



## Tree News

September 7, 2024

### Annual General Meeting

The 2024 SOS Trees Coalition AGM will be at 6:30 pm on Monday September 9, 2024 at Sunnyside Care Home, 2200 St. Henry Ave.

The meeting will begin with a short walking tour and talk through the fruit trees planted during Arbor Week 2022 at Sunnyside. The fruit trees are already contributing to the wellness of the residents of the care home. The tour will be followed by a brief annual meeting, so come for the tour or come for the meeting or stay for both. We hope to see you there.



Sunnyside fruit trees planted for Arbor Week in 2022

### More cases of Dutch elm disease identified in Saskatoon

For immediate release: September 5, 2024 - 9:45 am

The City of Saskatoon Parks Department has confirmed new positive cases of Dutch elm disease (DED) in three elm trees in the Varsity View neighbourhood, one case in North Park and two in Westmount.

“We cannot be clearer than this: do not store elm wood on your property,” says Thai Hoang, Director of Parks. “Keeping elm wood – whether it is to burn in your fire pit or for other uses – threatens our historic tree canopy which we all love so much. About a quarter of our urban forest is elm.”

Hoang says Parks has conducted 91 tests and so far, received results from 54 trees.

“From those, there have been six trees that have tested positive for Dutch Elm Disease. As part of our response we will be removing a total of eight trees.”

While Hoang points out City Council increased the Parks budget to prevent the spread of DED, he reminds Saskatoon residents they need to check their properties for Elm. City staff have already seized 2000 kg of elm wood in sweeps of the Varsity View neighbourhood following a previous DED tree removal.

Hoang says typically the leaves on American elm trees with DED will start to wilt and turn yellow, then curl and turn brown. He says if anyone suspects an unhealthy elm tree or are unsure of what type of firewood they have, they can take a photo and complete the online form at <https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/city-owned-trees/tree-diseases-pests/dutch-elm-disease#dedform> or call Urban Forestry at 306-975-2890.

Hoang reminds residents they can help prevent Dutch elm disease by:

- Never storing elm wood or branches. Don't buy or take elm wood from anyone and don't burn it.
- Not pruning elms during the provincial pruning ban (April 1 to August 31).
- Disposing of elm wood at the Saskatoon Landfill.
- Do not take elm to the compost depot or put it in your green bin. **Dispose of it immediately, disposal of residential elm wood at the Landfill is free.**

**This is a visual representation of what Woodlawn Cemetery would look like if all its memorial and historic elms were lost to DED:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H\\_Pr\\_1NMIJQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_Pr_1NMIJQ)

"We're getting a better idea of how the Saskatoon landscape would change if DED were to keep progressing, but it can be curtailed, get rid of elm wood and if you're not sure what you have send us a picture."

The City has already initiated its DED Response Plan, which includes:

- Immediate removal of the positive tree(s) and disposal at the City landfill
- Increased surveillance of the surrounding area to search for stored elm wood
- Sampling of symptomatic trees within one kilometre of the infected tree
- Continuing regular elm surveillance and cyclical pruning of trees in parks and on boulevards

### **What will happen in impacted areas?**

Parks staff will be conducting surveillance around impacted areas. Surveillance of these areas includes checking every property for elm firewood or brush and removing it when it is found. If residents are not home, staff will remove the elm wood and leave an Elm Infraction Notice with a note indicating that the wood was removed.

As part of the Forest Resource Management Act, the Provincial Dutch Elm Disease Regulations, 2005 allow inspectors to enter private property to inspect for elm wood, remove elm wood and sample private elm trees. In accordance with the regulations, property owners will be asked to remove and dispose of infected elm trees.

### **What is DED?**

DED is a serious disease caused by a fungus that clogs the elm tree's water and nutrient conducting system, which eventually causes the tree to die. DED was introduced in North America in the 1930s and has since wiped out millions of elms across Canada and the United States. In Saskatoon, elms make up 25% of our urban forest.

### **How is DED spread?**

In Saskatchewan, the disease is spread by several species of elm bark beetles. These beetles can fly farther than two kilometres in search of elm trees. The DED fungus has tiny spores that stick to the body of the beetle. Elm bark beetles can carry these spores and infect other elm trees. The fungus can also be spread by infected pruning tools.

