

Tree Protection Bylaws and Policies for Private Property Owners

Many local governments in Greater Vancouver have a bylaw or policy addressing tree removal, retention, pruning and damage on private property. This matrix is an overview.

Note: Bowen Island, North Vancouver City, Pemberton, Pitt Meadows, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and the Gulf Islands do not have a tree bylaw or policy for private land. However, if there are trees within stream corridors or near waterways, trees may be protected under the provincial [Streamside Protection Regulation](#) and the federal [Fisheries Act](#). Trees on agricultural land in the Agricultural Land Reserve may be exempt from municipal tree bylaws. Trees on municipal (city) property are typically under the Parks Department. Questions? Contact your local municipality.

	Anmore Village of	Belcarra Village of	Burnaby City of	Coquitlam City of	Delta City of	Gibsons Town of	Lions Bay Village of	Maple Ridge City of	New Westminister City of
Bylaw or policy	Tree Management Bylaw No. 430, 2007	Tree Cutting Bylaw, No. 110, 1987	Tree Cutting Bylaw, No. 10482, 1996 Info	Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 4091, 2010 Info	Bylaw for the Protection of Trees, No. 7415, 2016 Info	Tree Preservation Bylaw 1282, 2020 Info	Trees, Views and Landscapes Bylaw No. 393, 2007	Tree Protection Bylaw No. 5896, 2000 Info	Tree Cutting Bylaw No. 7799, 2016 Info
Tree defined	10 cm (3.9 in) + in diameter measuring 1.4 m (4.5 ft) above ground. Doesn't include hedge, alder or cottonwood	5 m (16.4 ft) or more in height	20.3 cm (8 in) + in diameter; conifer tree with diameter 30.5 cm (12 in) +; broad leaf tree diameter of 45.7 cm (18 in) +	20 cm+ in diameter, 1.4 m from base, or on a steep slope 5 m + in height	Any woody plant of any species; grows to height > 5 m, including dead trees	20 cm + in diameter at breast height (130 cm above the ground)	Diameter of 20 cm + measured 1.4 m above ground. Arbutus, Dogwood and Yew 10 cm at 1.4 m above ground	20 cm + diameter at breast height (130 cm above the ground)	20 cm + diameter or has combined diameter of its two largest trunks or stems 20 cm+
Significant or protected trees defined	No	No	Covenanted tree	20 cm + in diameter, 1.4m from the base, 5m on steep slope	Replacement trees regardless of size	20 cm + in diameter at breast height (130 cm above the ground)	Significant trees due to size, age, landmark, cultural, environmental or social; wildlife habitat	Tree > 50 cm diameter at breast height in urban/suburban area; 70 cm diameter at breast height for trees in rural area not cottonwood or alder	Yes. Large, mature deciduous or coniferous tree with a diameter 60 cm +
Urban forest strategy	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

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	Anmore Village of	Belcarra Village of	Burnaby City of	Coquitlam City of	Delta City of	Gibsons Town of	Lions Bay Village of	Maple Ridge City of	New Westminister City of
Area covered by bylaw	Private property	Private property or development permit area	Private and public lands	Private property	Private property or development permit area	Private property or development permit area	Private and public lands	Private and public lands	Private property
Cutting permit required	Yes . Some exemptions. See bylaw	Yes . Some exemptions. See bylaw	Yes . Some exemptions. See bylaw	Yes . Some exemptions. See bylaw	Yes . Some exemptions. See bylaw	Yes . Some exemptions. See bylaw	Yes . Some exemptions. See bylaw	Yes . Lot < 0.5 hectare Yes lot + 0.5 hectare	Yes . Some exemptions. See bylaw
Permit fee	\$500	\$200	\$70 - \$500 No development Development application pending \$800	\$302	\$100 (plus \$10/tree to be cut to a maximum of \$2,000)	\$50 plus \$50 each additional tree	\$75	Non-development fee: \$50 for first tree + \$25 each additional tree; Development: \$200 + \$25 per tree	\$75 per tree for first 10 trees; \$150 per tree for each additional tree to be removed
Development, site or tree plan required (written plan and/or report to accompany permit application)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Security deposit required for permit	May be required	May be required	\$820	A \$300 per tree security deposit may be required	\$500	\$300	\$500	\$600 per replacement tree	\$500 +
Tree replacement ratio - the number of replacement trees required to replace trees cut down	3:1 when coniferous > 4 m; 3:1 when deciduous tree > 7 m	Not specified	1:1 when diameter of tree < 30.5 cm; 2:1 when diameter is 30.5 cm + to 61 cm; 3:1 when diameter is 61 cm +	Replacement may be required	2 replacement trees for each tree removed. Tree replacement plan by qualified professional	1:1	Not specified	Yes . 2:1 where tree cutting contravenes bylaw	2:1
Tracking of replacement trees	Yes replacement trees must remain in good health for 3 + years	Not specified	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not specified	Yes (see Bylaw Schedule B)	Yes

