

ATTACHMENT B

**DRAFT HYDE PARK RISK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Hyde Park – Risk Management Plan

This Risk Management Plan (RMP) has been developed to assist the City in managing the trees, events and overall park usage in Hyde Park.

The focus of this report are the potential risks associated with the Hill's Fig's (Ficus microcarpa var. 'Hillii') located in the Central Avenue, other isolated Hill's Figs within the park, and other trees located throughout the park.

This RMP provides the high level risk assessment and it will be supported by detailed operational procedures. The RMP should be seen as a living document, much like the trees focused on in this report. It is necessary to monitor risks, effectiveness of controls, and to update the plan as required. As trees are living, and therefore can respond unexpectedly, the risk of a tree failure (either total or partial) is considered an obvious risk.

The purpose of the RMP is to articulate the processes the City has established to manage the risk to a level that is as low as is reasonably practical, and to provide clear directions and expectations to the various departments responsible for managing the trees, contractors and consultants, events or general park space. It is up to all parties to ensure the plan remains relevant and effective.

The key factors impacting the management of trees in Hyde Park are the extent and impact from:

- decay (particularly in the root crown at and below ground level),
- inclusions (weakly attached branches and stems),
- root damage (especially as a consequence of park upgrades),
- increased exposure to wind and sun (due to removal of adjacent trees),
- extreme weather events; and
- ageing trees.

The risks and their controls are outlined on the table on the following pages.

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Risk Type	Risk	Impacts	Causes	Current Controls	Responsibility	Additional treatment for approval
Decay	Whole tree failure	Potential injury to staff, public, or damage caused to structures	Various tree-related diseases within the park.	<p>Undertake 'drill testing' every 2 years of all Hill's Figs in Central Avenue to assess the extent of decay. Testing to be undertaken by an independent arborist.</p> <p>Current delegation to permit immediate removal of trees once they reach a level of decay above 70% in consultation with Director City Operations and CEO.</p> <p>Ongoing training of parks maintenance staff in the identification of pathogens and hygiene to limit spread of pathogens in Hyde Park, and other parks.</p>	<p>Tree Management</p> <p>Tree Management</p> <p>Parks Management</p>	Revised delegations to authorize City's arborists to immediately remove trees.
Inclusions	Branch failure	Potential injury to staff, public, or damage caused to structures	Weakly attached branches and stems	<p>Parks maintenance service providers to undertake a 'walk through' assessment of the central avenue trees each week.</p> <p>Parks staff then carry out any pruning works required as a result of the inspection. Inclusions high in the crown to be completely removed where possible.</p> <p>An aerial inspection (viewing the trees branches from a cherry picker or through climbing) the trees in the central avenue is undertaken each year by an independent arborist.</p> <p>Removal of any trees the independent arborist / city staff considers being in a dangerous condition.</p>	<p>Parks Management</p> <p>Parks Management</p> <p>Tree Management</p> <p>Tree Management</p>	

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Risk Type	Risk	Impacts	Causes	Controls	Responsibility	Additional treatment for approval
Root Damage	Whole tree failure	Potential injury to staff, public, or damage caused to structures	Excavations undertaken during park upgrades or for other infrastructure maintenance caused significant damage.	No excavation to occur within close proximity of the tree trunk without approval / supervision of the City's arborists / nominated consultant arborist.	Tree and Parks Management, City Projects and CITO	
	Poor tree health / condition	Reduced park amenity		Removal of any trees the independent arborist / city staff considers being in a dangerous condition.	Tree Management	
Increased exposure	Branch failure	Potential injury to staff, public, or damage caused to structures	Increased exposure to wind and sun due to removal of adjacent trees	Annual aerial inspection undertaken (in conjunction with 'inclusion' inspection above) for trees with sunscald damage. Assessment of adjacent trees to determine if they have pre-existing problems (such as decay, seriously included branches, or poor branch / tree form, or previous root damage).	Tree Management	
	Sunscald	Damaged branches and stems		Pruning / removal undertaken if trees are considered to be a safety concern. Pruning / removal undertaken during winter months where possible.		
Ageing trees	Poor tree health / condition	Reduced park amenity	Natural processes	Central Ave: Weekly inspections by parks service provider as outlined above. Ongoing maintenance as required (removal dead / dying defective branches)	Parks Management	
	Tree failure	Potential injury to staff, public, or damage caused to structures		Other trees: 6-12 monthly park tree inspections by the parks service provider. Completion of regular tree maintenance (dead wooding, pruning etc.) Decompaction of the soil to assist in reducing the impacts from poor soil / drainage and high use areas of the park.		

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Risk Type	Risk	Impacts	Causes	Controls	Responsibility	Additional treatment for approval
Extreme Weather Events	Whole tree / branch failure Unpredictable impact to trees	Potential injury to staff, public, or damage caused to structures. Community and event access to park affected Unable to mitigate risk of failure	Climatic conditions / changes in weather patterns (including climate change)	No current closure procedure in place	Tree, Parks Event and Security Management	Central avenue to be closed. Thresholds for City staff to act will be based on extent of rain (e.g. > 300mm) and wind speed / direction. Signage to be deployed to the park advising the community of the parks closure and the increased risk due to the weather event. Following avenue closure, the parks service provider / independent arborist are to undertake a visual assessment of the trees and advise when avenue can be reopened. Note: This may be some days after a heavy rain event.
All of the above – event management	Whole tree / branch failure	Potential injury to staff, public, or damage caused to structures.	All of the above	Event exclusion zones identified for Hyde Park bookings	Event Management	No new event will be booked under the central avenue Hill's Figs. Relocation of events to other places within the park, or to other parks.

Importantly, whilst this tree management program is in place, it should be noted some tree failures are unpredictable. This is especially relevant when experiencing extreme weather events, along with the 'inclusion' failures that can occur without showing any previous external symptoms (such as bulges, cracks etc).