Introduction

Within municipalities across the province, the degree to which the urban forest is valued varies widely. The importance placed on this “green infrastructure” depends on many factors, including; financial resources, past practices, as well as horticultural interests of staff, elected officials, and residents. Responsibility for tree care varies as well. It may be the mandate of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Forestry, or Horticulture departments.

The purpose of this resource list is to assist Communities in Bloom committee members seeking to advocate for tree care within their municipality. Whether you are taking your message to the community at large, to municipal staff, or to elected officials, education is often the first step.

“Urban forestry is the sustained planning, planting, protection, maintenance, and care of trees, forests, greenspace and related resources in and around cities and communities for economic, environmental, social, and public health benefits for people. In addition, urban and community forestry includes the development of citizen involvement and support for investments in long-term on-going tree planting, protection, and care programs.”
- Canadian Urban Forest Network

Part of the Municipal Plan

Many municipalities have a plan for developing and maintaining their urban forest. A successful plan has several parts:

- Regular routine for all aspects of plant care, such as planting, pruning, monitoring for pests, replacement, planning for new plantings
- Sustainable budget in place to support the work for the lifetime of the trees,
- Means to involve the residents, and
- Resolve to implement the plan.

Following is a list of selected resources relating to municipal tree care.
Agencies

Landscape Alberta

www.landscape-alberta.com

Landscape Alberta (LA) serves members in many sectors of the Green Industry, including Landscape, Greenhouse, Nursery, Garden Centre, Turf, and Tree Care. LA’s conferences and workshops provide professional development opportunities. It represents industry concerns at municipal, provincial and federal government levels.

- **Green Industry Show & Conference**: Alberta’s premier event for the industries, held annually in mid-November.
- **Trees & Shrubs for the Prairies**: 54 page document of prairie-hardy plants: trees, shrubs, vines, roses, and evergreens. Clear, concise, up-to-date information. Includes hardiness zone map, 163 full-colour photos and detailed plant descriptions.
- Affiliation with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Prairie Region, Urban Foresters.

Canadian Nursery Landscape Association

www.canadanursery.com

The Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA) develops programs, initiatives, and alliances to support members of the nursery and landscape industries.

- The **On-the-Job Training (OJT)** system was designed to help employers in the landscape horticulture sector to train employees in a consistent and effective way.
- **On-site sessions** have been designed to provide the framework for short, basic training sessions to develop an informed, well-rounded employee. Includes a pruning module.

Alberta Agriculture And Rural Development

http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex22

- **Pruning in Alberta**: This 23 page book takes the mystery out of pruning. It shows how to control and maintain trees and shrubs without distorting their natural form and beauty. Agdex 270/24-1
International Society Of Arboriculture

www.isa-arbor.com and www.isaprairie.com

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) a non-profit organization supporting tree care research around the world and is dedicated to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees.

- ISA certified arborist program
- Courses/credits for maintaining accreditation, online learning, annual conference
- Member Prairie Chapter: newsletter, Alberta Tree Species Rating Guide
- Publications: professional and public outreach (including slide presentations)
- Find a Tree Care Service: helps consumers locate professional qualified tree care service providers in their communities

Understanding the Value of Trees within our Community

“More and more communities are beginning to recognize the tangible benefits that trees provide in the urban environment. Healthy trees reduce air and noise pollution, provide energy-saving shade and cooling, furnish habitat for wildlife, enhance aesthetics and property values, and are an important contributor to community image, pride, and quality of life. Furthermore, many communities have realized that in order to protect and enhance their valuable tree resources, it is useful to view and manage their trees as a cohesive unit, the community or urban forest.” - International Society of Arboriculture

Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED)

http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm4494

The Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED) is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to preserve and protect Alberta’s elm trees from Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Members include federal, provincial and municipal representatives, nurserymen, landscapers, commercial and municipal arborists, research scientists, and other interested Albertans.

- STOPDED Hotline: 1-877-837-ELMS (3567)
American Public Works Association
www.apwa.net
• International Public Works Congress, Toronto: August 17-20, 2014
• APWA Facilities & Grounds Committee
• Tree Protection & Preservation Best Management Practices for Public Works: manual

Public Awareness, Advocacy And Funding

Tree Canada Foundation
www.tcf-fca.ca/programs/urbanforestry/cufn/resources_bmp.html#_Toc126753312
The Tree Canada Foundation provides Canadians with education, technical expertise, and resources to plant and care for urban and rural trees.
• Compendium of Best Management Practices for Canadian Urban Forests: a web-based resource which outlines for municipalities, residents, and elected officials some of the components and technical standards of a municipal-based urban forest program.

