



Tree Policy

CITY OF SAINT-LAMBERT

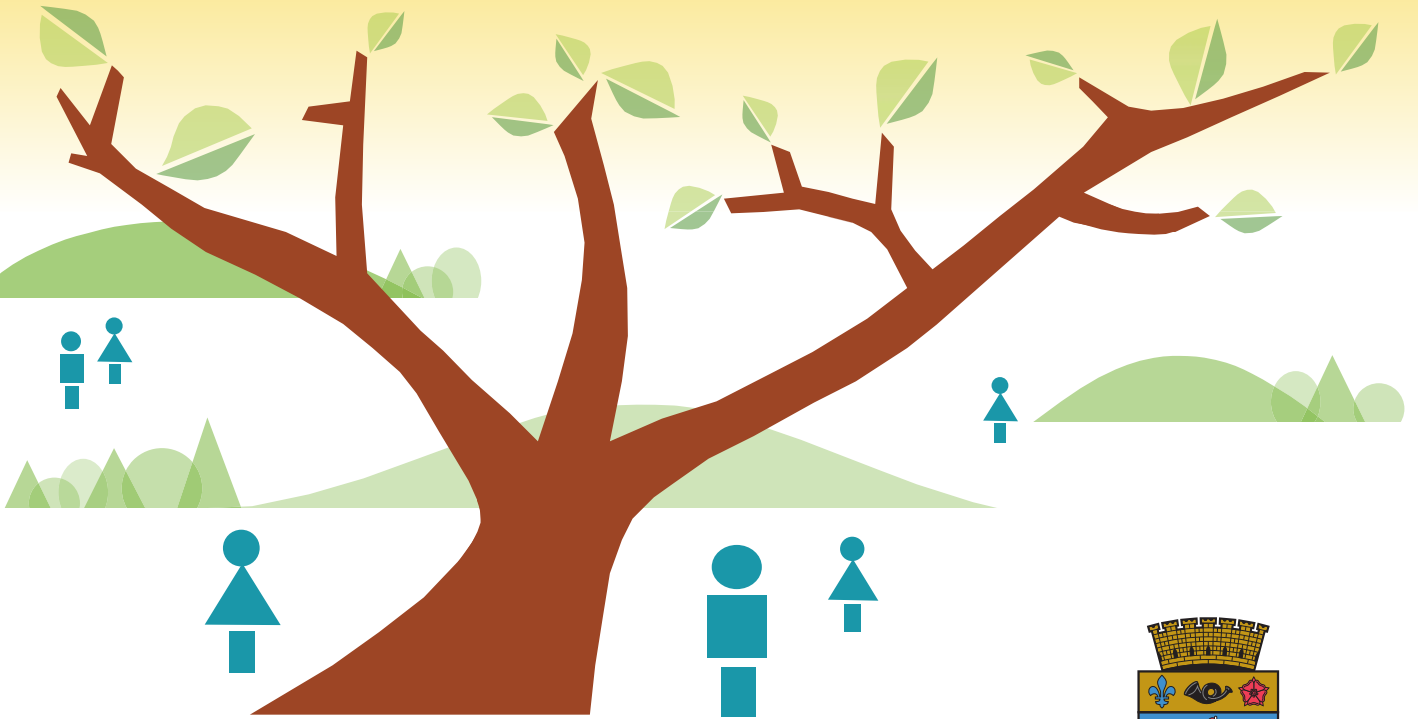




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Mayor's MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to present our tree policy, which has grown out of our sustainable development plan.

Viewed from above, Saint-Lambert is a city under a canopy of trees! Our city is a true verdant paradise thanks to our urban forest, a wealth of beauty that contributes to the distinctive cachet of our municipality.

This policy provides us with an important management framework that is at the core of the City of Saint-Lambert's sustainable development process. We all have a shared responsibility to preserve and improve our urban forest to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the quality of life to which they are rightfully entitled.

With this policy, the City advances its sustainable development vision and recognizes the importance of trees in cities, in particular the importance of trees in public spaces. Through existing regulations protecting trees on private land, the City has already demonstrated its leadership role in the protection of trees.

The City must now recognize the importance of trees and promote their identity in the urban landscape.

Let's work together to protect our collective wealth, our trees!

Philippe Brunet
Mayor



The trees OF SAINT-LAMBERT

In 1998, the City compiled an inventory that revealed that there were 5,645 street trees and 2,275 park trees (parks, medians, lots, islands in crescents, and all other public green spaces). If we account for certain public spaces that were not included in the inventory, such as the Saint-Lambert Golf Club and the Limousin forest, we estimate the total number of trees on public land to be around 15,000.

Trees located on private property have not been counted to date.

History – urbanization and

At the turn of the last century, when Canada's population stood at 5 million, 80% of people lived on farms and in rural areas. A century later, that number now exceeds 30 million, and 80% of the population now lives in densely populated areas such as cities.

This change has been accompanied by urban infrastructure development, which has largely been achieved at the expense of the tree cover. The demographic explosion that followed the Second World War, bringing with it the development of cities, resulted in the elimination of large green spaces, which were seen as an impediment to urban development. But the benefits trees provided were soon missed by citizens.

