

# Urban Forestry



## *2015 Urban Forestry-related activities*

- Tree trimming and pruning activities continue throughout town, with neighbourhoods targeted annually
- Some different species of trees were used on Main Street and trees are being replaced
- Some of the streetscaping and road work includes making streets narrower and increasing their green footprint
- A community orchard was designed and it was attempted to source funds
  - Fruiting shrubs were planted at 2 of the 3 community gardens (the 1 already had one)
  - Created approximately 4000 square feet of mulched orchards
- Tree Walk Session and Critters 'n Crud Session organized by Stettler Blooms sub-committee

## 2014 Evaluation Form

<b>URBAN FORESTRY</b>		
<p>Urban Forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and citizens with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, tree inventory, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), heritage, memorial and commemorative trees.</p>		
	<b>Max</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Municipal</b>		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	7
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	10	7.5
Urban forestry planning and design, including integration with overall landscape plan	10	7
Measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots	15	12
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy species, recommended tree list	10	7.5
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	7
Public information program on good planting techniques and maintenance programs	10	6.5
Maintenance best practices and proven results	10	7
Qualified personnel and/or crew training	10	7
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
Design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees in landscapes and for planting on properties	15	12
Maintenance programs and best practices: watering, pruning, IPM	10	7.5
<b>Residential</b>		
Design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees in landscapes and for planting on residential properties	15	12.5
Maintenance best practices	10	7.5
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
Public participation in tree planting and conservation programs such a Green Streets Canada, Arbour Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.).	20	17
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation or promotion by the Municipality, Businesses and Institutions for community tree planting and conservation programs on public lands.	10	8
<b>Urban Forestry Total</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>133.00</b>

# 2014 Evaluation Form

## URBAN FORESTRY

### **Observations:**

The use of “Pine Bark Mulch” in some parks is a good way to reduce the pH. Stettler municipality set traps for the Dutch Elm Disease; the traps are analysed by the province. The best way to plant trees on alkaline soils is to plant on berms, this method seems to work. Every year there is a big budget allowed for tree plantings; try to keep this up, because trees are very important in this area.

### **Recommendations:**

At the cemetery there is a tree project, one must be careful that the trees are not planted too close to each other. Because of the alkaline soils, there should be a list of plants that will grow in this area, try to add new species to this list. Consider doing a tree inventory in digital format; the Canadian Forest Service publishes a model to help municipalities in developing a general inventory for street trees:

<http://gmaps.nrcan.gc.ca/uts/index.php?page=overview.php&lang=en>

Another tool for inventory is itree: <https://www.itreetools.org/streets/overview.php>

In the long run, it would be a tremendous tool to help in the planning and development of tree planting programs, the selection of species for planting and the maintenance of all public trees. An up-to-date inventory is always useful information to have in the event that a quarantine pest such as EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) or even Asian Longhorned Beetle is found.

To help protect the urban tree canopy consider a tree by-law for private lands, whereby any tree on private lands over a certain size ( usually about 5-8 cm) requires municipal approval for removal and usually only granted for safety or nearby building structural integrity reasons; furthermore any tree removed must be replaced by one or two new trees. Many municipalities have similar bylaws.

Try to make a list of heritage trees. Developers decide which/how many trees should be planted on a new property. It would be better if the municipality decided of the requirements.

Take advantage of students from schools in the area, they could do some tree care (e.g.: pruning).

Prunus virginiana ‘Shubert’ gives a lot of suckers, they should be removed. Poplars’ suckers can be left as they will continue growing when the main stem dies. Consider holding training workshops on detection and management of native and invasive pests and diseases. Consider to seek project funding from sources like “TD Canada Trust tree program”. To help prevent the spread of tree pests and diseases, encourage campgrounds to not allow firewood to cross municipal boundaries.

To help ensure longevity, the species of new tree plantings should be well diversified with an emphasis on native trees, considering the special pH conditions of the soils in your region. It would be safe to wait until more research is done about EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) before planting ash trees as many of them are dying right now. EAB’s dispersal rate is rapid in Québec and Ontario and since human dispersal is the most important dispersal factor, the other provinces cannot pretend they will always be free from it.

It would be a good idea to start detection for EAB; if this pest comes in Alberta (it has not been detected outside Québec and Ontario yet), the faster it is detected, the easier it will be to manage it. Refer to the email sent.

## Urban Forestry

### [HBC & TOS Video – Urban Forestry](#)

#### *Pruning programs / strategies*

The Parks and Leisure Services Director is a **trained arborist** and staff are trained each year in proper pruning techniques and safety. Pruning techniques for Dutch Elm Disease Prevention are practiced, and DED is monitored for, as a part of the provincial DED monitoring program.

In 2011 through 2013, the amount of **street tree pruning** was increased significantly, with at least 2 months of pruning performed in the fall or late winter. Pruning was focused on removing deadwood and raising the heads of street trees. Additional pruning is undertaken annually.