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	Anmore Village of	Belcarra Village of	Burnaby City of	Coquitlam City of	Delta City of	Gibsons Town of	Lions Bay Village of	Maple Ridge City of	New Westminster City of
Hazardous trees addressed	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Canopy considerations	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Tree management information	Delta Trees for tomorrow	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Urban Forest Management Strategy
Penalties	\$1,000	Not more than \$1,000	Not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$10,000	Up to \$500 (see link)	Up to \$10,000	\$2,000 - \$5,000	\$1,000 for first tree cut without permit; \$3,000 for subsequent trees to max \$10,000	Not more than \$10,000 per tree	Up to \$10,000
Notes			Information		Trees for tomorrow	Tree cutting permit application guide			Tree permit information

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	North Vancouver District of	Port Coquitlam City of	Port Moody City of	Richmond City of	Sechelt District of	Squamish District of	Sunshine Coast Regional District	Vancouver City of	West Vancouver District of
Bylaw or policy	Tree Protection Bylaw. 7671. 2012	Tree Bylaw 4018. 2019	Tree protection Bylaw. No. 2961. 2015	Tree Protection Bylaw. No. 8057. 2006	Environmental Management and Protection Bylaw No. 484. 2009	Tree Management Bylaw 2640. 2018	Tree Cutting Permit Bylaw. No. 350. 1991	Protection of Trees Bylaw No. 9958. 2015	Tree Bylaw. No. 4892. 2016
Tree defined	10 cm or more, measured 1.3 m above ground	15 cm measured 1.4 m above the ground or a height at least 5 m	10 cm measured 1.4 m above ground	20 cm measured 1.4 m above ground	Diameter 60 cm +	20 cm measured 1.4 m above ground	3 m + in height, incl. any tree reduced to < 3 m because of topping	Self-supporting, perennial, woody plant with trunk or stem and a root system	10 cm measured 1.4 m above ground
Significant or protected trees defined	Any tree on sloping terrain; replacement trees, retained, heritage and wildlife trees; trees on wetlands or waterfront; arbutus, Garry oak, Oregon ash, pacific yew, western white pine, yellow cedar	Trees listed in Schedule A of the bylaw.	Tree identified by Council as important to community - for heritage or landmark values or as wildlife habitat	Trees within the designated environmentally sensitive areas - see Schedule D map	Trees with diameter 60 cm +; trees designated to be retained on a plan attached to development, variance, building or subdivision permit	80 cm measured 1.4 m above ground	No	No	Trees > 75 cm DBH, replacement trees; retained trees; heritage trees; trees in a watercourse area; Trees > 20 cm DBH: Arbutus, Garry Oak, Pacific yew; Pacific dogwood and others
Area covered by bylaw	Private and district property	Private and City property	Private and City property	Private property except tree farms/nurseries and golf courses	Properties 1 ha +, trees within 30 m of Chapman Creek or Gray Creek, within 15 m of any watercourse and the natural boundary of the ocean	All lands under the jurisdiction of the district	All lands shown on Schedule A and Appendix 1	Private and City property except trees under jurisdiction of Park Board	Private and public lands