The early 1960s saw a large number of tree-planting projects in urban areas. Unfortunately, the methods used were often unsuitable. Monoculture type planting were common, and trees were not specifically selected for their adaptability to urban environments. It was around this time that Dutch elm disease all but wiped out the American elm, at that time the street tree of choice in Canadian cities.

urban forestry

Since then, our knowledge has significantly increased and we have witnessed the birth of the urban forest:

Urban forestry is a specialized branch of forestry and has as its objective the cultivation and management of trees for their present and potential contribution to the physiological, sociological, and economic well-being of urban society. These contributions include the overall ameliorating effect of trees on their environment, as well as their recreational and general amenity value. (Jorgensen, 1993)

This long-neglected branch of forestry allows us to ensure the longevity of our city trees.



URBAN TREES, A NATURAL TREASURE

The City of Saint-Lambert is known for the value and beauty of its trees. It hardly needs stating that the tree is a key architectural and aesthetic element in Saint-Lambert. A wide diversity and abundance of trees can be found both on private land and in public spaces; they structure the landscape and lend personality to our streets. The heritage value of trees and their importance in the Lambertan landscape are now fully recognized.

Moreover, in our urbanized environment, trees play a multitude of roles. They make our cities healthy, pleasant, and comfortable places to live by helping to control local temperatures and protect us from wind, improve air quality, and buffer the noise caused by wind and traffic.





The

They lessen our impacts on the environment and various ecosystems by preventing soil erosion, reducing water runoff, and increasing biological diversity and wildlife habitats.

Because trees capture storm runoff water, which would otherwise be transported through the sewer system and treated in our water treatment facility, and release it into the atmosphere through evapotranspiration, they contribute to lowering our infrastructure costs.

They increase property values, attract businesses seeking attractive living environments for their employees, and reduce costs related to both heating and air-conditioning.



URBAN TREES, A FRAGILE TREASURE

Of all living beings, trees live the longest. Yet, an extreme weather event, or a parasitic infestation or epidemic can decimate an urban forest landscape. One only needs to recall the 1998 ice storm or the impacts of Dutch elm disease that are still being felt today to appreciate the full measure of their fragility. Today, we face a steadily growing presence of the emerald ash borer in our region, which could have serious consequences.

1. PROVIDING OURSELVES WITH THE MEANS TO PRESERVE AND DEVELOP OUR URBAN FOREST

In adopting this policy, Saint-Lambert recognizes the important role played by its urban arboreal heritage in the environmental, social, economic, and cultural spheres of our municipality. The City also recognizes that it is essential to provide ourselves with the means to preserve and develop our urban forest.

To this end, the City will assume its leadership role and its responsibilities by committing to:

- Develop both effective and dissuasive regulatory tools to guarantee the protection of our arboreal heritage;
- Complete the inventory of public trees so that we have reliable information on which to base an active management strategy focused on improving the urban living environment and the health and well-being of the population;
- Organize an annual tree sale for citizens. Through this initiative, the City will offer a selection of affordable trees that will be suitable for planting in our environment and landscape;
- Develop, adopt, and implement a Tree Charter, which will establish the implementation and operational framework for all the commitments in this policy through a series of concrete actions.

orientations

OF THE TREE POLICY

2. SHARING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR URBAN FORESTRY

The urban forest is a source of collective wealth. With respect to this, the City recognizes that it is necessary to share the responsibility for urban forestry between private landowners and the municipal administration, which seeks to advance the common good. This is to say that it is incumbent upon everyone, both citizens and the municipal administration alike, to actively get involved.

To this end, the City will take a full leadership role by committing to:

- Create a quality environment for trees from the moment they are planted;
- Develop the vegetation at the base of trees;
- Ensure the elimination of chemical treatments on one hand and promote alternative methods on the other;

- Implement a timetabled renewal program for trees that line streets;
- Preserve remarkable trees and plant trees for the future;
- Adopt the regulatory provisions needed to maintain and develop the urban forest.



The City wants to be an example of urban forestry stewardship. Because trees are a collective resource, a shared effort between the City and citizens is required. All property owners will have an obligation to maintain or plant at least one tree per front of a building on the part of their property that borders the street. This will apply to all the properties in Saint-Lambert. With reference to the provisions contained in the zoning by-law, a certain number of trees will be required based on the area of land around the building. If it is not feasible to plant a tree on a property, one will have to be planted in another location determined by the City.

Finally, to encourage citizens to reclaim and feel a sense of ownership towards their environment, the City will permit private citizens to maintain, at their expense and in consultation with and with authorization from the City's beautification crew, trees on the part of their property that borders the street as well as the vegetation at their base.



3. DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL COHESION AROUND URBAN FORESTRY



The City acknowledges that it has a duty to actively raise awareness among the population to act responsibly where trees are concerned, because it estimates that 40% of the urban forest is located on private land. To achieve this, the City must develop communication and social cohesion around urban forestry.

