

Trees are an essential part of our Township. A healthy urban forest provides benefits including air and water pollution mitigation, habitat for wildlife, and storm water runoff reduction.

The ability to preserve, sustain, and regenerate our urban forest over time depends on actions taken by multiple Township departments, community, residents, organizations, businesses.

Community Approach

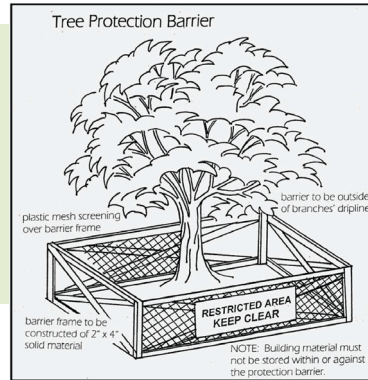
The responsibility for sustaining the urban forest ultimately involves individual and neighborhood actions as well as governmental actions. Because the majority of trees exist on private land, community engagement and cooperation is vital in the protection of trees.

Ecological Approach

Trees are not merely units to be accounted for, but are inherently part of a natural ecology. Collectively, trees are an essential element for human and ecological health due to the environmental and social functions and services they provide.



This illustration shows an adequate barrier in place to protect a tree during construction./demolition.



Additional educational materials available through Esquimalt's Branch Out program, include:

- Avoiding Tree Damage During Construction
- Mature Tree Care
- New Tree Planting
- Pruning Mature Trees
- Pruning: Why Topping Trees Hurts
- Pruning: Young Trees
- Tree Selection and Placement
- Why Hire an Arborist



esquimalt.ca/branchout

Protecting Esquimalt's Urban Forests

Tree Protection Bylaw FAQ's



Esquimalt is a green community that respects, values, cares for and protects its urban forest, a thriving and sustainable mix of tree and understory species. The urban forest is composed of a variety of treed environments, including natural areas, residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, parks and boulevards.



Douglas Fir and Maple trees throughout Esquimalt's Gorge Park

When will I need a permit to prune or remove a tree in my yard?

You will need a permit to cut, remove or alter a protected tree. Pruning of branches that are less than 10cm in size for any tree, except significant trees, is permitted (no permit required) provided such pruning is done in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture and is for a purpose consistent with promoting the tree's health and growth or to mitigate potential danger to persons or property.

Flag Your Tree

With your application, please also flag your tree(s) to assist the Arborist in identifying which tree the application is for.

What is a Significant Tree?

Significant Tree refers to any tree that is an outstanding specimen in size or shape, is rare, historical, part of a significant group of trees or located in a specific area.

What is a Protected Tree?

Tree species protected in Esquimalt are:

- Big leaf maple, Garry oak, Pacific dogwood, Pacific yew and Arbutus - all >4cm in diameter at 1.4m above ground
- Douglas fir, Grand fir and Western red cedar >1.2m tall
- Other trees are also protected if they are significant trees, wildlife trees, nesting trees, multi stemmed or over 30 centimetres (11.8 inches) diameter.

What is dbh?

Dbh (diameter at breast height) is the diameter of a tree trunk measured at 1.4 meters above the ground.

How do I get a Tree Cutting or Removal Permit?

Please find the Tree Cutting Permit Application through our website at www.esquimalt.ca/parks or at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre Reception (5:30am-10:30pm daily) at 527 Fraser Street or Parks & Recreation Administration (8:00am-4:00pm Mon-Fri) at 1151 Esquimalt Road.

If you are undertaking a construction or development project on your property, a Tree Cutting or Removal Permit is required for protected trees as part of your Building Permit.

I have completed my permit application, now what?

Please return the application to the Esquimalt Recreation Centre Reception or the Archie Browning Sports Centre Administration Office with payment. Accepted payment methods: cash, cheque, Interac, VISA, MasterCard or Amex. Your application will be processed by Parks Staff and you can expect written notice regarding your application within three weeks.

What happens if I remove or cut a Protected Tree without a permit?

Fines could be applied for all removal or cutting of trees without a permit. Fines range from \$500 to \$10,000, depending on the circumstances of the tree removal or cutting.

Do I need to replace a tree I have a permit to remove?

When you receive a permit to remove a protected tree, you are required to plant a replacement tree or contribute to the tree replacement fund for planting in the public realm as per the chart below or based on ISA tree valuation.

Where can I plant replacement trees?

Trees may be planted on your property or a neighbouring property with permission of the property owner. Trees must be planted a minimum of 1 metre from any property line and 2 metres from any building structure.

PROTECTED TREE SPECIES	SIZE OF TREE TO BE CUT (DBH)	NUMBER OF REPLACEMENT TREES REQUIRED FOR EACH TREE CUT
Big Leaf Maple, Garry Oak, Pacific Dogwood, Pacific Yew, Arbutus	< 4cm 4 to 20cm 20cm to 40cm > 40cm	0 1 2 3
Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, Grand Fir	< 1.2m tall 1.2m to 6m tall 6m to 12m tall > 12m tall	0 1 2 3
All Other Tree Species	<30 cm 30-45cm 45-60cm >60cm	0 1 2 3

The above chart describes the number of replacement trees required for each tree removed.

Figure1: Measuring Diameter of Tree

