

Rise and Report (Items Released from Closed Meeting)

On February 23, 2018, the *Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands Policy* was authorized by the Metro Vancouver Regional District, Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation, Greater Vancouver Water District and Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Boards of Directors to be released.

TREE MANAGEMENT ON METRO VANCOUVER LANDS

Effective Date: February 23, 2018

Approved By: MVRD/GVS&DD/GVWD/MVHC Board

PURPOSE

To provide direction on the inspection and management of trees wholly or in part on Metro Vancouver lands.

DEFINITIONS

“**Hazard Tree**” means a tree, identified in writing by a Qualified Tree Assessor, to be in such a condition that there is a substantial likelihood that all or part of the tree will fail, resulting in the risk of personal injury or property damage.

“**Metro Vancouver Lands**” means fee-simple and leasehold properties of the MVRD, GVS&DD, GVWD, and MVHC (‘Metro Vancouver’), but does not include lands covered by Statutory Rights of Way, Licence Agreements, and Permits.

“**Qualified Tree Assessor**” refers to a Metro Vancouver staff person or external party who is qualified and certified under a WorkSafeBC approved program to conduct a tree risk assessment and make recommendations for abatement of risks where a tree is assessed as a Hazard Tree.

“**Tree**” means a woody perennial plant usually having a single trunk or stem which has a diameter of at least 10 centimetres when measured from a height of 1.4 metres above the natural grade of the land and with an overall height of at least 4.5 metres.

“**Tree Risk Rating**” refers to the likelihood of a tree failure striking a target (e.g. person, vehicle, buildings, etc.) combined with the severity of potential consequences.

POLICY

Metro Vancouver has extensive landholdings in dense urban settings with frequent interface between inhabitants and assets and Metro Vancouver trees; in forested areas such as regional parks and conservation areas where the public is invited to recreate; and, in wilderness areas in which there are rare interfaces between the public or staff and assets and Metro Vancouver trees.

This Policy will guide the inspection and management of trees wholly or in part on Metro Vancouver lands by ensuring that processes are aligned and standardized for risk assessment across all Metro Vancouver departments.

1. Inspection and Management of Metro Vancouver Trees:

- (a) Trees located in:

- i. forested areas of regional parks, and forested areas of conservation areas, where the public are invited to recreate; and,
- ii. wilderness or other areas which are closed to the public,

will only be inspected and managed upon receipt of a notice, whether from Metro Vancouver staff or the public, setting out a concern regarding perceived dangers posed by the tree and the location of the tree.

(b) Where Metro Vancouver Lands in urban settings contain trees for which a failure could result in:

- personal injury;
- damage to assets; and/or,
- interruption in the provision of Metro Vancouver utility services to the public,

Metro Vancouver will maintain an inventory of the trees setting out the Tree Risk Rating of the trees and an inspection schedule commensurate with the Tree Risk Rating.

(c) Where Metro Vancouver Lands in urban settings contain trees which have not yet been inspected for inclusion in an inventory of the trees, Metro Vancouver will inspect and manage trees upon receipt of a notice, whether from Metro Vancouver staff or the public, setting out a concern regarding perceived dangers posed by the tree and the location of the tree.

2. Hazard Tree Abatement Actions

Where a tree has been assessed as a Hazard Tree, abatement actions will be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations of a Qualified Tree Assessors in order achieve the following broad objectives:

1. To reduce/address risk to staff and the public;
2. To protect Metro Vancouver infrastructure and other assets; and,
3. To enhance and maintain healthy urban, rural and wilderness forested ecosystems.