

Attachment i

Pruning Cycle of Urban Forests

A systematic regular pruning program has many benefits:

- Decreased cost per tree pruned
- Reduced requests for pruning services (complaints)
- Improved safety and decreased liability
- Improved pest and disease management (DED, black knot)
- Improved tree condition and therefore increased tree value and property value
- Improved sidewalk and street clearance
- Improved public image
- Increased tree longevity

Under the current program, the tree pruning cycle for all trees in the City of Moose Jaw is projected at thirty-three (33) years. Traditionally, the City has tried to maintain a 7-year pruning cycle for our elm population but has not been able to maintain this.

The following is a comparison to pruning cycles in other cities:

City of Moose Jaw:	33-year cycle, 7-year cycle for elms
City of Regina:	13 – 15-year cycle
City of Winnipeg:	12-year cycle
City of Oakville:	5-year cycle
City of Lethbridge:	5-year cycle
Town of Okotoks:	3-year cycle
City of Swift Current:	5-6-year cycle
City of Saskatoon:	7-year cycle for boulevards, 13-year cycle for parks
City of Yorkton:	5-year cycle for elms, as needed for other trees
City of Prince Albert	19-year cycle, working on a plan to bring it down to 10 years

The City of Lethbridge compiled information from various cities in order to establish their current program. The following was taken from their Urban Forestry Management Program:

“Many cities strive for a five-year cycle, but only a few have the financial resources to actually meet this goal. A five-year pruning cycle is desired for a comprehensive urban forestry program and a pruning cycle in the seven to eight-year range is the minimum arboriculturally acceptable cycle length. The longer the time frame between pruning,

the greater the cultural requirements will be for the tree. Cycles beyond eight (8) years are further complicated by larger numbers of service requests. Scheduling problems develop that prevent the crews from adhering to a systematic pruning program, and cycle goals become more difficult to attain."

The Department also found the following in The Research Foundation to Tree Pruning: A review of the Literature by James R. Clark and Nelda Matheny, published in the May 2010 issue of Arboriculture & Urban Forestry (page 112):

"Municipal arborists have benefited from research dealing with pruning of street trees (10 citations). In 1981, Miller and Sylvester addressed the question: What is the appropriate length of the pruning cycle for municipal trees? Using Milwaukee, WI, as a test case, they concluded four to five years was the appropriate pruning cycle. They observed that tree condition declined as the length of the pruning cycle increased."