

Introduction

Calgary's urban forest is a remarkable achievement given that the city is located in an arid climate that doesn't naturally support trees. The urban forest we have today is much closer to the "city of trees" envisioned by William Pearce in the 1890s. It is the result of the commitment of successive generations of Calgarians to planning, caring for, and protecting the forest. Today, The Calgary Parks Urban Forestry provides leadership, both within the Corporation and to the public, on the stewardship and long-term sustainability of Calgary's urban forest. See below a timeline on how Calgary's urban forest developed.

Timeline of Trees in Calgary

Pre-Settlement

Trees have always been and continue to be a priority for people living in the Calgary area. Prior to even the idea of European settlement the Piikani, Siksika, Kainaiwa (the Blackfoot Nations of the Peigan, Siksika and Blood), the Tsuut'ina (Sarcee Nation) and the Ĩyãħé Nakoda, Chiniquay and Sioux (the Stoney Nations of the Bearspaw, Chiniki and Wesley/Goodstoney) used the tall, straight, trunks of the Lodge Pole Pine trees to provide a structure for their homes, the tee pee. They also used material from Willow trees for sweat lodges and the Birch tree is associated with a Napi story.



1880s

In the 1880s, during the European settlement of North America, both the environmental and aesthetic benefits of planting trees were the subject of considerable discussion in developing cities. For early Calgarians living in the essentially treeless, wind-swept landscape, practicality and trees used for wind breaks was likely the primary motive.



The Bow and Elbow rivers that surrounded Fort Calgary, with their fresh running mountain water and small wooded islands, provided a stark contrast to the parched prairie land surrounding the rivers. But civic leaders dreamed that the barren Calgary landscape could be transformed into a "city of trees". Once The Town of Calgary was incorporated in May 1884 it started to distributed spruce trees to taxpayers upon request for a small fee.

Calgary owes much of the early beginnings of its urban forest to William Pearce. Pearce was heavily influence by the City Beautiful Movement which supported beautification and formality to encourage order and harmony within society. Pearce envisioned Calgary as a city with grand boulevards connecting a series of park spaces. In 1884 Pearce used his position as an inspector for the Dominion Land Agencies in Ottawa to reserve land along the north side of the Bow River. Today it is the city's landmark boulevard — Memorial Drive.

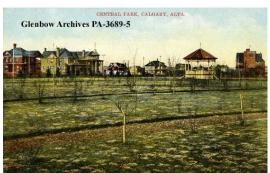




In 1889 Pearce purchased his homestead from the CPR, known today as Pearce Estate Park. The federal government's Forestry Branch credits Pearce with having established the first tree farm in Western Canada. It was in the 1890s that Pearce developed his experimental farm, testing a variety of trees to encourage Calgarians to improve the appearance of the city by planting trees around their homes.



In 1889, the Town of Calgary and the CPR resolved a dispute over unpaid property taxes by the CPR turning over a tract of its lands to the city, with the stipulation that it be used as a park. One of that "park's" earliest functions was as the first civic tree nursery. Today that park is known as Central Memorial Park.



In 1895, The City of Calgary introduced a boulevard tree-planting program that saw trees going in along Calgary's main roads.

In 1899 The City of Calgary Council passed the first tree protection bylaw and started actively promoting tree planting.

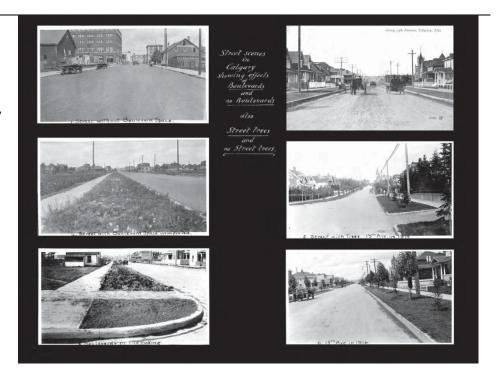


In 1913 William Reader became Calgary's third Superintendant of Parks and Cemeteries. One of his first priorities was the development of the new civic nursery, located at the bottom of Union Cemetery hill. Reader also noted in his 1913 annual report that he "devoted a considerable part of my energies during the past season to the construction of new boulevards, and have prepared a big program for the future, as I very much doubt if any other public improvement will tend to create and foster a civic pride in Calgary to the same extend as will the making of boulevards, and planting of trees on our streets, nor will any other feature of our city impress visitors so favorably."



