



COUNCIL POLICY

Subject: Nuisance Trees

Policy No:	06-304
Previous Policy No:	06-102
Approved by Council:	2008.04.14
Revised by Council	2016-02-15
Revised by Council:	2016-05-30

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To provide direction for Township staff in responding to requests to remove trees from municipal road allowances that have been identified by an adjacent property owner as a nuisance tree.

2. Background

- 2.1. Requests have been made to remove trees from road allowances where the adjacent property owner believes that the tree is creating unreasonable hardship. Council desires to manage the Urban Forest utilizing sustainable principles that reduce ongoing costs while maximizing the environmental benefits of trees for future generations. An annual budget is required to fund the removal and replacement of identified nuisance street trees on an ongoing basis.

3. Related Policy

- 3.1. Street Trees and Boulevard Plantings Policy No: 06-302

4. Policy

- 4.1. Nuisance is categorized by: insect infestations, diseases and infrastructure conflicts or damage that cannot be mitigated through Township's regular maintenance or treatment programs, or where long term mitigation is no longer cost effective.
- 4.2. Street Trees will not be considered for removal that fall outside of the nuisance categories in 4.1. Non-nuisance categories include: leaves, branches, size of the tree, dislike of the tree, shade, specimen trees, fruit, nuts, seeds, flowers and views.

5. Policy

- 5.1. Requests for removals will be considered when all reasonable attempts have been made to mitigate nuisance issues.

- 5.2. As the budget allows, staff will assess and prioritize requests for nuisance street tree removals. Staff will then schedule the removal and replace it with a more suitable species. Once the budget is spent, all other requests will be placed on a waiting list.
- 5.3. Property owners wishing to have a nuisance street tree removed, either after the annual budget has been spent or outside of the waiting list, will have the option to pay for 100% of the cost of the removal and replacement of the identified tree.
- 5.4. Where a nuisance street tree straddles a property boundary, both property owners must consent to its removal in written documentation.

No tree is maintenance or problem free. All trees identified as possibly having the potential to fall or fail and cause property damage and/or personal injury will be assessed by a Certified Tree Risk Assessor to identify visible hazards and prescribe appropriate action to abate any identified tree hazard.