

TREE BYLAW INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

City of Surrey Tree Protection Bylaw, 2006 No. 16100

This bulletin is only a summary of the Tree Protection Bylaw. The bylaw is available in its entirety at the City of Surrey website at www.surrey.ca.

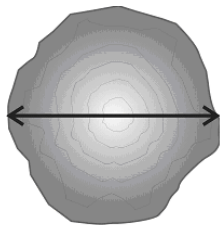
Purpose of the Bylaw

The purpose of the bylaw is to reduce the number of trees unnecessarily removed, killed, cut or damaged, by improved protection and replanting requirements, to ensure a sustainable healthy, viable urban forest for the City of Surrey and its residents.

Definitions

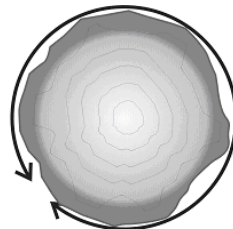
- DBH (diameter at breast height): the diameter of a tree measured at a point 1.4m (4'6") above the natural grade. Each stem of a multiple-stemmed tree is measured in the same fashion and the diameters added together to calculate DBH.
- Protected tree:
 - a tree with a trunk DBH $\geq 30\text{cm}$ (11 $\frac{3}{4}$ "") or a multiple-stemmed tree whose cumulative DBH for all stems added together is $\geq 30\text{cm}$ (11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ""); and
 - A tree of any size which:
 - has been planted as a replacement tree;
 - was required to be planted/retained for subdivision, development, building or demolition permits;
 - located within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA);
 - is specimen quality or a significant tree as listed in the "Significant Tree List" in the bylaw;
 - has evidence of nesting use by raptors, osprey or herons; and
 - is one of these species: arbutus, Garry oak, pacific dogwood, pacific yew, coast redwood, dawn redwood, giant redwood, ginkgo or monkey puzzle.

How to Measure Diameter

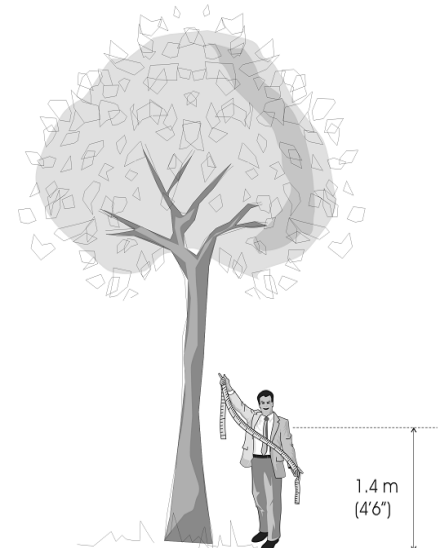


diameter
30 cm
(11 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.)

OR If you cannot measure diameter, then measure circumference in the following manner:



circumference
94.2 cm
(37 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.)



measured at DBH
1.4 m (4' 6")

A permit is required:

- to cut or remove any protected tree on private land or ESA
- to prune any significant tree

Replacement Trees

- It is required to plant and maintain one or more replacement trees for each tree cut or removed.
- Two trees are to be planted for each permit-sized tree removed (2:1 ratio), except when the tree removed is a black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) or red alder (*Alnus rubra*), whereupon the replacement ratio is 1:1.
- Replacement trees must meet plant condition and structure requirements as stated in "BC Landscape Standard" of the BCSLA/BCLNA and "Canadian Standards for Nursery Stock" of the CNTA.
- Replacement trees must be planted and maintained according to the requirements as stated in the "BC Landscape Standard" of the BCSLA.
- Replacement trees are to be planted on the same lot as the tree removals.
- Replacement trees are to be planted within 90 days of the tree cutting permit being issued. On a construction site, trees are to be planted: within 90 days of final occupancy or, at maximum, within 3 years of the date of the tree cutting permit.
- Trees are to be a minimum size of 5 cm caliper if deciduous, which is measured at 15 cm above the ground, or 3 m tall if coniferous, or as specified by the General Manager.

Fees and Securities

- *Existing* residential, commercial, industrial or institutional properties with no zoning or development applications: application fee is \$57 plus \$21 for each protected tree.
- Single family lots with subdivision application: application fees are based on zoning and number of lots (see the bylaw for details).
- *Proposed* multi-family residential, commercial and industrial or institutional lots: application fees are \$365/acre first 5 acres, \$305/ac. second 5 ac., \$244/ac. over 10ac.
- Sites zoned or proposed for agricultural use: application fees are based on zoning and acreage (see the bylaw for details).
- Tree Cutting permit amendments, \$62.
- Security deposits are required for replanting requirements and are refundable at 50% after planting and City inspection and 50% after a second City inspection, done one year after the first inspection.
- Security deposits are required for landscaping requirements and are refundable at 90% after landscaping and City inspection and 10% after a second City inspection, done one year after the first inspection.
- Re-inspections for planting, \$77, where no reasonable attempt has been made to correct problems identified at the first inspection.

Penalties

- Cutting, removing or damaging a protected tree, \$1,000/ tree or loss of securities, whichever is more.
- Cutting, removing or damaging a specimen quality tree, \$2,000/ tree or the loss of securities, whichever is more.
- Cutting, removing or damaging a significant tree, \$10,000/tree or the loss of securities, whichever is more.
- Replanting may be required with the size number, species, location and securities determined by the General Manager.
- Individuals convicted under this bylaw face fines of up to \$10,000 per tree. Each tree is considered a separate offence and each day an offence is continued is considered a separate offence.

Questions

- If you have questions or require further information please refer first to the bylaw or to the bylaw-related bulletins which can be obtained at City Hall or on the City website at www.surrey.ca and search: **tree protection bylaw**
- For additional clarification of these materials please email TreeBylaw@surrey.ca or you can phone 604-591-4675.