

POLICY FOR MANAGING HAZARD TREES



TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

POLICY FOR MANAGING HAZARD TREES ON TRCA PROPERTY

GENERAL POLICY

Extensive portions of TRCA properties contain trees as natural or landscape features. Often trees are located near structures or in areas where public and staff are invited and could present a danger. It is generally accepted that trees have a finite life span and a tree in excellent condition has a potential to fail. However, a tree with a structural defect(s) at any age increases the potential for failure.

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN THE SAFETY OF ITS LANDS FOR STAFF AND THE PUBLIC FROM TREES THAT POSE IMMINENT RISK.

TRCA reserves the right to shut down or close off an area due to unsafe conditions when such a drastic measure needs to be taken. This may involve any one of the uses commonly found on TRCA properties such as trails, picnic or parking areas. The area will re-open when risk to staff and the public has been abated

The purpose of this policy is to outline a hazard tree program and sets the foundation for business units of TRCA that are involved with managing hazard trees. The need for such a program arises from the responsibility of TRCA to reasonably protect visitors, staff and infrastructure from tree hazards and show a deliberate effort by TRCA to ensure the health and safety of people on its properties.

There are four primary objectives to implementing this policy at TRCA:

1. That an inspection strategy be designed to ensure properties are routinely inspected and problematic trees are dealt with in a timely manner;
2. To implement a hazard tree rating system so that protocols are established and adhered to when dealing with hazard trees. This rating system will provide consistency amongst TRCA staff when documenting assessments as well as quick establishment of an action plan;
3. That an abatement plan be developed to address the result of the hazard tree assessment;
4. To place the responsibility of managing and administering this policy with the TRCA Forester, who will ensure that it is being adhered to as outlined.