

# Property Owners

## What You Need to Know About the New Tree Protection Bylaw

Victoria's [Tree Protection Bylaw](#) protects the trees we have now and helps grow our urban forest for the future. The bylaw came into effect on July 1, 2021 and applies to trees on properties that are undergoing development.

### Will I need a tree permit?

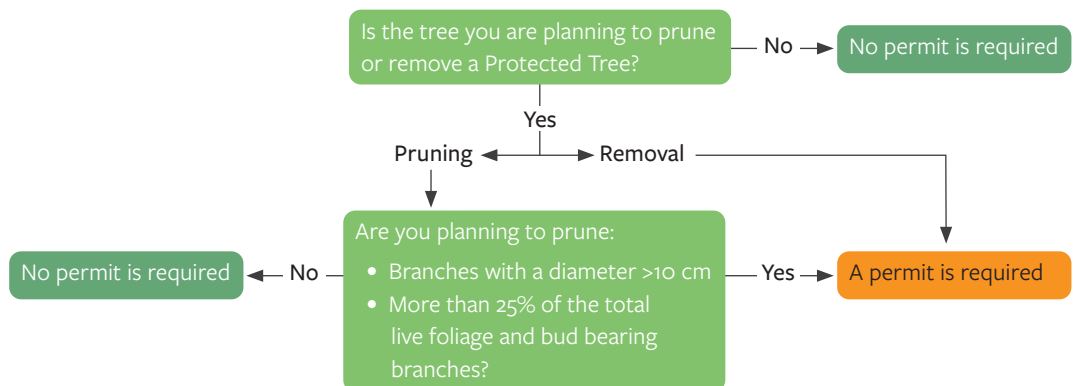
You may need to apply for a tree permit if you are planning to prune or remove a protected tree on your property. If you are applying for a permit to develop a property, please see our info sheet *Developing a Property, What You Need to Know About the New Tree Protection Bylaw* for development related tree permit requirements.

### Protected trees include:

- A tree with a diameter over 30 cm
- A hedge that contains any single stem with a diameter over 30 cm
- Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*), Arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*), Pacific Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) or Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*) over 50 cm in height measured above natural grade
- A replacement tree
- A tree that is protected by a restrictive covenant in favour of the City
- A tree of any size that is on a slope where the slope grade is greater than 33 per cent over 10 metres
- A tree of any size that is within 15 metres of the natural boundary of a watercourse

### Determining if you will need a tree permit:

Tree pruning should always be done in accordance with best arboricultural practices.



# Residential – Tree Protection Bylaw

Find out more from the [International Society of Arboriculture](#).

## How do I apply for a tree permit?



### 1. Identify the tree(s)

- Confirm the tree is on your property
- Confirm that it is a protected tree
- Call Parks at 250.361.0600 or get help from a tree service



### 2. Apply for a permit

- Apply
- Victoria Parks staff conduct an inspection
- Permit approved or denied



### 3. Carry out the work

- Pick up your permit and post it on your property
- If required, plant replacement tree(s)
- Notify the City when the tree is planted to get your deposit back

## Will my application be approved

Your **pruning** permit will be approved if:

- Your protected tree requires pruning that will not negatively impact its health
- Your protected hedge requires pruning to maintain clearance or a uniform shape

Your **removal** permit will be approved if:

- Your protected tree is hazard tree, and the risk cannot be mitigated without removing the tree
- Your protected tree is dead or more than 50 per cent of its crown is dead
- Your protected tree is an invasive species
- Your protected tree is causing structure or infrastructure damage that cannot be mitigated other than by removing the tree
- To allow for construction

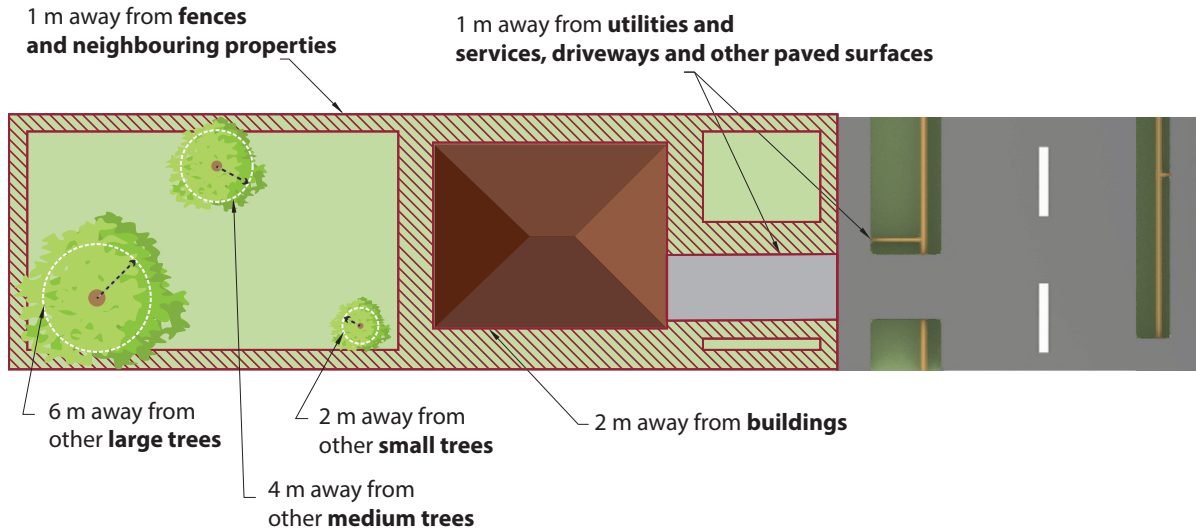
## Tree replacement requirements

Replacement trees are required to help sustain Victoria's urban forest. If you remove a protected tree, you will be required to replace it. You will be required to provide a refundable deposit of \$350 for each replacement tree required. Fifty percent of the deposit will be returned once the tree is planted and the full deposit will be returned a year after planting if the tree is still in good health.

Protected Tree Removed	Replacement Requirement
Protected hedge	One replacement tree (large or medium species, described in Part 1 of Schedule E) per four metre of hedge length, or two replacement trees (small species described in Part 2 of Schedule E), or another hedge of the same length
Protected tree	One replacement tree (large or medium species, described in Part 1 of Schedule E), or two replacement trees (small species described in Part 2 of Schedule E), for each protected tree removed
Protected tree growing above a built structure in shallow soil (less than one metre depth)	One replacement tree appropriate for the soil volume available (described in Part 3 of Schedule E)

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Replacement trees need to be planted with appropriate spacing from other trees and structures:



If your yard cannot accommodate the required replacement tree(s), talk to City staff about the options to plant smaller tree species or to nominate another tree in your yard as a replacement.

## Application forms and fees

To apply for a tree permit, you will need the following:

- A completed [application form](#)
- A sketch or printout of the tree location on the City of Victoria mapping system ([VicMap](#))
- Neighbour consent if the tree is shared and requires removal

Type of application	Permit fee
To prune a protected tree	No fee
For emergency cutting or removal	
To cut or remove a protected tree that is hazardous, dead or has more than 50 per cent of its crown dead, or an invasive species	
For other tree permits:	
A lot that is less than or equal to 2,000 m <sup>2</sup>	\$50
A lot that is between 2,000 and 4,000 m <sup>2</sup>	\$100
A lot equal or larger than 4,000 m <sup>2</sup>	\$250 per 4,000 m <sup>2</sup>