1913-1942

Reader continued to plant trees within Calgary Streetscapes until his tenure ended in 1942. Some of those streetscapes still exist today and were mentioned specifically in annual reports. Ones that still exist and were also noted in an annual report have been evaluated by the Calgary Heritage Authority and added to Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources.

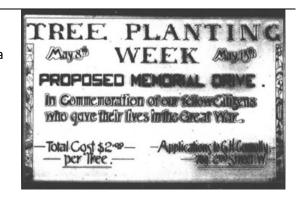




In 1915 Reader planted Green Ash trees along 5A Street SW (from 17th Avenue to Royal Avenue SW). In 2009 the Calgary Heritage Authority added this streetscape to Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources. Reader also planted Lilac shrubs on the median on 11th Street NW in 1919 that were added to Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources in 2009.

1922

In 1922 Memorial Drive was established. Memorial Drive is Calgary's Road of Remembrance. Roads of Remembrance were actively promoted by the International Order of the Daughters of the British Empire, and were the result of a desire to create a lasting memorial to fallen soldiers of WWI. The use of trees, instead of statuary, symbolized the triumph of life over death. In 2009 the Calgary Heritage Authority added Memorial Drive to Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources.



1929

In 1929 Reader planted Elm trees and Lilac shrubs along 7th Avenue NE (from Centre Street N to 2nd Street NE), Green Ash trees and Lilac and Caraganas shrubs along 8th Avenue NE (from Centre Street N to 2nd Street NE), Elm trees and Lilac and Lilac shrubs along 9th Avenue N (from 1st Street NW to 1st Street NE), Elm trees and Lilac and Caragana shrubs along 9th Street SE (from 17th Avenue to Adelaide Avenue SE), Elm trees and Dogwood shrubs along Frontenac Avenue SW (from Carleton Street SW to Wolfe Street SW), Elm trees and honeysuckle shrubs along Riverdale Avenue SW (from 5A Street SW to Elbow Drive SW and from 9th Street SW to 10 Street SW), and Green Ash trees along Sifton Boulevard SW (from Elbow Drive SW to 7th Street SW). In 2009 the Calgary Heritage Authority added these streetscapes to Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources. Reader also planted Lilac shrubs in the medians on 6th Avenue NW in 1929 and in the boulevards on Shelbourne Street SW in 1927 that were added to Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources in 2009.

1930

In 1930 Reader planted Poplar trees and Caragana shrubs along 9th Avenue SE (from 21st Street to 22nd Street SE), Elm trees along 11th Avenue N (from 1st Street NW to 1st Street NE), Green Ash trees and Caragana and Honeysuckle shrubs along Montcalm Crescent SW (from Quebec Avenue SW to Frontenac Avenue SW), Elm trees and Lilac and Cotoneaster shrubs along Montreal Avenue SW (from 12th Street SW to Wolfe Street SW), Green Ash trees and Honeysuckle shrubs along Quebec Avenue SW (from Montcalm Crescent SW to Wolfe Street SW) and Poplar trees and Lilac shrubs along Sharon Avenue SW (from 17th Street SW to 18th Street SW). In 2009 the Calgary Heritage Authority added these streetscapes to Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources.



	Reader also planted Lilac shrubs in the boulevards on 10 th Avenue N and Cotoneaster shrubs on Senlac Street SW in 1930 that were added to Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources in 2009.
1932	In 1932 Reader planted and Elm trees and Lilac shrubs along 4A Street NW (from Alexander Crescent NW to 16 th Avenue NW). Green Ash trees and Caragana shrubs along 5 th Avenue NE (from Edmonton Trail to 2 nd Street NE), Green Ash trees and Caragana and Cotoneaster shrubs along 5 th Street NW (from Crescent Road to 16 th Avenue NW), and Green Ash trees and Cotoneaster shrubs along 6A Street NW (from Crescent Road to 16 th Avenue NW). In 2009 the Calgary Heritage Authority added these streetscapes to Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources. Reader also planted Lilac shrubs in the medians on Bowness Road NW and Lilac shrubs in the boulevards on 7 th Street NW in 1932 that were added to Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources in 2009.
1942	In 1942 Reader planted Elm trees and Lilac and Dogwood shrubs along 8 th Street NE (from 1 st Avenue to 5 th Avenue NE). In 2009 the Calgary Heritage Authority added this streetscape to Calgary's Inventory of Historic Resources.
	Tree planting continued after Reader's tenure and continues today.



