



DANGER TREES IN YOUR COMMUNITY HELPING TO KEEP MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE- AFFECTED COMMUNITIES SAFE

The Government of Canada is providing funds to remove trees killed by the mountain pine beetle from municipal parks and school yards.

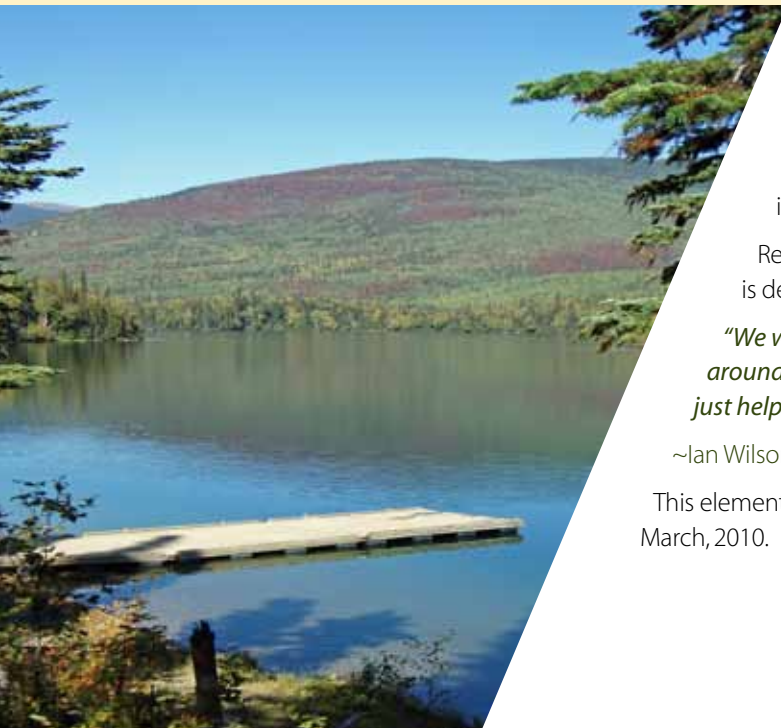
Across British Columbia millions of mature pine trees were killed by the beetle. Now the deteriorating wood is at risk of falling and poses a hazard to people using community recreation areas.

Communities and school yards in the beetle zone can receive grants to remove these trees and improve public safety. Funding is available through the Hazard Tree Removal from Municipal Lands Element of Natural Resources Canada's Mountain Pine Beetle Program.



"Trees affected by the mountain pine beetle pose a significant safety hazard. BC's boards of education are committed to ensuring that public schools are safe for children. Grant programs offered by National Resources Canada are needed to ensure that BC schools continue to be safe."

~Connie Denesiuk, President of the BC School Trustees Association.



FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES

In fiscal year 2007/2008, approximately \$500,000 was spent by communities to find and remove hazard trees. Another \$900,000 is approved for projects in 2008/2009.

Recipients may receive up to \$100,000 per year. Funding varies and is determined by the size and duration of the project.

"We will apply for as long as the program is offered. We're paying around \$10,000/hectare in costs, and that is huge. That extra funding just helps so much."

~Ian Wilson, Urban Forestry Specialist, City of Kelowna

This element of the Mountain Pine Beetle Program has been extended through March, 2010.

HOW TO APPLY

Mountain Pine Beetle Program Hazard Tree Removal from Municipal Lands
View at: mpb.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/protect/community/municipal_e.html

Or call: 250-363-3330



WHO MAY APPLY

Eligible applicants include municipalities (with legal status) including regional districts, school boards (as constituted under the provincial School Act), and First Nations bands and councils.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Activities funded under the Hazard Tree Removal Element include:

- hazard tree assessments and preparing plans and prescriptions for treatments to reduce risks and hazards
- removal of beetle-killed trees and associated debris
- verification of environmental compliance

Funding recipients may hire contractors to do the work. Tree removal activities undertaken by residential property owners are not eligible.



KEEPING PARKS OPEN

Eleanor Lake Park, in the centre of Blue River, BC, was hit hard by the mountain pine beetle. Ball diamonds, a beach, and swimming areas keep the park busy with local residents and visiting tourists from spring through fall. The Thompson Nicola Regional District used funding from the Program to assess and remove the beetle-killed pine from the park.



"If we didn't do this work, we would have had to close the park. This is a place that the community has grown up with as a local resource. It would have been very hard on the community if we couldn't use it."

~Lyle Huntley, Thompson Nicola Regional District.

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