

March 17th, 2023

RE: Tree Removal and Replacement

Dear Gonzales Neighbourhood Association

Two trees located on City of Victoria property in the Gonzales neighbourhood have been identified as having conditions that require that the trees be removed, which can't be resolved by pruning. For safety reasons, these trees require removal as part of our ongoing tree removal and replacement program.

| Street | Address | Tree Species | Reason for Removal |
|--------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1659 | Hollywood Cres | Filed Elm | Tree is dead |
| 1659 | Hollywood Cres | Kwanzan Cherry | Tree is in severe decline |

The removal work will occur sometime between April 3rd 2023 and April 10th 2023, and will be performed by City arborists or a contractor authorized by the City of Victoria.

Removal of any tree is always a last resort. Pruning and other methods of reducing safety risks of unhealthy or structurally weak trees are always considered first.

Every Tree Removed is Replaced

The stump of the removed tree will remain in place until a replacement tree is planted. There are several considerations when we select a replacement tree, such as soil conditions and drainage, other trees on the street, allergens, availability, and the likelihood of successful growth at the location. Tree species are selected months in advance and cared for in our nursery until planting season. The replacement tree will be planted at another site within the City of Victoria boundaries.

Maintaining and enhancing a healthy urban forest is a key priority for the City. We manage over 33,000 trees on public property, most of which are on 300 kilometres of boulevards and in over 130 parks and open spaces.

Guided by the Urban Forest Master Plan, our urban forestry team identifies areas for planting new trees to expand the inventory, as well as identifying existing trees that are reaching the end of their healthy life. Removing unhealthy or structurally weak trees reduces safety risks and opens space to establish young trees vital to Victoria's urban forest.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to improve the health of Victoria's urban trees. Please don't hesitate to contact the Parks office at 250.361.0600 or parks@victoria.ca if you have any questions.

Regards,

Rob Hughes
Supervisor of Parks Operations, Arboriculture and Natural Areas