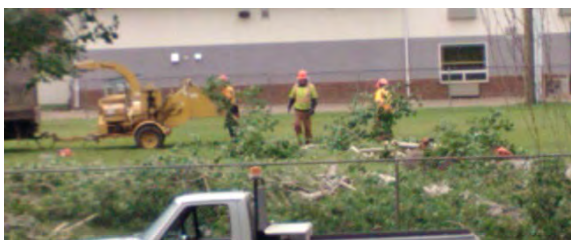


#### *Residential Tree Trimming, Removal or Stump Grinding*

Town residents are encouraged to **report trees with broken limbs or branches**, or other issues (disease, insects, etc.). Residents can phone Parks and Leisure Services or the Town of Stettler Office to report specific locations. Reports are responded to promptly. Reports can also be submitted via an on-line form. A tree form is the Public's communication document to tree problems and requests.

[Link to Tree Trimming, Removal or Stump Grinding Removal Request Form](#)

Invasive or less suitable trees (e.g. cottonwoods) are gradually being replaced with better species. Fuzz producing poplars and poplars causing damage are removed. Approximately 15-20 Poplars are being removed yearly on the boulevards. They are being replaced with Green Ash or other, more suitable species. Trees prone to Black Knot are also being replaced, either by businesses or town, depending on location.



Town staff removing immense poplar trees



**You said it – We DID it!**

*“Try to avoid monoculture and plant more diverse species, wherever conditions permit.”*

**Other species are being planted around town, including in the downtown**

*Tree inventory / Species overview*

Soil quality and climatic restrictions are limiting factors in the number and types of trees that are part of Stettler’s urban forest. Stettler has a number of tree lined streets consisting of **large elms and green ash**. Other species are used elsewhere, if possible and suitable. Some of the new trees that were planted in the renovated streetscape on Main Street are different species than typically planted, however options are restricted/limited.



**Treed neighborhood of Stettler**



**Tree-lined streets of Stettler – Elm & Green Ash**

**Tree inventories** have been considered but are currently not in place, other than an inventory of the elm street trees, as a part of the DED management plan. Future efforts to create a comprehensive tree inventory will be evaluated when resources permit.

In some areas (e.g. West Stettler Park), planted trees are typically not successful, therefore, **naturalized seedling growth (natural groves) is encouraged**. Only hardy trees and woody plant material are planted. As the groves develop, the undergrowth is cleaned up to create a tidy area.

**You said it – We DIDN’T do it!**

*“A tree inventory would be a helpful tool to determine the age, species and condition of your current tree canopy...”*

**This has not been done, to date, due to resources, etc., but will be considered for future**



**Combination planted & “naturalized” grove**

Limiting soil quality issues have been overcome with some success through the use of raised berms for planting. Trees are planted at the top of constructed berms to allow trees some buffer between poorer quality layers of soils. Tree beds rather than rows are being developed throughout town.





**Berm planting system**



**Trees planted along highway and walking paths**

Street replacement / improvement projects include **narrowing streets** to **widen the green belt/footprint** under existing trees, rather than removing large, beautiful specimen trees.

**Street replacement – 50A Avenue – narrowed street with widened green footprint**



**Street replacement – narrowed street with widened green footprint**

Walking pathways are hard landscape features that crisscross the entire town. Trees have been planted to add variety to some pathways that run adjacent to the highway.

### *Tree Information*

50 **tree markers** were purchased in 2013 by the Heartland Beautification Committee to allow labeling of trees in various parks, starting with Memorial Park. Tree common names and Latin names are included and stakes are being installed gradually throughout town.

A **tree and shrub recommendation document** is under development by members of the HBC. This list will outline species that are suitable for Stettler, including information on size, use, interesting characteristics, as well as negative

**You said it – We DID it!**

*“We would urge you to plaque and name your Heritage Trees”*

**HBC purchased 50 plaques on stakes that are labeled with common and Latin names of the various trees. Plaques are being mounted around town in various parks.**

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characteristics. It will also outline tree species that should be avoided or used with caution. It will be completed as soon as volunteers can do it.

### *Pest Management Programs / Strategy*

Stettler is a participant in the **Dutch Elm Disease monitoring / prevention program** run by the Society To Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED). Town staff installs and collects the beetle traps for STOPDED.

Public trees are regularly pruned for removal of diseased material, particularly Black Knot of *Prunus*. Town staff will send out information to homeowners that are have affected trees, regarding the importance of managing Black Knot and how to remove and dispose of diseased material.

Links to other relevant information on pests (government articles and factsheets) are provided on the Town of Stettler website



**Critters to Crud**  
*Insects Pests & Diseases in your Yard & Garden*

**BRING SAMPLES!!!**

**Saturday, Aug 8**  
**1:30 - 3:30PM**

**Stettler Public Library**

Stettler Blooms logo and other icons are present.



**Trees:**  
*From Bark to Branches (& Leaves)*  
**Tree ID / Tree Walk**

**WED, Sept 16**  
**7:00 - 8:00PM**

**Memorial Park / Cenotaph**

Stettler Blooms logo and other icons are present.

