Title:	Municipal Tree Removal Guidelines
Policy No:	2024-02
Approval:	Village Council
Effective Date:	

Policy Statement: The Summer Village of Seba Beach views trees as a highly valued asset and should only be removed when all other preservation options are unsuitable.

Purpose: This policy will clearly outline a process to handle requests for tree removal to control and manage trees located on municipal lands.

1. Guidelines

1.1 Tree removal requests may be considered if:

- The Village determines a tree is infested, diseased or in poor condition.
- Tree removal is required as part of approved Seba Beach municipal construction projects.
- A tree impacts new private construction and a developer replaces existing trees with new trees in improved growing conditions.
- A tree presents a safety risk to the public due to its condition or it creates a roadway and sidewalk sightline obstruction.

1.2 Trees will not be removed for the following reasons:

- Poplar fluff, excess shade in a yard, quantity of seeds or leaves falling onto public or private property.
- Aesthetic reasons or to improve a view.
- Honeydew from aphids falling on surfaces, such as sidewalks and vehicles.
- To facilitate use of a boulevard for a construction lay-down area and non-permanent infrastructure.
- To improve sign visibility for businesses.

1.3 Tree Preservation

- Seba Beach may determine the tree(s) can be pruned or otherwise maintained to avoid removal. All maintenance of trees must be conducted by Public Works or Seba Beach approved contractor.

1.4 Tree Transplantation

- If Seba Beach determines that a tree is small enough and healthy enough to be successfully transplanted, an attempt will be made to relocate the tree to a new, suitable location on Summer Village property.
- The possibility of transplantation depends on access to the site and presence of utilities that could prevent digging and lifting.

2. Procedure

2.1 Residents can request to have a tree removed by contacting the Seba Beach Office.

- Public Works will view the tree to determine if there is imminent danger.

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- If there is no imminent danger, the request will form part of a tree file to be reviewed in the Fall with an Arborist.
- Public Works will meet with an Arborist to determine a priority list of the trees and assign/determine the work that fits within the budget designated for that year.

3. Costs

3.1 Diseased or Hazardous Tree

- Seba Beach pays for the cost of removing trees that are deemed to be diseased or hazardous by the Village in general or prior to construction, if requested by a property owner. If construction activities cause the tree to become a hazard, the cost of removal will be the responsibility of the resident or developer.

3.2 All Other Tree Removals

- For all other tree removals, the resident or developer agrees to a work plan and agrees in writing to cover the estimated costs provided in the plan. The requester is responsible for all tree work that results from a project (transplanting, removal, post-construction tree care, coordination time to facilitate the project and any Seba Beach overheads).