



CITY PROCEDURE

Tree Orchards

Procedure Title	Tree Orchards		
Procedure Number	221-2	Approved Date	2026/07/02
Department	Environment and Parks	Last Amended	
City Manager Signature	"S. Bourke" (signed)	Last Reviewed	
		Signature Date	2026/07/06

1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to establish requirements for the planning, approval, and long-term management of Tree Orchards and fruit-bearing trees on municipally owned land. This procedure supports Policy 221 by enabling City-led and community-supported edible landscaping initiatives that provide long-term public benefit.

2. Definitions

In addition to the definitions contained in Policy 221, the following definitions apply to this procedure:

- 2.1. **"Director"** means the Director of Environment & Parks or their designate.
- 2.2. **"Environment & Parks"** means the Environment and Parks Department of the City or a department substituted in its place to care for and maintain both natural and developed outdoor spaces in the City.

3. Procedure & Guidelines

3.1. Tree Orchard Program Overview

- 3.1.1. Tree Orchards and edible tree plantings may be established through:
 - a. City-led tree orchard development and urban forestry operations; and
 - b. Community-supported tree orchard proposals approved by the City.
- 3.1.2. Tree Orchards are communal, permanent public landscape features intended for shared public enjoyment.
- 3.1.3. Tree Orchards do not grant exclusive harvest rights, control or possession of land.

3.2. City-Led Tree Orchards and Edible Tree Planting

- 3.2.1. The City may establish Tree Orchards or incorporate fruit-bearing trees into parks, green spaces and boulevards where appropriate.



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- 3.2.2. As part of the City's annual tree planting program, Environment & Parks targets approximately 20 percent of tree purchases to be edible or fruit-bearing varieties, subject to site suitability, safety considerations and long-term maintenance requirements.
- 3.2.3. Edible tree plantings may be pruned, replaced or removed as part of routine urban forestry operations.

3.3. Community-Supported Orchard Eligibility

- 3.3.1. Community-supported orchard proposals must demonstrate:
 - a. Neighbourhood awareness and support appropriate to the scale and location of the proposed orchard;
 - b. Organizational and volunteer capacity to assist with establishment and ongoing stewardship; and
 - c. A proposed site that has undergone preliminary review by Environment & Parks in accordance with section 3.4.

3.4. Pre-Application Site Review

- 3.4.1. Prior to submitting a formal application, applicants must contact Environment & Parks to discuss the proposed orchard location.
- 3.4.2. Neighbourhood Associations can only apply to build tree orchards within their respective neighbourhood.
- 3.4.3. Environment & Parks will conduct a preliminary review of the proposed site to assess operational compatibility, infrastructure considerations, wildlife implications, long-term maintenance requirements and alignment with municipal land-use objectives.
- 3.4.4. Preliminary site review does not constitute approval and remains subject to submission of a complete application and Director approval.

3.5. Community-Supported Orchard Application Requirements

- 3.5.1. Applications must include:
 - a. A Site Plan including a list of species;
 - b. An Operating and Stewardship Plan outlining planting approach, watering, volunteer structure, roles and responsibilities, and long-term maintenance expectations; and
 - c. A Financial Plan.
- 3.5.2. Proof of insurance may be required at the discretion of the City.

3.6. Community-Supported Orchards Review and Approval

- 3.6.1. All Tree Orchard proposals are subject to Director approval.
- 3.6.2. Approval does not convey exclusive use, harvest rights or entitlement.
- 3.6.3. The City retains discretion to approve, modify or decline applications.



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3.7. City Authority and Long-Term Management

- 3.7.1. The City retains full authority over all Tree Orchards and edible tree plantings.
- 3.7.2. The City may assume full stewardship, modify or remove Tree Orchards where:
 - a. A community group dissolves;
 - b. Stewardship is no longer feasible; or
 - c. Operational, safety or land-use needs require modification.
- 3.7.3. No compensation shall be provided for trees or improvements installed by community groups.

4. Version History

Action	Date	Description
Replacement	2026/07/02	Replaces Procedure 212-2 Tree Orchards