



# Tree News

January 2024

## Happy 2024

2023 was an active year for SOS Trees Coalition, please take a few minutes and read our 2023 year end report that is available on our website at [https://sostrees.ca/pdf/SOS\\_Trees\\_News\\_2023.pdf](https://sostrees.ca/pdf/SOS_Trees_News_2023.pdf).

## Thanks to You - Advocacy Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2023 Councillor Coffees, wrote letters and talked with your councillors. You made a difference, urban forestry seems to have come through the budgeting process as well as we could hope for in the current budget environment. One thing we did hear consistently from the Councillors was that we needed to be more present at council and they needed to hear from all of us who value the trees and green spaces more frequently. So we have added advocacy opportunities to our newsletter to make it easier for you to participate in our city decision making process. You can help - when you hear of a consultation in your neighbourhood that will impact trees let us know at [trees@sostrees.ca](mailto:trees@sostrees.ca) and then speak up. We will try to post opportunities when we are aware of them to protect our trees. However many of the engagement notices only go to very localized areas, so let us know.

## Advocacy opportunities:

### **Robert Hunter Park West upgrades** [Details](#)

Robert Hunter park currently has some nice stands of native trees and shrubs, this would be a great opportunity to install additional native stands of trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers to expand and enhance the biodiversity of the area.

### **Connecting 2nd Ave. & 3rd Ave.** [Details](#)

The best current option removes 5 mature elm trees. The trees need to be preserved, especially on major arteries where we need all of the shade we can get.

## Other news

### **SOS Trees submitted letters of support on two proposed City projects:**

- ◆ Recommendation that City Council approve the design and construction of select site enhancements at the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area (RSBBAA) in 2024. This project includes the planting of 1800 native species of trees and shrubs and is partially funded through the City's Natural Infrastructure Fund (NIF) Green Network Project.
- ◆ Support of the proposed [Connecting Avenue C: Walking and Cycling Improvement Project \[TS2023-1201\]](#) which incorporates the bike lanes predominately within the current streetscape, saving most trees within the proposed plan.

## Upcoming Events from our partners:

**Wild About Saskatoon** is hosting a free, online event, "**We All Drink From the Same River**," with Elder and Water Walker Marjorie Beaucage and river expert Dr. Tim Jardine, coming up on **Thursday, January 25**, from 7-8 pm. You will find a description of the conversation here: <https://wildaboutsaskatoon.org/conversations/>

**The Saskatchewan Environmental Society Sustainability Speakers Series** is hosted in partnership with the Saskatoon Public Library. These free events are held in the Meeting Room in the basement of **Frances Morrison Central Library (311 23rd Street E)**. The events start at **7:00 pm** and end at about 8:30 pm. These are in-person events. Recordings of some of the presentations are posted on the Library's YouTube channel several days after the event. [For more information](#) about specific events.

### **January 23, The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) in Saskatchewan**

Sarah Bradley and colleagues will describe NCC's work in the Saskatoon area and beyond.

### **February 27, Forests: The Understory is the Story**

Doug Racine, a resident of northern Saskatchewan, challenges the forest industry perspectives on clear cutting in the boreal forest.

### **March 26, Energy Crisis from the 1970s to [Today](#)**

Justin Fisher from the University of Saskatchewan History Department will explore the 1970s energy crisis in Saskatchewan, how it relates to our current crisis, and some lessons we might consider.

### **April 16, Putting Saskatchewan on a Path to Sustainability**

Peter Prebble will provide a scientific update on the climate change emergency. He will then present a set of proposals intended to cut Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030. Peter will pay special attention to the transformation needed in Saskatchewan's electricity generation sector.

### **May 14, Retrofitting a 4-Suite Apartment**

Harold Orr, P. Eng. (retired), C.M. will speak on a retrofit he performed on an apartment in Regina. Learn how to make the most cost-effective changes to any residential building to conserve energy and increase comfort.

**Recordings of previous presentations in the series** are available at: [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRUK7BHZUVfrHCXuJyBeO0lgjjeqBwseY](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRUK7BHZUVfrHCXuJyBeO0lgjjeqBwseY)

## **Advocacy Training: Prairies Edition**

**Climate Reality Project Canada** - invites you to take a deep dive into community climate action by being part of its Regional Climate Advocacy Training: Prairies Edition! Hone your climate skills in our free training series accessible in-person and online. Virtual learning platform will be open from **January 27th to February 24th**. In-person and hybrid training sessions will take place in three different cities across the Prairies region: **January 27th** in Saskatoon, SK.

We hope that you will be part of this unique opportunity to create a community of change-makers dedicated to addressing climate challenges and making a lasting impact! Find out more: <https://loom.ly/tvGCT0Q>  
Register [today: https://bit.ly/Prairies-Training-24](https://bit.ly/Prairies-Training-24)

# SOS Trees Volunteer Opportunities

## Gardenscape 2024 volunteers, March 22-24.

SOS Trees will again be at Gardenscape to provide educational material and discuss trees with attendees. Volunteers work a two hour shift, basically answering questions and discussing trees of Saskatoon. You do not need to be a tree expert, we have resource people who can help with specific questions. If you can help, volunteers are needed to:

- ◆ March 21, help with set up, deliver signs, banners, printed material etc.
- ◆ March 22, 11:00 am-9:00 pm
- ◆ March 23, 9:00 am-7:00 pm
- ◆ March 24 10:00 am-5:00 pm
- ◆ March 24 5:00 pm, assist with dismantling the booth and returning the materials to storage

If you can help, email [trees@sostrees.ca](mailto:trees@sostrees.ca) or call Rae and Doug at 306-244-3082.

## We Need You. Get involved! Stand up for our trees and 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).



---

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

---



---

## THANK YOU TO OUR 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 Canadian not for profit registered charity. Thanks to the financial support of our members and donors we are able to continue to advocate for the trees in Saskatchewan. For additional information on how you can help go to: <https://www.sostrees.ca>*