In 2008 the Heritage Tree Foundation of Canada printed Heritage Trees of Alberta and identified 73 locations of Historic Trees. This includes:

Location Name	Common name	Scientific Name	Address	Location Name	Common name	Scientific Name	Address
Calgary Centre North				Calgary Central			
	White Spruce	Picea glauca	318 -16th St NW	Courthouse Cherries	Amur Cherry	Prunus maackii	530 - 7th Ave SW
	Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum	304 - 16A St NW	Veteran Memorial Trees	Balsam Poplar	Populus balsamifera	Memorial Dr - East of Langevir
	Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum	408 - 11 Ave NW				Bridge
	Poplar .	Populus sp.	S. corner of 15 Ave NW	Memorial Drive Willow	White Willow variety	Salix alba var.	S. side of Memorial Dr
	Plains Cottonwood	Populus deltoides sargentii	1201 - 2 St NW		,		W. of 4 St NE bridge
	Balsam Poplar	Populus balsamifera	3 St & Crescent Rd NW				rating on age
	Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa	120 Crescent Rd NW	Whiteway's Grove	Silver Poplar	Populus alba	Beside the Lion & Ostrich enclosur
Avenue of Trees	American Elm	Ulmus americana	11 Ave NE	Entrance Trees	Colorado Spruce	Picea pungens	At entrance to Conservatory
			between 2 St NE & 1 St NW	Sanna's Sisters	Manchurian Walnut	Juglans mandshurica	Prehistoric Park
	European Mountain Ash	Sorbus aucuparia	119 - 7 Ave NE	Hickey's Maple	Sugar Maple	Acer saccharum	Eagles' enclosure
Veteran Memorial Trees	Balsam Poplar	Populus balsamifera	Memorial Dr - East of Langevin		Littleleaf Linden	Tilia cordata	Prehistoric Park
			Bridge	William Pearce Park	Trembling Aspen	Populus tremuloides	14 Ave & 17 St SE
Memorial Drive Willow	White Willow variety	Salix alba var.	S. side of Memorial Dr	Helen McLeod's Tree	White Spruce	Picea glauca	1240 – 8 Ave SE
			W. of 4 St NE bridge	Inglewood Cottonwoods	Plains Cottonwood	Populus deltoides (sargentii)	1216 - 8 Ave SE
The Huntley Buckeye Tree	Ohio Buckeye	Aesculus glabra	425 - 20 Ave NW	Stampede Elm	American Elm	Ulmus americana	Olympic Way SE
Mountview Poplar	Poplar	Populus	627 - 26 Ave NE				parking lot between 12 & 13 A
Northmount Poplar Calgary South	Balsam Poplar	Populus balsamifera	48 Northmount Cres NW		Manitoba Maple	Acer negundo	Suntree Park Stampede Grounds
Fish Creek Birch	Alaska Birch	Betula neoalaskana	Shannon Terrace - Fish Creek Park		Laurel Leaf Willow	Salix pentandra	Suntree Park
Patton's Park	Colorado Spruce	Picea pungens	200 block, Patton Court		Eddici Eddi Willow	July pentanula	Stampede Grounds
rations raik	Bristlecone Pine	Pinus aristata	348 Sackville Dr SW	Reader Rock Garden	Mugho Pine		Macleod Tr S. & 25 Ave SW
Carburn Park	Poplar	Populus sp.	340 Suckvine Di 344	Reader Rock Garden	Japanese Tree Lilac	Syringa reticulata	Macieda II 3. & 23 AVE 3VV
Burns Trail	Russian Poplar	Populus x petrowskyana	Remnants along Macleod Trail S.	Reader Rock Garden	European Mountain Ash	Sorbus aucuparia	
Dallis Hall	nassan opiai	r opulus x petroviskyunu	S. of 162 Ave - West side	Reader Rock Garden	Colorado Spruce	Picea pungens	
