



KEY MESSAGES

TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Planting Forestry

- The Tree Replacement program is a City of Edmonton initiative that works to replace City trees that have died.
- For the past several years, the City has lost approximately 3,000 boulevard and open space trees annually. Trees succumb to pests and disease, construction damage, drought, vehicle collisions, storm damage, age, and other external circumstances.
- In order to maintain the size of Edmonton's urban forest, the City replants approximately 3,000 boulevard and open space trees annually.
 - Each year, replacement plantings are focused in Business Improvement Areas and one half of the City.
 - Even number years: The **west** side of the City is the primary focus.
 - Odd number years: The **east** side of the City is the primary focus.
 - Neighbourhoods with the highest proportion of trees requiring replacement in comparison to the total number of trees for the neighbourhood are prioritised.
- City of Edmonton trees that have died are assessed by the Urban Forestry Inventory & Assessment team and are then marked for removal. Every year, trees in one half of the city are assessed by this team. These trees are then scheduled for replacement, generally within two years through the Tree Replacement program.
- As part of the Tree Replacement program, there are two internal teams that complete replanting. One team is dedicated to the north side of the city, while the other team is dedicated to the south side.

Backlog Replacement Planting

- In the late 1990's and early 2000's, a drought contributed to significant loss of total canopy. Roughly 20,000 trees were lost and that loss has yet to be completely replaced.
- Through the Greener As We Grow capital profile, Urban Forestry will coordinate the planting of an additional 3,000 trees per year over the next 8 years to help catch up on the backlog of trees to be replaced.
 - The Greener As We Grow capital profile benefited from funding through the Government of Canada's 2 Billion Trees (2BT) Program.

- Backlog plantings will be focused in one of the quadrants where regular replacement plantings are not occurring that year.
 - 2023: SW quadrant
 - 2024: NE quadrant
- Neighbourhoods with the highest portion of sites requiring backlog replacement in comparison to the total number of trees for the neighbourhood, are prioritised.
- Backlog replacement plantings are completed by City of Edmonton tendered contractors under the coordination of Urban Forestry.

FAQ

What factors determine the type and location of the tree planted?

- Many factors are considered when choosing the right tree to plant:
 - Cold hardiness and tolerances to salt, pollution, and urban environments.
 - Size and form.
 - Native species may not always present the best form and structure for planting along streets and boulevards.
 - Species diversity.
 - By planting a multitude of tree species, our urban forest becomes more resilient as some tree species are not susceptible to pests and diseases of concern or they may have a higher tolerance for stressors such as droughts.

Can a citizen request for a specific tree species to be planted?

- Tree species are selected carefully by the city of Edmonton Tree Replacement team. There are many factors involved in selecting a specific species for a site, such as zone hardiness, existing area infrastructure, mature canopy spread and overall site conditions.

How many site visits will there be for the tree replacement?

- As part of the Tree Replacement program, a City tree near your residence is scheduled to be replaced this year. City crews and contractors will be conducting several site visits in order to prepare for the replacement, which may include:
 - marking the area to identify underground utilities
 - removal of the existing tree
 - tree stump removal
 - hydrovacating to expose any utility lines, which may be done both prior to stump grinding and prior to tree planting
 - tree replacement
 - contract watering for up to three years following tree replacement

- other related activities

How can I confirm if a tree near my home is a City-owned tree?

- Please refer to the [Tree Ownership](#) key messages.

When will the tree close to my property be replaced?

- Once a tree has been marked for removal, it is a goal of the Tree Replacement program to replace the tree within the next two years.
- In 2024, the west side of the City will be the primary focus of Tree Replacement. Please reference the dashboard for a summary of the neighbourhoods that are currently scheduled for tree replacement.
- Please note that changes to scheduling may occur throughout the year, due to weather, utilities, and other conflicts. Moreover, it may be determined that a site is no longer suitable for planting based on factors such as proximity to underground utilities or other trees.

Why have I waited so long for a tree to be replaced?

- Urban Forestry's current service level for the Tree Replacement program is approximately 3,000 trees per year. However, due to drought from the past several years, more trees have been removed than replaced. The City is currently working to close this gap through the Backlog Replacement Planting program, which aims to replace an additional 3,000 trees per year over the next several years.
- Every season, neighbourhoods are assessed for the most efficient planting routes and some vacant tree locations may not be replaced until it is deemed operationally beneficial.
- Some sites may no longer be suitable for planting based on factors such as proximity to underground utilities or other trees.

Why are you replanting a tree here?

- The City's Tree Replacement program is a mandatory program, as directed by City Council.
- Trees succumb to pests and disease, construction damage, drought, vehicle collisions, storm damage, age, and other external circumstances. By replacing lost trees, we are helping to ensure that the size of Edmonton's urban forestry canopy is maintained.

Can I request for the tree stakes to be removed?

- Stakes are installed next to a newly planted tree to help the tree to establish and develop a strong central trunk. These stakes are typically removed 3 years after planting.
- If tree stakes have been in place longer than 3 years or if the guy wiring appears to be girdling the tree, please contact 311.

What are the available options to have a new tree planted in a new location?

- Please reference the [Citizen-Driven Planting Programs](#) key messages.