

November 29, 2019

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Regina, SK

Dear City Council,

I am a resident of the neighbourhood of Coronation Park, located in the north end of Regina, nestled in between Normanview and Churchill Downs. I am writing on behalf of the majority of the Coronation area citizens, to express our concern for the removal of the old urban forest in Regent Par 3. As you may know, it is one of the oldest urban forests in Regina with many trees ranging from well over 50 to 60 years. The renovations require the removal of 100 to over 200 mature trees, leaving residents anxious. I would like to suggest some solutions or ideas regarding this plan.

I would like to start by briefly summarizing the benefits of old urban forests and the advantages of preserving them for future generations. Along with adding beauty and providing shade, trees create many other benefits. Urban forests play an important role in human habitat ecology, including filtering air, water, sunlight, providing animal shelter, and recreational areas for people. Trees play a major role in increasing urban biodiversity, providing good habitat, food and protection for various plants and animals. In addition, they can help reduce the main contributor to climate change, CO₂. They absorb CO₂ and potentially harmful gases from the air and release oxygen. One large tree can provide a day's supply of oxygen for 4 people. In fact, a healthy tree can store 13 pounds of carbon every year. This means that by cutting the trees, a large amount of CO₂ will be released into the air, causing global warming. By preserving trees especially in cities with high levels of pollution, they can improve air quality making cities healthier places to live in. Large trees are also excellent reservoirs for fine particulate matter and environmental contaminants. They trap them on leaves and barks. They help reduce water flow, therefore, decrease soil erosion. This is how beneficial trees are to the environment!

Other benefits which trees provide is their positive effect on the community. Trees make communities livable for people and their activities. People tend to walk or jog on streets with trees, improving their physical health. While families too, have a cool place to relax and children to play in the summer. This increases their interaction with neighbours and other people. Trees and green environments support relaxation and reduce stress. This improves overall mental