

## Removal of Bees, Wasps and Hornets Nests

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<b>Division:</b>	Parks and Recreation	<b>Approved by:</b>	General Manager
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		<b>Category:</b>	Parks, Forestry and Recreation
		<b>Sub-cat:</b>	Forestry; Parks

### Policy Statement

It is the policy of the City of Toronto, urban Forestry Services to leave wasps 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 Services 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 Services will inspect the site and decide on appropriate further action.

### Application

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.

### Procedures

#### Road Allowance Situations

1. Residents who are concerned about the presence of bees, wasps or hornets nests located within a City-owned tree or on a branch of a private tree which overhangs the City road allowance may request an inspection by Urban Forestry Services by calling 416-338-TREE (8733). Nests which are situated in a tree at a height of 3 m (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.
2. Residents should contact their local district office of Urban Forestry Services to request an inspection. It is the responsibility of the district staff to conduct the inspection and carry out the removal of the nest if required.
3. If upon inspection Urban Forestry Services 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 Services district staff may refer to their 'List of Beekeepers' in the Greater Toronto Area and contact the appropriate person.

4. If chemical control is chosen as a method to kill the insects in the nest prior to the removal of the nest from the tree, products which contain chlorpyrifos as an active ingredient must not be used on City property.
5. Forest Health Care Inspectors of the City Forester's Office will be available to provide district staff with any necessary advice and information pertaining to the most up-to-date methods and techniques for the removal of nests.
6. If the nest is deemed by Urban Forestry Services not to be a safety concern to residents, the nest will not be removed.

#### **Parkland Situations**

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 at 416-392-8186.

#### **Road Allowance Situations**

Where a nest is found in a hedge, utility box, on a light standard, in the ground or situated on City road allowance otherwise, Works and Emergency Services may be contacted at 416-392-8305.