees to carry nutrients obtained from the soil throughout the tree. During periods of hot, dry weather there is often less moisture available in the soil.

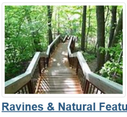
Trees FAQs

Why do tree leaves change colour in the fall? Leaves change colour due to biochemical processes within them that are triggered by diminishing amounts of daylight, longer nights, and weather factors. Your questions are answered at Trees FAQ.

Ravines and Natural Features

What are Toronto's Ravines and Natural Areas

Toronto has many natural areas including ravines and woodlands on both private and public land. Urban Forestry enforces protection by-laws and limits development proposals in and adjacent to ravine and natural feature areas.



Ravines & Natural Features Info

- Ravines & Natural Features Info
- Tree Protection Zones & Specifications
- Invasive Species (PDF)
- Forestry Facts & Plant Lists (PDF)

Forest Health Care

Promoting the Health of the Urban Forest

To promote the health of the urban forest, Urban Forestry Services' takes a holistic approach to tree care that focuses on improving the health of trees in an urban environment.

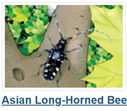
Invasive Pests

Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive insect pest that attacks and kills all species of ash trees. In 2007, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency confirmed presence of EAB in Toronto. Urban Forestry implemented a management plan to mitigate the impact of this introduced pest on our urban forest.

European Gypsy Moth

European Gypsy Moth is a serious threat to Toronto's urban forest. At outbreak levels, this invasive insect can cause severe defoliation of trees. Parts of the City of Toronto experienced outbreaks in 2007, 2008, and 2013. An Integrated Pest Management control program was implemented in these years to prevent significant canopy loss in the affected areas.



Asian Long-Horned Beetle

The Asian Long-Horned Beetle (ALHB) which has devastated the tree canopies in parts of New York City and Chicago since the late 1990's was discovered September 2003 in parts of the City of Toronto and the City of Vaughan.

Dutch Elm Disease

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) is caused by a fungus that attacks the water conducting vessels of the sapwood of elms. DED was introduced to Canada from Europe in 1944. The disease was first detected in Ontario in 1950. Since then it has spread over the entire range of native elms in North America. All American and European elm species are susceptible to DED.

Urban Forestry Operations

About Urban Forestry Operations

Toronto, the largest city in Canada, has an urban forest with an estimated 10.2 million trees covering approximately 18,000 hectares.Forty percent of this valuable resource is maintained by the City.

Contact Us

Urban Forestry

Phone within Toronto city limits: 311
Phone outside city limits: 416-392-CITY
Email: 311@toronto.ca

Documents & Resources

By-laws & Policies

- City Street Tree By-law (PDF)
- Private Tree By-law (PDF)
- Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law (PDF)
- All By-laws & Policies

Forms

- Application to Injure or Destroy Trees (PDF)
- All Forms

Tree Details & Drawings

- Decorative Tree Lighting Details (PDF)
- Tree Planting Solutions in Hard Boulevard Surfaces 'Best Practices Manual' (PDF)
- All Tree Details & Drawings

Reports

- Toronto's Strategic Forest Management Plan (PDF)
- Every Tree Counts: A Portrait of Toronto's Urban Forest (PDF)
- Natural Environment Trail Strategy (PDF)
- Assessing Urban Forest Effects and Values: Toronto's Urban Forest (PDF)
- All Reports

Related Links

- Tree Permits
- High Park
- Trails
- Gardens & Urban Agriculture
- Commemorative Tree & Bench Program
- Trees Across Toronto
- Volunteer Now

Other Forestry Links

- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
- Environment Canada: Invasive Alien Species in Canada
- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
- American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA)
- University of Toronto, Faculty of Forestry
- Canadian Forest Service Great Lakes Forest Centre
- Canadian Forestry Association
- Ontario Forestry Association (OFA)
- Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA)
- Ontario Urban Forest Council
- Tree Canada Foundation
- Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forest (LEAF)
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) Tree Atlas