

Improving Tree Protection Regulations

In response to concerns expressed by residents about tree removal and land alteration activities especially on larger properties in the City, City staff provided an in-camera report to Council at the meeting on October 3 with options for consideration. Wishing to address this issue as a matter of public concern, Council voted to rise and report their decision.

Parksville Council directed staff to review the regulatory framework surrounding tree removal. This review will be completed in conjunction with the final draft of the City's [urban forestry strategy](#) scheduled for completion in early 2023. Staff will provide Council with recommendations on regulatory changes with respect to stronger tree protection and management, particularly for larger stands of trees. In addition, protection for younger, smaller trees will be considered and the protection measures for particular species of trees may be expanded.

The City's current *Tree Management Bylaw, 2012, No. 1484*, defines protected tree as follows:

Any tree, the diameter of which is greater than 50 centimetres (20 inches); a covenanted tree; a tree located within 30 metres (98.4252 feet) of the natural boundary of a watercourse or top of a slope of 30% or more; specifically excludes all *Populus* sp. and Alder trees; an Eagle or Great Blue Heron nesting tree.

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For more information:

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