For more information on DED, visit <https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/city-owned-trees/tree-diseases-pests/dutch-elm-disease>

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Planting Bed Preparation @ Ellis Hall

Tuesday September 10, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Meewasin is looking for volunteers to get a larger planting bed ready to go for an upcoming planting, with the assistance of our horticulture team. Volunteers will be working alongside Meewasin staff and our Horticulture team to spread mulch around and get the planting bed ready to go for Tree Canada planting at the end of September. This is a unique behind-the-scenes activity to see what goes into the planting prep process.

For more info: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vJK8fCe\\_fUxGv6hOx1uHkn93bv0wPh5-BHmsS35E10/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vJK8fCe_fUxGv6hOx1uHkn93bv0wPh5-BHmsS35E10/edit)

Register here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdS6uvE-WawQXndRe-8T4aHrXSnuudpzU89eZgFrucC\\_iYBQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdS6uvE-WawQXndRe-8T4aHrXSnuudpzU89eZgFrucC_iYBQ/viewform)

## Tree Canada National Tree Day Planting

Sat. Sept. 28, 1 – 4 PM

Ellis Hall on the U of S campus  
Saskatoon, for details or to  
register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/tree-canadas-national-tree-day-planting-event-in-saskatoon-tickets-967013301817?aff=oddtcreator>



## Become a Tree Steward



Tree planting site being maintained (watered and weeded) by volunteers!

Thanks to our volunteer Tree Stewards the SOS Trees Coalition tree plantings are coming along quite nicely. One thing that has become painfully obvious is that watering trees can easily surpass the cost of planting trees. In Saskatoon the general rule is to water and weed for 3 three years. SOS Trees is tackling this challenge by recruiting individuals who assist with watering and maintenance of our tree plantings. This occurs weekly at our McPherson planting and bi weekly at our Sutherland planting.

You can help once a week or once a month. Join us for an hour with watering and/or weeding or if you just want more information please email [trees@sostrees.ca](mailto:trees@sostrees.ca). We look forward to expanding planting in Saskatoon with your help.

## Information You Can Use

News From Our Friends at [EcoFriendly West](#)

This month let's *Fall* for trees 🌳💛🌲 On **Tuesday, Sept. 24 @ 7:30 PM**, **Café Sci-YXE** and good pal **Global Biotech Week-SK** invite you to gather 'round for:

**"Reading the Rings: Not Just Another Tree Story"** with tree expert extraordinaire, **Dr. Colin Laroque** (*USask College of AgBio*) **Join Colin to learn how trees think differently and help us solve history mysteries from coast-to-coast-to coast.** Café Sci-YXE happens at **Winston's Pub, downstairs (243 21st St E).** **ALL 19+ are welcome** to this **FREE** event!

## We Need You. Get involved! Stand up for our trees & join SOS Trees Coalition Today

SOS Trees Coalition is on the move and we have increased our efforts working with the City of Saskatoon to protect our trees. In addition to Arbor Week, our largest public education event, we are advocating for the City tree protection bylaw, increased City tree planting and monitoring Saskatoon's Urban Forestry Management Plan. Every member and donor is crucial as we build our coalition. Please take a moment today and sign up for your [Membership](#) and/or donation today. Thank you!



Memberships can also be purchased by printing out and sending our [membership form](#) PDF format. Payment can be mailed or sent to us via [e-transfer](#).

## Create Your Tree Legacy

A planned gift may be one of the most impactful ways that you can support the trees in Saskatoon. A planned gift, life insurance, annuity, etc. to SOS Trees Coalition will make a difference. A great example is the gift left by Joan Browne. The Joan Browne fund has been a supporter of Arbor Week tree planting activities and other educational programs. We are very thankful for the forethought that Joan Browne had and her vision of Saskatoon with a healthy urban forest. For more information on how you can include SOS Trees Coalition in your estate planning email us at [trees@sostrees.ca](mailto:trees@sostrees.ca).

### SPONSORS



### PARTNERS



SOS Trees Coalition is pleased to offer this electronic newsletter to our members and supporters who have an interest in trees in Saskatoon. Through sharing information we can all be more consistently informed and therefore become better advocates for our urban forest and the individual trees that make life so much more enjoyable. If you do not want to receive this newsletter or to share your comments with us regarding our publication please email us at [trees@sostrees.ca](mailto:trees@sostrees.ca) You can also follow us on Facebook at SOS Trees Coalition <https://www.facebook.com/SOSTreesCoalition>.

Membership and contributions to SOS Trees Coalition support the protection and fostering of stewardship of Saskatoon's urban forest. To become a member or supporter go to: [membership](#) or you can mail directly to: [1618 9th Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K3A1](#). SOS Trees Coalition is a registered charity.