

Leigh Park Tree Management FAQ

What is happening?

The trees in Leigh Park have been monitored and assessed by an arborist three times over the past six years starting prior to park development. Many of the trees are showing recent signs of decline and need to be removed to ensure the safety of park users and adjacent residents. These trees are dead, dying and/or showing signs of disease and decay (bark beetles, fruiting bodies, limb loss, and canopy die back).

Why were these trees not removed when the park was designed / developed?

The trees were first inspected in 2013 prior to park development and a large percentage of the Birch forest was determined to be in decline at that time. The trees in the poorest condition were removed and the rest of the trees were retained with the recommendation to monitor them overtime. When a site is developed and trees are retained, it is difficult to predict exactly how they will respond to changes in moisture, exposure, light, grade, climate change, etc. The trees were re-inspected in 2015 and again in 2017 and many have further declined in condition and have now become hazardous.

How many trees will be removed?

The City will be taking a staged approach to tree removal at Leigh Park and will be removing approximately 50 trees to start. The trees identified for removal are generally Paper Birch (a relatively short-lived deciduous species) and Western Hemlock. The remaining trees will be monitored annually by the City's arborists and will only be removed at a future date if they show signs of further decline.

What about nesting birds and wildlife?

All trees being removed had a wildlife and nesting survey completed prior to work commencing. Wildlife trees will be created where possible when the remaining stump doesn't interfere the trail or road.