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Cutting permit required	Yes. Tree Permit Application Form	No permit required for one tree annually	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	May be required. No permit required for cutting 1-3 trees per parcel per year. Where parcel is 1 ha+ no permit for cutting 1-3 trees per ha per year within Tree Cutting Permit Area B	Yes	Yes On private property
Permit fee	\$82 - \$2,013 depending on number of trees	\$100	Application \$220 - \$589	Application \$62	Application \$50 for first 3 trees, \$10 for each additional tree; protected trees	Application \$150 plus \$5 per tree proposed to be removed	Application \$100 Double if undertaken after tree removal	Application \$87 for first tree in 12-month period; \$250 per each additional tree during same 12-month period	Application \$300
Canopy considerations	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes. Tree density	Not specified	Yes. Urban Forest Strategy.	Yes - tree canopy cover study
Development, site or tree plan required (written plan and/or report to accompany permit application)	Site plan, replanting plan, for protected tree - certified arborist report	Tree cutting plan; tree replacement plan; may require an arborist report	Tree removal plan, tree retention plan	Yes	Tree Protection Plan may be required; Engineer's report	Tree removal plan, Tree replacement plan,	Report by certified arborist	An arborist report; tree plan that complies with sec 4.1.4 of the Zoning and Development Bylaw	Not specified
Security deposit required for permit	125% of estimated cost of work to be performed to a maximum of \$10,000	Yes. \$500	\$612	No	\$200 per replacement tree; \$750 - \$1,500 in lieu per tree not planted	\$250 per tree	Yes. See Schedule B. Amount to be determined	\$500 per replacement tree; \$750 per replacement tree when 8 cm + caliper	\$1,000 per replacement tree to a max of \$10,000

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Tree replacement ratio - the number of replacement trees required to replace trees cut down	1:1	1:1. \$500 in lieu of each replacement tree not planted if approved by Parks section manager	1:2	1:1. No replacement required for 1 tree cut annually	1:1 when permit is required	2:1 for each tree removed, or 6:1 for each significant tree (80 cm diameter) removed	Not specified	1:1; 2:1 or trees acceptable to Planning director as per Schedule D or \$1,000 cash in lieu per tree	1:1
Tracking of replacement trees	Yes - inspection procedure	Yes. Staff may inspect	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hazardous trees addressed	Yes	Any tree determined by a certified arborist which presents a safety hazard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Penalties	Up to \$10,000	\$200 for failure to display a permit; \$1,000 for removing a tree without a permit; up to \$4,000 for late payment of a fine for removing a significant tree without a permit. 3:1 replacement trees planted per tree removed without permit	Not less than \$1,000 and not more than 10,000	No less than \$1,000 and not more than \$10,000	Not less than \$10,000	\$5,000	Cost of restoring all vegetation	Not less than \$500 not more than \$10,000	Up to \$10,000
Notes	FAQs; Learn more	Tree Bylaw basics	Trees on private property	Trees on private property	Protecting trees in Sechelt	Trees and soils management	Tree cutting permits	How we care for trees	

Tree protection bylaws and policies for private property owners

Whistler Resort Municipality of	
Bylaw or policy	Environmental Protection Bylaw No. 2000, 2012 to protect Streams and Trees
Tree defined	15 cm+ in diameter measured 1.4 m from ground
Significant or protected trees defined	No
Area covered by bylaw	Private and public lands
Cutting permit required	Yes
Permit fee	\$125
Canopy considerations	Not specified
Development, site or tree plan required (written plan and/or report to accompany permit application)	Yes
Security deposit required for permit	135% of the value of replacement trees and site restoration measures
Tree replacement ratio - the number of replacement trees required to replace trees cut down	1:1
Tracking of replacement trees	Yes
Hazardous trees addressed	Yes
Canopy considerations	Not specified
Penalties	\$1,000 per day until the situation is resolved
Notes	Tree cutting permits