

	<b>MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND</b>	<b>POLICY NO. 2024-87</b>
	<b>ADOPTED BY: Resolution No. 353/24</b>	<b>Last Updated: September 2016</b>
	<b>DATE: July 10th, 2024</b>	<b>Page: 1 of 6</b>
	<b>TITLE: Urban Tree Policy</b>	<b>Department: Public Works</b>

**PURPOSE:** Establishing an Urban Tree Policy ensures fairness in an equitable manner in the LUDs of Plum Coulee, Rosenfeld and Gretna while also enhancing overall accountability and transparency.

**RATIONALE:** In order to facilitate a reasonable and cost-effective program structure, the following operating principles have been adopted as the foundation for this policy:

- a) The Municipality maintains the exclusive right and responsibility for planting, removing, pruning, and protecting any and all boulevard trees and/or shrubs situated on the Municipality’s property. The only exception to this principle will be in those instances where a developer will be required to follow the guidelines contained within this policy.
- b) The Municipality will strive to ensure that at least one boulevard tree is present for each residential frontage.
- c) All planting of trees in new developments may be subject to the terms of the applicable development plan in addition to this policy.
- d) The Municipality is committed to maintaining the philosophy that two trees will be planted for each tree that is removed on municipal property.
- e) All aspects of this tree control program will be carried out subject to approval within the annual operating budget.

**DEFINITIONS:**

For the purpose of this policy, “Municipal Property” is defined as all civic lots, boulevards, and right-of-way that are owned by the Municipality located in the LUDs of Plum Coulee, Rosenfeld and Gretna.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES:**

### **1. Planting**

- a. The width of the existing/planned boulevard, the relation to overhead utilities, and the soil conditions will govern the species of tree that will be selected for planting on all LUD property. The list of tree species that are considered appropriate for planting within the LUDs are attached as Appendix "A". All planting of trees/shrubs on municipal property must be approved by the Municipality.
- b. Boulevard trees on any given block will be planted in a straight line parallel to the street curb.
- c. Specifications governing the placement of boulevard trees will follow the provisions of Appendix "B", which is attached to this policy.
- d. In those instances, where a developer is doing the tree planting in a new subdivision, the provisions of this policy will apply.
- e. If the Municipality is required to plant under the terms of a specific development agreement, the Municipality will not plant until the lot is improved, all underground structures and services have been installed, and the boulevard is graded. It is also expressly noted that planting will not occur when the ground is in frozen condition, during periods of extreme heat or when the ground is overly saturated with moisture. In these instances, planting will occur as soon as possible after these conditions have been rectified.

### **2. Maintenance**

- a. The Municipality is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of all trees/shrubs that are located on Municipal property. In order to avoid contact with vehicular/pedestrian traffic and municipal equipment uses, all branches on boulevard trees below the height of 2.3 meters will be removed. The only exception to this will be on designated truck routes, where the boulevard tree will be removed below the height of 4.2 meters.
- b. Maintenance of private trees/shrubs causing obstructions on Municipal property
- c. The owner or occupant of a property with private trees or shrubs abutting on the right-of-way of any street, alley, sidewalk or other public place is responsible for trimming, removing, or pruning back branches or other growth which may project or exist beyond the property line.

- d. The Municipality will have the authority to trim and/or remove obstructions caused by the growth of trees/shrubs that are located on private property which abuts Municipal property. The Municipality will attempt to notify property owners prior to commencing works. These obstructions shall include impediment to street lighting, vehicular/pedestrian traffic, signage, and intersection sight lines. This authority will also apply to those private trees/shrubs whose roots may damage sidewalks, public streets, and any infrastructure related to the provision of public utilities. In those instances, where the Municipality has undertaken to complete this work, the cost for this work may be the responsibility of the property owner.

### **3. Protection**

- a. Tree safety can become an issue because of physical damages, rot, and disease. The Municipality is responsible for ensuring, in as much as is reasonably practical, the safety of all trees/and shrubs located on Municipal property.
- b. The Municipality reserves the right to enter private property and inspect the condition of trees which may present a safety concern for the general public or public property.

### **4. Removal**

- a. The Municipality reserves the right to remove any tree/shrub that is located on Municipal property.
- b. Trees/shrubs will only be removed due to one of the following:

The tree is deemed to be dangerous to public safety or property due to its:

- a. Location
- b. Physical condition – e.g. Broken limbs
- c. Health – e.g. Severe rot or pest infestations
- c. The planting of the tree/shrub has been carried out without the approval of the Municipality. **If the identity of the person who planted this tree/shrub can be established, the Municipality reserves the right to undertake the recovery of tree/shrub removal costs through whatever means are available.**
- d. Other circumstances will be evaluated on their own merits.

### **5. Revision**

Council may, in consultation with the Policy Committee and by resolution, amend this policy.

APPENDIX “A”

**LARGE SIZE TREES**

**Species**

Acer Saccharinum  
Fraxinus Pennsylvanica  
Fraxinus Nigra  
Fraxinus Mandshurica  
Tilia Americana  
Acer Negundo  
Americana Savanna  
Acer saccharinum  
Freemanjii Maple  
Acer X Freemanjii Jeffersred  
Acer Ginnala

**Common Name**

Silver Maple  
Green Ash (Patmore)  
Black Ash (Fall Gold)  
Mancana Ash  
American Linden (Basswood)  
Manitoba Maple (Box Elder)  
Burr Oak  
Silver Cloud Maple  
Sienna Glen Maple  
Autumn Blaze Maple  
Amur Maple

**MEDIUM SIZE TREES**

**Species**

Celtis Occidentalis  
Ulmus Davidiana  
Tilia Flavescens  
Ulmus Americana Brandon  
Acer platanoides  
Syringa reticulate

**Common Name**

Delta Hackeberry  
Discovery Elm  
Dropmore Linden  
Brandon Elm  
Columnar Norway Maple  
Ivory Silk Tree Lilac

**SMALL SIZE TREES**

**Species**

Syringa Reticulata  
Malus X  
Acer Tataricum

**Common Name**

Japenese Lilac  
Spring Snow Crab  
Tatarian Maple

## APPENDIX “B”

Minimum linear distances between plantings of boulevard trees/shrubs:

- Large size trees: 13-16 m Apart
- Medium size trees: 10-13 m Apart
- Small size trees: 7-10 m Apart

Minimum linear distances from planting of trees/shrubs to selected above ground structures:

- Frontage Curb: 4.5 meters
- Fire Hydrants: 3 meters
- Hydro Poles: 3 meters
- Manholes: 3 meters
- Street Intersections: 10 meters from edge of intersecting curb
- Alley/driveways/walkways: 4.5 meters from edge of curb an access point

**\*\* (Other species and cultivars may be acceptable- dependent on availability and cost) \*\*\***

Trees/shrubs that are planted adjacent to street intersections and alley/driveways/walkway access points are prohibited in the sightline triangles noted in "Exhibit 1" below.

**EXHIBIT 1**

