Replacement Trees

Tree Protection Bylaw, 2006, No. 16100
Replacement trees are required as a condition of all tree cutting permits. The number of replacement trees required is determined based on the type of tree removed.

Alder / Black Cottonwood:
one (1) tree must be planted for each one (1) tree removed.

All other protected trees:
two (2) trees must be planted for each one (1) tree removed.

TYPE AND SIZE OF REPLACEMENT TREE
Replacement Trees must be the following size:
- Deciduous tree species – 3-5cm caliper or greater
- Coniferous tree species – minimum 1.75m tall

The following will not be accepted as a replacement tree:
- Hedges
- Dwarf varieties
- Shrub species
- Palm trees

LOCATION OF REPLACEMENT TREES:
Trees must be planted:
- On the site where the tree cutting permit was issued
- At least 1m away from all property lines
- At least 3m away from another tree
- At least 3m away from BC Hydro lines
- At least 3m away from the house, garage, pool or other permitted outbuildings
- At least 1m away from a retaining wall
- At least 1m away from underground utilities

SECURITY REFUNDS:
Securities are collected to make sure replacement trees are properly planted. Replacement trees must be the right size and planted in the right location. Securities are refunded after a City Arborist inspects and accepts the replacement trees.
Securities are refunded to the owner in two (2) phases.
- 1st release – 50% of security
- 2nd release – 50% of security

REPLACEMENT TREE INSPECTIONS:
The owner is responsible for booking a replacement tree inspection. Two (2) inspections are required.
- 1st Inspection – when the tree is planted
- 2nd Inspection – one (1) year after the 1st inspection

TREE SELECTION GUIDELINES:
1. Select the right tree for your property
   - What kind of trees do you like?
   - How big do you want the tree to grow?
   - Is there enough soil/garden space for the tree to grow?
2. Select the right location for your tree
   - Will the tree be able to grow to it’s full size?
   - Are there overhead powerlines or underground utilities near the tree?

TREE PLANTING GUIDELINES

Keep mulch 1 to 2 inches back from trunk
Trunk flare
Keep mulch 2 to 4 inch layer of mulch
Gently pack backfill, using water to settle soil around the root ball
Use two opposing, flexible ties when staking is necessary. Ties should be placed on the lower half of the tree and allow trunk movement
Remove containers, wrapping, wires, and ties
Set ball on firmly packed soil to prevent settling
2 to 4 inch layer of mulch
Gently pack backfill, using water to settle soil around the root ball
Use two opposing, flexible ties when staking is necessary. Ties should be placed on the lower half of the tree and allow trunk movement
Remove containers, wrapping, wires, and ties
Set ball on firmly packed soil to prevent settling
**TREE PLANTING GUIDELINES:**

It is recommended to plant trees in early spring or fall.

**Steps to plant your tree**

1. Identify the trunk flare
   - the trunk flare is where the trunk expands at the base of the tree
   - the trunk flare should be partially visible after the tree is planted

2. Dig a hole
   - Dig a hole 2 to 3 times wider than the root ball
   - The hole should be as deep as the root ball

3. Remove the container or cut away the wire/burlap

4. Place the tree in the hole
   - Make sure the hole isn’t too deep, remember you want to see the trunk flare after planting

5. Straighten tree in the hole

6. Fill the hole
   - Pack soil around the base of the root ball to stabilize it
   - Gently pack soil around the rest of the root ball, watering as you plant

**CARING FOR YOUR TREE:**

1. Mulching
   - Spread 5 to 10cm of mulch around the base of the tree
   - Mulch should not be placed next to the trunk; leave a 2.5 to 5cm “mulch free” area around the trunk

2. Watering
   - Water your tree at least once a week from May - October the first few years after planting.

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**Surrey’s Trees and Landscape Section:**
604-591-4675
Treebylaw@surrey.ca | surrey.ca/trees

**Resources:**
treesaregood.org | bchydro.com/safety-outages