To this end, the City will assume its role in raising awareness by committing to:

- Contribute to the development of the expertise of all parties, whether public or private, involved in tree management;
- Develop communication tools to promote and disseminate arboricultural knowledge.





1. HAVE LEGAL TOOLS TO PROTECT TREES

OBJECTIVE:

- Have effective and dissuasive legal tools to be able to guarantee the protection of our arboreal heritage

ACTIONS

- _ Ensure that all tree protection measures are included in the municipal by-laws
- _ Preserve wooded areas in municipal parks and green spaces
- _ Increase the minimum percentage of planted surfaces required when issuing construction permits
- _ Provide entrepreneurs, contractors, and private homeowners with a booklet of recommendations when they are issued a construction permit

TIMEFRAME

Ongoing
Ongoing
2013

2013

2. COMPILE AN INVENTORY OF PUBLIC TREES

OBJECTIVES:

- Have reliable information on which to base the active management of our tree heritage
- Prevent pollen allergies

ACTIONS

- _ Complete the inventory of public trees
- _ Make regular rounds of the territory to keep the inventory up to date
- _ Plan the work to be carried out using the information collected during these rounds
- _ Communicate information about our arboreal heritage to the population via the City's website
- _ Give priority to species with less allergenic pollen when choosing trees to replenish the stock

TIMEFRAME

2017
Ongoing
Ongoing
2013

2013 and ongoing

3. CREATE A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT FROM THE MOMENT OF PLANTING

OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure favourable conditions for the optimal development of urban trees
- Provide long-term protection for trees from various forms of stress

ACTIONS

- _ Adhere to prescribed methods of planting and protection for street trees
- _ Strictly monitor saplings during their first two years
- _ Ensure the suitability of the plantation site for the tree to be planted
- _ Develop protection methods for tree trunks and implement them as necessary

TIMEFRAME

Ongoing
Ongoing
Ongoing
2013

4. DEVELOP VEGETATION AT THE BASE OF TREES

OBJECTIVE:

- Develop vegetation at the base of trees to create biodiversity, facilitate maintenance, and enhance public health

ACTIONS

- _ Reintroduce, throughout the city, local native flora able to flourish under the tree where it is planted
- _ Plant a diversified variety of horticultural flora
- _ Launch an information and promotional campaign entitled "Planting around the base of trees"
- _ Develop and offer design and planting workshops to citizens

TIMEFRAME

Ongoing

Ongoing
2013

2013

5. PROMOTE INTEGRATED PEST CONTROL AND BIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

OBJECTIVES:

- Phase out the use of chemicals
- Develop alternative methods to control pest populations

ACTIONS

- _ Test new non-chemical treatments such as soap water sprays and vegetable oil treatments on tree trunks
- _ Promote effective alternative control methods

TIMEFRAME

2012

2013

6. ENSURE THE RENEWAL OF TREES

OBJECTIVES:

- Plant the equivalent of 20% of the current population of street trees over the next ten years
- Define and integrate new orientations for tree planting that will ensure the durable development of our tree heritage
- Promote biodiversity

ACTIONS

- _ Implement a 10-year renewal program for street trees
- _ Promote biodiversity and indigenous species
- _ Favour low-maintenance trees
- _ Prepare and continually update a diversified list of tree species to be planted according to different environments
- _ Develop support tools for the selection of tree species (decision-making guide, tree fact sheets, etc.)
- _ Foster a memorial tree planting tradition among citizens and within the municipality
- _ Require all property owners to plant at least one tree on the part of their property that borders the street
- _ Organize an annual tree sale

TIMEFRAME

2013
Ongoing
Ongoing
2013 and ongoing
2013
2012
2013
2012 and ongoing

7. PRESERVE REMARKABLE TREES AND PLANT TREES FOR THE FUTURE

OBJECTIVES:

- Preserve and enhance Saint-Lambert's remarkable trees
- Earmark spaces to plant trees for the future
- Develop a specific plan for trees for the future

ACTIONS

- _ Compile an inventory of remarkable trees according to the following criteria: beauty, exceptional size, botanical rarity, age, and link to the city's heritage
- _ Prepare a map showing the location of remarkable trees
- _ Inform private homeowners about the remarkable character of their trees
- _ Offer expert services to owners of remarkable trees
- _ Plant a tree for the future in each district

TIMEFRAME

2017
2017
2014
2014
2013

8. DEVELOP THE EXPERTISE OF EVERYONE INVOLVED

OBJECTIVE:

- Invest in furthering the knowledge of everyone involved in tree management to optimize the quality of monitoring of our arboreal heritage

ACTIONS

- _ Develop the sharing and transfer of knowledge about trees within the municipal administration
- _ Maintain the contracts of tree service providers
- _ Invite contractors to training workshops organized by the municipality
- _ Raise awareness of trees and proper urban tree pruning techniques
- _ Evaluate the progress of projects and ensure there is an appropriate balance between the human, material, and financial resources involved

TIMEFRAME

2013
Ongoing
2013 and ongoing
2013
Every year

