



Tree Cutting and Removal

TREE MANAGEMENT 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.

WHEN A TREE CUTTING PERMIT IS REQUIRED

The issuance of a Tree Cutting Permit is required in order to cut down any tree that is defined as a **protected tree**, which is:

- any tree with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 50 cm or more
- a tree protected by covenant
- a tree within 30 metres of the natural boundary of a watercourse or top of a slope of 30% or more
- an eagle or great blue heron nesting tree

Note: Poplar and alder trees of any size are not considered protected trees and do not require a Tree Cutting Permit.



WHEN A TREE CUTTING PERMIT IS NOT REQUIRED

A Tree Cutting Permit is not required for:

- a tree that is not considered a protected tree or
- pruning, as long as the branches to be pruned are under 10 cm in diameter. If over 10 cm, a permit is required.



Measuring a Tree's 'Diameter at Breast Height' (DBH)

1. Measure 1.4 metres up from the ground at the centre of the trunk; mark this location.
2. Wrap a string tightly around the trunk at the marked location. Mark or cut the string where it meets around the tree.
3. Measure the length of string to get circumference.
4. Divide the circumference by 3.14 to get diameter.

If a tree splits into two trunks below 1.4 m above the ground, measure DBH at the smallest circumference under where the trunk splits.

Replacement Tree

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

Replacement trees may be any species, but in the case of coniferous species, be not less than two (2) metres in height. In the case of deciduous species, it shall be a tree not less than six (6) 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-certified 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 hazardous can be removed if a Tree Cutting 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.

Applying for a Tree Cutting Permit

If the applicant proposes to cut or remove any protected tree, an **application for a Tree Cutting Permit** must be made to the City of Parksville, Department of Community Planning and Building and must supply all the following information unless otherwise stated by the Department:

- * A **tree plan** clearly identifying which tree(s) are requested to be cut down and which tree(s) are to be retained;
- * When required, a **replacement tree plan** showing the location of proposed replacement trees; and,
- * A **report prepared 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 City's Fees and Charges Bylaw will be charged only after a Tree Cutting Permit has been issued.



Information is for convenience only. Contact department staff to discuss current and applicable bylaws.