



News Release

For Immediate Release



Town of Altona Launches Urban Forest Management Strategy

Altona, MB. May 21, 2026:

The Town of Altona is introducing its first Urban Forest Management Strategy. Over the next 20 years, the Town plans to plant approximately 5,000 trees throughout Altona, with the goal of increasing the community's tree canopy coverage to 15% by 2045.

These efforts will provide many benefits for residents, including more shade, cleaner air, improved stormwater management, wildlife habitat, and more enjoyable public spaces. Trees also provide important economic benefits, such as helping reduce home heating and cooling costs and increasing property values.

Currently, Altona is home to more than 5,000 publicly owned trees, which are in parks, boulevards, and other public greenspaces.

Trees have long played an important role in the community. Early settlers planted windbreaks and hedgerows to help protect against the harsh prairie environment. These natural barriers provided shade in the summer, insulation in the winter, and protection from strong winds. Some of these historic plantings still stand today in Centennial Park, the Town's largest public park, where they continue to provide shade, privacy, and shelter from the wind and sun.

To increase the number of trees and strengthen the urban forest, the Town's goals include:

- Planting approximately 250 trees annually to support long-term canopy growth
- Increasing tree species diversity to improve resilience against pests and diseases
- Developing proactive maintenance and monitoring programs
- Enhancing public education and community tree planting initiatives
- Creating future tree protection and planting policies

The urban forest also faces growing challenges from climate change and invasive pests. To stay healthy, trees require routine care, including inspections, watering, pruning, and fertilizing. Trees also need healthy soil conditions and enough growing space to thrive.

As part of the strategy, the Town plans to strengthen proactive maintenance by increasing tree inspections, improving pruning schedules, and preparing for emerging threats such as the Emerald Ash Borer, Dutch Elm Disease and other invasive pests.

Public feedback played an important role in shaping the strategy. Survey results showed that 94% of participants consider trees important to their community, with strong support for additional tree planting throughout Altona.

Altona residents will also have opportunities to participate in future planting events and community engagement initiatives as the strategy moves forward.

What is happening this year?

In 2026, the Town of Altona will be increasing from an annual 100 trees planted to 250 trees planted. This ambitious goal will be achieved through a few novel initiatives.

- Tree Planting Workshop: On June 13, 2026 from 10 am – noon, residents of Altona can come and participate in a mass tree-planting exercise in Ash Park. This event will include a workshop to learn how to plant and care for a healthy tree with Public Works Assistant Mark Dupuis, as well as the opportunity to participate in planting 70+ trees within Ash Park. In addition to participating in the public tree planting, attendees will also be given a voucher for a free tree to plant on their own Altona property. To register, visit [Tree Planting Day – Fill out form](#)
- Private Tree Giveaway: In 2026, the Town of Altona will give away up to 50 tree vouchers to be planted on private property in Altona. The tree vouchers can be redeemed this year at Two Sparrows Greenhouse for a tree from a pre-approved list, with a value of up to \$80. Registrants at the Tree Planting Workshop will be the first to receive these vouchers, with the possibility to for other residents to receive vouchers on a first come, first served basis after the workshop.

In addition to those new methods of adding trees, the Town will also continue its regular boulevard tree planting and continue to focus on the health and wellbeing of the existing trees.

For more information and to read the full Urban Forest Management Strategy, please visit our [website](#)

Included quotes:

“Trees are a big part of what makes Altona a great place to live. This plan gives us a clear path to take care of what we have and keep growing our canopy for the future.” – Mayor Harv Schroeder

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