



Understanding the City's Tree Management Bylaw

WHAT IS A TREE PROTECTION BYLAW?

- The City regulates the preservation, removal and replacement of trees, under its "Tree Management Bylaw, 2012, No. 1484". Tree retention is considered important for many reasons. Trees provide important environmental benefits and enhance the quality of life in our city. Trees not only add to the aesthetics of an area, they also play a vital role in natural ecosystems.
- Under the Parksville Tree Management Bylaw, applications for tree removal will be assessed for tree protection measures. Private property owners, developers, designers or contractors applying for a tree cutting permit should be familiar with the requirements of the Tree Management Bylaw.
- While there are some legitimate circumstances under which it makes sense to remove trees, it is generally believed that trees should be retained and properly cared for in most cases.

When is a Tree Cutting Permit required?

The issuance of a Tree Cutting Permit is required for any property within the City of Parksville in order to cut down any tree that is defined as a protected tree (see reverse for details,) which includes covenanted trees and trees within 30 m of a watercourse or steep slope (30%).

When is a Tree Cutting Permit NOT required?

A Tree Cutting Permit is not required for:

- i. A tree that does not meet the definition of a protected tree, i.e. any tree that is under 50 cm (20 inches) in diameter, or any species of poplar and alder trees;

or

- ii. For pruning. Pruning may include the removal of branches as long as the branches are under 10 cm (4 inches) in diameter.



Protected Tree:

The bylaw defines a protected tree as: ***“any tree the diameter of which is greater than 50 cm (20 inches)”***.

Trees which fit this definition can be removed only when removal is necessary, but a permit will be required to remove the tree. The conditions which make removal necessary are set by the City and are outlined later on in this brochure.

Replacement Tree:

A replacement tree is required for any tree removed that required a tree removal permit. Trees have to be replaced within six months from the date of tree removal permit issuance.

Replacement trees can be any species, but in the case of coniferous species, be not less than two metres in height. In the case of deciduous species, be a single tree not less than six centimeters in diameter. Any replacement tree required to be planted shall be healthy and reasonably capable of surviving.

Hazardous Tree:

A hazardous tree is any tree which, due to its location, health, condition or circumstance, has been determined by an International Society of Arboriculture accredited arborist to pose an imminent threat to person or property.

Any tree over 50 cm (20 inches) in diameter or 157 cm (62 inches) in circumference which has been declared to be hazardous can be removed if a tree removal permit issued by the City of Parksville is obtained and provided the tree is hazardous due to natural causes.

Development Permit Property:

Please be advised that if the tree is on a property within a development permit area, tree cutting may trigger a review of other requirements.

If the applicant proposes to cut or remove any protected tree, an application for a tree cutting permit must be made in writing to the City of Parksville, Community Planning Department and must supply all the following information unless otherwise stated by the Planning Department:

- * a site plan showing the legal boundaries and dimensions of the property;
- * A tree plan clearly identifying which **tree(s) are requested to be cut down (along with photographs)**;
- * A tree plan clearly identifying which **tree(s) are to be retained**;
- * When required, a replacement tree plan showing the proposed **location of proposed replacement trees**;
- * A report prepared, to the satisfaction of the City, by a **certified arborist as accredited by the International Society of Arboriculture** stating the tree(s) represents a specific hazard or danger to person or property;
- * A **permit fee**: as set out in the *Fees and Charges Bylaw 2015 No. 1515*;
- * An issued permit valid for **six months**.



Information is for convenience only. Contact the Planning Department to discuss current and applicable bylaws.