



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

December 4, 2020

Invasive species removal planned in Electoral Area "E"

Within the past few years, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) has developed a phased approach to the removal of the invasive Siberian Elm trees in parks throughout the region, including parks in Naramata. The Siberian Elm was introduced to North America in the mid-1800s, and has become established in the South Okanagan producing issues in both natural and maintained landscapes, which include:

- This species has brittle branches and is prone to breaking apart in storms
- Highly susceptible to elm leaf beetles
- Prolific seeder with a high rate of seed germination
- Shading and crowding of native vegetation
- Aggressive root systems that damage hard surfaces

Manitou Park has a high percentage of this invasive tree. Through the Parks Maintenance program, Naramata Parks and Recreation has conducted the removal of Siberian Elms and planted native trees, each year. Due to the ongoing improvements at Manitou Park which includes a new year-round washroom facility and accessible pathway, a larger number of trees will be removed than in previous years. The RDOS will be removing up to 25 invasive or dangerous trees over the coming weeks. This work will facilitate the park path project planned for 2021 while providing training opportunities for RDOS maintenance staff.

For information on the Regional District's invasive species program visit the [RDOS website](#).

For more on the Siberian Elm, please visit: <https://invasive-species.extension.org/ulmus-pumila-siberian-elm>

For further information about the upcoming tree removal or parks and recreation in the region, please email cs@rdos.bc.ca

-30-

Karla Kozakevich, Chair
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Contacts:

[Justin Shuttleworth](#)

RDOS Parks and Facilities Manager
250-490-4136

[Erick Thompson](#)

RDOS Communications
250-490-4211

[Andrea Rendall](#)

RDOS Communications
250-490-4147





Siberian Elm

