

# TREE CUTTING & REMOVAL



DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY PLANNING  
AND BUILDING



## TREE BYLAW

Parksville's "Tree Management Bylaw, 2012, No. 1484," regulates the preservation, removal and replacement of trees within the city. Tree retention is considered important for many reasons. They provide important environmental benefits, enhance quality of life, improve an area's aesthetics and play a vital role in natural ecosystems.

Private property owners, developers, designers or contractors applying for a tree cutting or removal permit should familiarize themselves 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.

## TREE PERMIT *REQUIRED* FOR:

- any tree with a diameter of 50 cm (20 in) or more when measured at 1.4 m (4.5 ft) above the ground;
- pruning branches larger than 10 cm (4 in) in diameter;
- a tree protected by covenant;
- a tree within 30 m of the natural boundary of a watercourse or top of a slope with a grade of 30% or more;
- an eagle or great blue heron nesting or perching tree.

## TREE PERMIT *NOT REQUIRED* FOR:

- a tree less than 50 cm (20 in) in diameter when measured at 1.4 m (4.5 ft) above the ground;
- a tree that poses an imminent hazard;
- pruning branches less than 10 cm (4 in) in diameter;
- poplar and alder trees of any size are not considered protected trees and do not require a tree permit;
- If a tree stands within the footprint of a proposed building or services for that building for which a building permit has been issued.

***NOTE: If a property falls within a development permit area, tree cutting may trigger a review of other requirements.***

## MEASURING A TREE'S DIAMETER

1. Measure 1.4 m (4.5 ft) 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 the circumference.
4. Divide the circumference by 3.14 to get the diameter.

If a tree splits into two or more trunks below 1.4m above the ground, measure the diameter of each trunk and add the diameters together.

## REPLACEMENT TREES

A replacement tree is required for each tree removed through a tree permit. Trees must be replanted within six months from the date of permit issuance.

Replacement trees may be any non-invasive species, but in the case of coniferous species, be not less than two metres tall. In the case of deciduous species, it shall be a tree not less than six centimetres in diameter. Any replacement tree required to be planted shall be healthy and reasonably capable of surviving (this may require regular watering).

## APPLYING FOR A TREE PERMIT

If a property owner proposes to cut or remove any protected tree, an application for a tree permit must be made to the planning department and must supply all of the following information unless otherwise stated by the department:

- **completed application form;**
- **tree plan** clearly identifying which trees are requested to be cut down, which trees are to be retained and the location of the required replacement trees;
- **report by an ISA-certified arborist** stating that the tree or trees represent 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 permit has been issued.

### Photo Captions

Cover photo: Crusier ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pseudotsuga\\_menziesii\\_RO.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pseudotsuga_menziesii_RO.jpg)), „Pseudotsuga menziesii RO“, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/legalcode>

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



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