

Town of Aurora End-of-Life Tree Management Guide – DRAFT v1

1. a) Registry of Heritage Trees

- **List:** Establish criterion and list of municipal owned heritage tree registry in Aurora
- **Documentation:** Photograph, measure, and record historical significance for archives.

b) Assessment and Decision Framework

- **Risk Assessment:** Confirm structural decline, assess health under existing tree inventory categorization.
- **Public Engagement:** Notify community and stakeholders; consider commemorative options.

2. Tree protection or preservation strategies (dependant on Risk Assessment)

- **Species and lineage preservation strategies (seed bank, nursery reproduction)**
- **Heavy pruning focusing on structural integrity**
- **Vertical mulching/deep root fertilizing**
- **Watering regime**

3. Disposal and Repurposing Options

Recycling and Reuse

- **Urban Lumber Programs:** Partner with local sawmills or artisans to turn logs into:
 - Benches, picnic tables, or park furniture.
 - Sculptures or art installations for public spaces.

Example: TreeCycle Canada: Converts urban wood into clean energy or wood products.

- **Community Projects:** Donate wood to schools or makerspaces for educational use

Biomass and Energy:

- Chipping for mulch or compost.
- Biomass energy generation through municipal or private facilities.

4. Commemorative Practices

- **Plaques and Memorials:**
 - Install plaques at the original site or on replacement trees.
 - Include QR codes linking to digital archives or tree history.
- **Heritage Displays:**
 - Use sections of trunk for interpretive signage in parks or museums.
- **Public Art:**
 - Commission local artists to create sculptures from salvaged wood.

5. Replacement and Ecological Continuity

- Plant native or climate-resilient species near the original site.
- Follow or exceed tree replacement policies and Bylaw (e.g., multiple young trees for one large heritage tree).

6. Policy and Program Integration

- Integrate End-of-Life Management guide into associated Town programs and policies/

7. Communication and Education

- Host farewell ceremonies or community planting events.
- Share stories via municipal websites and social media to highlight sustainability and heritage value

8. Funding Models

- **Revenue:** potential with sale of commemorative items, or possible sale of nursery pots of direct lineage