



Removal of Bees, Wasps and Hornets Nests in Trees that are Situated on City Road Allowances and City Parklands

Version Number:	1.0
Approved by:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Date Approved:	July 7, 2010

Purpose: To establish a uniform protocol for responding to requests for the removal of bees, wasps and hornets nests from trees which are situated on or overhang City road allowances or City parklands.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the City of Toronto, Urban Forestry Branch to leave wasp nests in trees where possible given the benefits of many wasp species as a natural control agent for other insect pests. City of Toronto Urban Forestry Branch will remove the nests of bees, wasps and hornets from trees which are situated on or overhang City road allowances if the nest is deemed to be a safety concern to the public. Nests which are in a tree and located more than 3 m above ground level are typically not removed. However, if the nests are located close enough to the ground and threaten public safety, Urban Forestry will inspect the site and decide on appropriate further action.

Scope: This policy applies only to bees, wasps and hornets nests in trees and does not include nests found in hedges, utility boxes, on light standards or in the ground. This policy shall apply throughout the City of Toronto.

Definitions: **Road Allowance:** A common and public highway, street, avenue, lane, alley, parkway, square, place, bridge, viaduct or trestle, any part of which is intended for or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles and includes the area between the lateral property lines thereof.

Procedures: **Road Allowance Situations**

Nests which are situated in a tree at a height of 3m (10 ft) or less above ground level and in a location which frequently has people in the vicinity of the nest could represent a public safety concern. The removal of nests which are located more than 3 m above ground level could pose a safety hazard to staff removing the nest and as such, the safety of both residents and City staff must be evaluated. All requests for removal of nests should initially be directed to the 311 Contact Centre. A service request will be created by 311 staff and directed to Forestry Operations staff.

1. It is the responsibility of Forestry Operations staff to conduct the inspection and carry out the removal of the nest if required.

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2. If upon inspection the Urban Forestry Branch confirms that the nest poses a safety concern to residents, the nest will be removed by staff or arrangements will be made for a private contractor to undertake removal of the nest. Arrangements may be made to move the nests of Honey Bees so they will not be destroyed. Urban Forestry staff may refer to their 'List of Beekeepers' in the Greater Toronto Area and contact the appropriate person.
3. Following industry standard Integrated Pest Management (IPM) protocol, should chemical control be chosen as a last resort method to kill the insects in the nest prior to the removal of the nest from the tree, this will be done using the least toxic, duly registered insecticide in the smallest volume possible. Further, any insecticide application if required will be conducted under full compliance with current pesticide legislation and documented on the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Divisional Pesticide Use Form.
4. Urban Forest Health Care Inspectors from the Urban Forestry Branch will be available to provide Forestry Operations staff with any necessary advice and information pertaining to the most up-to-date methods and techniques for the removal of nests.
5. If the nest is deemed by Urban Forestry not to be a safety concern to residents, the nest will not be removed.

Parkland Situations

1. Where a nest is in a tree located on City-owned parkland and public safety is a concern, the area Park Supervisor should be contacted and informed of the concern.
2. The Parks Supervisor will determine if the nest represents a public safety concern and arrange for its removal if required. Urban Forestry staff will provide assistance to the Parks Supervisor if requested.

Road Allowance Situations other than Trees

Where a nest is found in a hedge, utility box, on a light standard, in the ground or situated on City road allowance otherwise, Transportation Services may be contacted by calling 3-1-1.



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- Authority:**
- City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article II regulates the planting, care and maintenance, protection, preservation and removal of trees on City highways/roads or street allowances.
 - City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 608, Parks regulates the protection of trees in parks.

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- Related Information:**
- [Urban Forestry Services Website](#)

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- Forms:**
- [Pesticide Use Form](#)

Contact: Questions about this policy can be directed to:

Supervisor, Forestry Policy and Standards, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, 18 Dyas Road, Toronto, Ontario, M3B 1V5, 416-392-1350.