			3. OF TOZ THE THESE SIGE	Reader Rock Garden	Ohio Buckeye	Aesculus glabra	
Elliston Park				Treated Trees delices	Scots Pine	Pinus sylvestris	Union Cemetery
Elliston Park Birth Place Forest	Various species		17 Ave & 60 St SE		White Spruce	Picea glauca	Union Cemetery
Calgary West				Memorial Park Spruce	Colorado Spruce	Picea pungens	11 Ave & 4 St SW
Bowness Montane Forest	Deviales Cir	Descriptions magnicali alones	Valley Ridge bike trail	Tomkin's Square Elm	American Elm	Ulmus americana	17 Ave & 4 St SW
bowness montane Forest	Douglas-Fir Pseudotsuga menziesii glauca	overlooking Stoney Trail	Tomking Square Emi	White Spruce	Picea glauca	141 - 18 Ave SW	
Baker Park Douglas-Fir	Douglas-Fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii glauca	Baker Park	FCJ Centre	Winte Spruce	ricea giauca	141 - 18 AVE 3VV
bakei raik bougias-rii	Douglas-Fil	r seudotsuga menziesii giauta	9333 Scenic Bow Rd NW	Sacred Heart Convent	European Mountain Ash	Sorbus aucuparia	225 - 19 Ave SW
Mabel White's Oak	Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa	Baker Park	The Big Poplar	Plains Cottonwood	Populus deltoides sargentii	316 - 20 Ave SW
Manel Willes Oak	Dui Oak	Queicus macrocarpa	9333 Scenic Bow Rd NW	Cliff Bungalow Avenue	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica lanceolata	5A St SW
Old Pines	Scots Pine	Pinus sylvestris	Between 24 Ave & 32 Ave NW	am bangalon menae	dicti Asii	Traxinus perinsylvanica iariceolata	
old i liles	Scots i me	i ilius sylvestiis	E. of Alberta Children's Hospital	The Scott House	American Elm	Ulmus americana	1110 Prospect Ave SW 868 Hillcrest Ave SW
University of Calgary Landmark	American Elm	Ulmus americana	Craigie Hall courtyard	Cliff Bungalow	Russian Olive	Elaeagnus angustifolia	610 - 25 Ave SW
omversity or eargury curramant	Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum	2411 Charlebois Dr NW	ciii bunguun	Poplar	Populus	
Grant MacEwan Memorial Tree	Norland Apple	Malus 'Norland'	2556 Toronto Cr NW		Laurel Leaf Willow	Salix pentandra	E. end of median at Garden Ave St Garden Crescent SW
Grant MacEwan Tree	Colorado Spruce	Picea pungens	2634 - 12 Ave NW		Mugho Pine	Pinus mugo	308 Roxboro Rd SW
	Colorado Spruce	Picea pungens	2204 - 9th Ave NW		Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa	317 - 38th Ave SW
	Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum	304 - 16A St NW		Balsam Poplar	Populus balsamifera	
	White Spruce	Picea glauca	318 - 16 St NW		Daisani rupiai	r opurus vaisailillera	3815 - 7th St SW
Bow Trail Sentinel	Poplar	Populus	NE section of Crowchild & Bow Trails				
Sacred Willowmena	Willow	Salix sp.	Shaganappi Valley Golf Course 8th Tee Box				
	Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum	Corner of 5th Ave & 36 St SW				
Avenue of Trees	Crabapple	Malus sp.	Windermere Rd SW				
	Pear	Pyrus sp.	167 Wildwood Dr SW				
Boulevard Trees	Japanese Tree Lilac	Syringa reticulata	3 Grove Hill PI SW				
	Laurel Leaf Willow	Salix pentandra	4416 - 16A St SW				

Today Today the urban forest consists of approximately 630,000 trees in manicured parks, green spaces and boulevards trees.