



MEDIA RELEASE

Document#: 142661

HUNTER PARK TREE REMOVAL DUE TO LAMINATED ROOT ROT

For Immediate Release

October 18, 2016

Langley, BC –The City of Langley has recently identified a tree disease, Laminated Root Rot, affecting Fir and Hemlock species within Hunter Park, and approximately one hundred plus trees within the park will be removed as a result.

Laminated Root Rot, also known as yellow ring rot, is one of the most damaging root diseases amongst conifers in the Pacific Northwest, and Fir and Hemlock trees are highly susceptible to this disease. It is one of the leading causes of dead and wind thrown trees since trees die from failure to take up water and nutrients due to primary root decay. The fungal disease spreads from root to root contact and can remain viable for up to 50 years.

Experts Foresters recommend removing infected trees and those susceptible tree species within a 15-metre radius to mitigate the disease. Based on lab results confirming the infection, the parks department will be removing identified infected trees and highly susceptible trees in the park. Where the 15-meter radius extends into private property, those residents will be advised of the situation and encouraged to assess and remove any diseased trees. Removals within Hunter Park will start as soon as possible, and the City hopes to have them completed before the end of November.

“While it is unknown when the disease impacted these trees, the City is proactively minimizing the risk by clearing away the susceptible trees to ensure the safety of the residents and users of the park.” said Rick Bomhof, Director of Engineering, Park, and Environment.

The City of Langley will commence a park redevelopment plan once all the tree removals have been completed. The City will be conducting further analysis on city trees within the road right of ways in the area of Hunter Park to determine the extent of the trees infected and take appropriate action as may be necessary, such as the removal of trees.

Susceptible trees species in the City of Langley are Douglas Firs and Western Hemlock. If you have any of these trees on your property and have concerns regarding the health of trees on your property, the City recommends that you seek professional advice from a local tree company or arborist familiar with this disease as tree symptoms are not consistent. For more information contact Geoff Mallory, Manager of Park Operations at 604.514.2912 or gmallory@langleycity.ca.

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