



POLICY TITLE: DANGEROUS TREE REMOVAL

POLICY NUMBER: OPERATIONS / ENG. - 612

<i>Date of Council Adoption:</i> June 15, 2015	<i>Date of Last Amendment:</i>
<i>Council Resolution Number:</i> 2015-214	
<i>Originating Department:</i> Engineering and Municipal Operations	<i>Date last reviewed by the Governance and Legislation Committee:</i> May 25, 2015

Policy:

The City of White Rock is committed to the preservation of trees whenever possible, however it is recognized that due to budgetary and resource constraints daily or monthly inspection of trees is not possible. The City will rely upon reports of observed hazardous or dangerous trees by members of the Public and or City Staff and specifically **shall not** introduce a policy of systematic and regular inspections. There may be circumstances when trees have to be removed. Under those circumstances the following procedures will be observed:

Trees on Municipal Road Allowances or Properties

- **Dangerous or Diseased Trees**

When a dangerous or diseased tree has been reported, the arborist or designate will assess whether the nature of the danger is imminent. If in the opinion of the arborist or other expert opinion that an imminent danger exists, the tree will be removed as soon as practicable by qualified crew members or contractors. If there is no imminent danger of injury or damage, the tree will be removed at the most convenient time as ordered by the arborist or designate.

- **Trees Obstructing Construction**

Before a tree may be removed, the aesthetic, heritage or particular species value will have to be determined. A tree may not be removed until the arborist or his designate authorizes the removal.

- **Trees on Private Property**

Trees on private property are the responsibility of the owner. In circumstances when a tree poses danger to others the owner of the property will be notified of the hazard with an order to remove the tree. In the event the owner fails to act within a reasonable time action will be taken to remove the tree in accordance with City bylaws and policies.

- **Bushes / hedges / shrubs on Private Property**

Bushes/hedges / shrubs on private property are the responsibility of the owner. There may be circumstances when a bush/hedge/shrub poses danger as a result of it interfering with visibility at intersections and driveway entrances, the illumination of City lands by street lighting or pose a risk for damage to infrastructure such as water, sanitary, storm, sidewalks, power lines etc. The owner of the property will be notified of the hazard with an order to remove the tree / hedge / bush or shrub. In the event the owner fails to act within a reasonable time action will be taken to remove the tree in accordance with City bylaws and policies.

Rationale:

The City of White Rock wishes to demonstrate that balanced against the nature and quality of the risk involved, the City of White Rock's system of Tree Removal / Inspections / Maintenance is reasonable in light of all circumstances including budgetary limits, available personnel and equipment and the criteria of wanting to meet the standard duty of care.