TD Green Streets
TD Green Streets encourages and supports the adoption of leading-edge practices in municipal forestry including: policy and best management practices workshops, and innovative management tools to protect and maintain the urban forest. It is the only national-based municipal forest innovation program.
• Other programs include: Greening Canada's School Grounds, Green Schools, Green Futures Award, Grow Clean Air, Operation ReLeaf, National Tree Day, National Greening Program, Partnering in Planting, Urban Forests.

Evergreen
www.evergreen.ca
Evergreen is a national not-for-profit that inspires action to green cities.
Trees Are Good

www.treesaregood.com

Trees are Good is a service provided by the ISA to educate the public about the value of good tree care.

- Resources include a series of educational brochures with more than 30 topics, including: Protect your Investment, Hire an Arborist, Don't Top the Trees, Please!, Help Trees Take Shape, Prune Properly.

Municipal Plans & Website Resources

Many municipalities have tree care written into their municipal plans. This is a sampling from a variety of communities.

Canadian Forest Website

http://www.canadian-forests.com/civic-governments.html

This website contains a list of municipal plans by province.

Calgary Parks and Urban Forest ReTree YYC

http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Pages/Planning-and-Operations/Tree-Management/Managing-Calgarys-trees.aspx

In September 2014, Calgary experienced a late-summer snow storm causing extensive and severe damage over 1 million trees. ReTree YYC was created to respond and recover from this disaster. The primary goal of ReTree YYC is to work with citizens to encourage the proper planting and maintenance of our urban forest. By helping Calgarians plant and maintain trees on both public and private property, we hope to make the city landscape better for generations to come. - City of Calgary

Devon 2015 Urban Forest Management Plan

Edmonton’s Urban Forest Management Plan, 2012


The urban forest is one of Edmonton’s greatest assets. It cleans the air and water, and creates an environment with safe, interactive and attractive neighborhoods that we can proudly call home. - Stephen Mandel, Mayor, 2004-2013

Town Of Banff Urban Forest Management Plan

www.banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/1638

Includes budget options.

Develop a Tree Maintenance Program

All urban environments depend on maintenance to sustain them. In an extraordinary place like Banff, with its natural beauty and majestic setting, tree maintenance is the most important element that is critical to the long term success and viability of Banff’s green infrastructure. - Town of Banff Urban Forest Management Plan

Courses & Training

University of Guelph

www.guelphhort.com

• Online distance education horticulture certificates.

Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education

www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/trades-occupations/profiles/047

• Apprenticeship and Industry Training, Landscape Gardener program. Apprenticeship is a combination of on-the-job and technical training in an earning-while-learning arrangement that leads to certification as a Journeyman.
Olds College

www.oldscollege.ca/programs/horticulture/index

- Environmental Horticulture Diploma
- Landscape Management and Arboriculture majors
- Prairie Horticulture Certificate Program: the first home study program in horticulture, designed specifically for the prairie provinces and is offered by the Continuing Education Department in the School of Environment. Landscape and Arboriculture stream.

Arboriculture Canada Training & Education Ltd

www.arborcanada.com

- Professional arboriculture training and education. They provide private, customized training programs for municipalities.

Private Companies (Contractors, Consultants, Arborists)

There are numerous companies in Alberta in the business of tree care. This list is not an endorsement of one company, but is an example of some of the resources available, for example, publications, training webinars, tree care FAQs, and links to more information.

Find Landscape Alberta Members

http://www.landscapealberta.com/landx-online

This annual LANDX Directory is a database search tool using the CNLA national database for members with listings by region, company name, and services provided.
Arborcare
www.arborcare.com

Davey Tree
www.davey.com

Third-Party Evaluations
Provide third party evaluations on tree risk and appraisals, and tree care diagnostics (example: insects, diseases).

USA Research on Quantifying Benefits & Costs of Street and Park Trees

Pruning is usually the single greatest cost, followed by expenditures for tree planting, removal, administration, and hardscape repair. - E. Gregory McPherson, Ph.D., Director, Centre for Urban Forest Research, U.S.D.A. Forest Service

Other Websites

Alliance for Community Trees
www.actrees.org

ACTrees supports the needs of communities, non-profits, businesses, and others engaged in urban forestry. Their headquarters are in Washington, DC, USA.

• Network and stay current with tree research, public policy, and best practices.
• Hosts live conferences, virtual webcasts, and timely seminars.
• Grants and awards to help establish sustainable sources of funding for ACTrees members.
Society of Municipal Arborists

www.urban-forestry.com

Information compiled by members of the Alberta Horticulture Association (AHA). The AHA is an organization of societies and individuals involved with horticulture on a professional or amateur basis, and strives to advance and promote horticulture in Alberta.

- Provides information to the gardening public, recognizes outstanding individuals, and supports community horticultural societies.

We would like to thank the Alberta Horticultural Association for compiling this material for our Communities in Bloom participants!