[Link to Tree Issue Information on Town of Stettler website](#)

#### **You said it – We DID it!**

*“Consider holding training workshops on detection and management of native and invasive pests and diseases.”*  
**A “Critters and Crud” workshop has been planned for a Saturday in early August – information will be provided to participants.**

#### **You said it – We DIDN'T do it!**

*“To help prevent spread of tree pests and diseases, encourage campgrounds to no allow firewood to cross municipal boundaries...”*  
**This has not been done, as the responsibility for exclusion of pests falls under provincial (and in some cases, federal) legislation (Alberta Pest Act)**

#### **You said it – We DIDN'T do it!**

*“Try to diversify with native trees... It would be a great idea to start detection for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)...”*  
**EAB detection will fall under Federal, then Provincial jurisdictions and direction.**

**Diversification with native tree species will be encouraged as much as is possible, given climatic and species choice limitation.**

#### **You said it – We DIDN'T do it!**

*“Consider having the municipality, rather than the developer, decide how many and what type of trees should be planted...”*  
**In general, the municipality prefers to give information and rough direction rather than dictate to developers.**  
**Current development requirements do require developers to have a certain amount of green space and vegetation per developed area.**

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## Tree Parks

**Memorial Tree Park** – the focus of this park are trees that were purchased in the memory of a loved one. Located adjacent to the Stettler Cemetery, it features a central mulched bed, a dedicated granite plaque and a cedar gazebo. Tree species are varied to add diversity (purchasers do not select a specific tree and trees are not marked specific to purchasers).



Memorial Tree Park



**Rotary Millennium Tree Park** – Rotary Millennium Park was planted in 2000 by students of the Stettler Elementary School as well as members of the community. The park was established using donated funds, with thousands of small seedling trees and shrubs planted in a large mulched block. Large boulders were placed to add a vertical presence. Over time, the trees and shrubs grew quickly, forming a forested park. Pathways were cut out to wind through the park. Minimal maintenance is required. Visitors can walk in the shade, sample fruit from some of the trees and enjoy the diversity of species. Mulch pathways are replenished regularly. Gradually, Parks staff members have been cleaning up dead trees, which opens up the space.



Rotary Millennium Tree Park



Pathways in Millennium Tree Park





Memorial Park

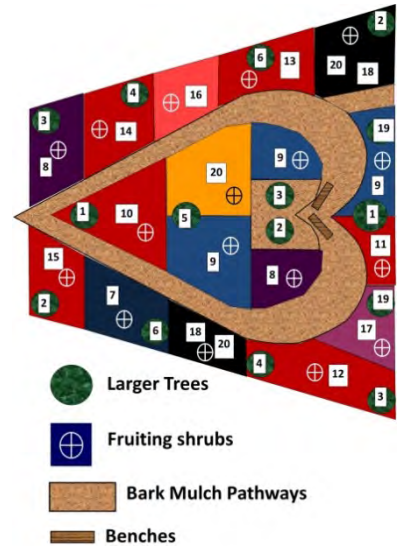
In 2013, the HBC (Community Gardens sub-committee) applied for a \$10,000 grant from CN EcoConnexions to build a 10,000 square foot expansion/addition to the Rotary Millennium Tree Park, in the form of a **Community Orchard**. It included components which would upgrade signage in the park and provide enhanced features. Rotary Club provided funding for hard landscape components. However, the funding was not approved. In 2013/2014, the committee

redesigned the project and sought funding from the Trees Canada Edible Trees grant, but was not successful. In the interim, the project has been approved to be built gradually, over time, by Parks staff, but additional funding will be sought to complete the project sooner. A community orchard component was included in a third Community Garden site funding application to the TD FEF grant. A portion was approved (the tree/shrub part), and the money was used to plant over 200 fruiting shrubs at each of 2 community gardens, resulting in **over 4000 sqft of mulched orchard space**.

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Proposed Community Orchard



**Memorial Park** – This park (with cenotaph) is recognized as one of the [Wonders of Stettler](#) (informal community vote), with some distinctive feature specimen trees, including some huge mugo pines, a massive May Day tree and a range of other species. Pathways wander through the hedged park. This park is often used for photographs and is maintained (in part - adopted) by a family cluster living nearby. In 2013, trees were labelled using **tree markers** inserted in the ground at their base.



Specimen Mugo pines in Memorial Park

Tree markers for parks around Stettler



Pathways in Memorial Park



Mulched raspberry orchard at CG#3



Mulched Haskap, raspberry, black currant, sour cherry orchard at CG#1

**West Stettler Park** – due to the challenging soils, this park has natural seedling groves that develop in a naturalized planting/growth strategy.



Mulched Bed in West Stettler Park

**Pioneer Park** – the majority of trees were donated from a local farmstead, with the site being developed over time, to include a **perennial-filled monument bed**. Shale pathways crisscross the park. A large **old-fashioned thrashing machine** sits on the north east corner of the park.



Pioneer Park

Trees in Pioneer Park