

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

Tree Bylaw No. 725, 2023 Handout

Protected Trees

The following are identified as protected trees in Bylaw No. 725, 2023:

- Garry Oak
- Cascara
- Trembling Aspen
- Pacific Dogwood
- Pacific Yew
- Manzanita
- Seaside Juniper
- Oregon Ash
- Arbutus
- Replacement trees planted as a condition of a permit
- Trees within an Environmental or Hazard (Steep Slope) Development Permit Area
- Any tree that has evidence of a nest or that is regularly used by raptors, osprey, herons, or any other cavity-nesting bird species
- All trees having a DBH of 30 centimetres (12 inches) or greater

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH):



Multi-stemmed trees: to measure the DBH, the three largest stems should be measured 1.4 meters (4.6 feet) above the highest point of natural grade and the DBH of the tree shall equal the cumulative total of the DBH of the three largest stems.

A permit is not required if:

- The tree is under 30cm (12 inches), is not a protected tree species (Garry Oak, Cascara, Pacific Dogwood, etc) and is not in a Development Permit Area.
- No tree (DBH of more than 30cm (12 inches) has been removed from the property since March of 2023. Properties that are larger than one acre, may remove one tree per acre, per year (to a maximum of 10 trees per parcel per calendar year unless the tree is a Garry Oak, Arbutus, Pacific Yew or Pacific Dogwood, the tree has a DBH of 75 cm (29.5 inches) or more, or the property is located within a Hazardous or Environmental Development Permit Area).
- The tree is dead (not dying, dead). You will need to provide documentation (such as a hazardous tree assessment from a qualified Tree Risk Assessor) and photos to justify the removal within three (3) business days after the tree has been removed. Email all documentation to planning@qualicumbeach.com.
- The tree is in imminent danger of **falling** (as defined by a certified professional) which would cause damage to surrounding infrastructure or to people.
- If the property has “**Silviculture**” as an allowable use under the property’s zoning designation.
- Hedge pruning, unless the property is located within a Steep Slope Development Permit Area.

A permit is required if:

- The tree is a “protected tree”.
- The property is located within a Development Permit Area (DPA) such as an Environmental, Steep Slope, or Hazard DPA.
- If you have removed a tree from the property since March 2023 (the bylaw allows for one protected tree to be removed every 2 calendar years).
- The removal of a tree that is not a protected tree, but the removal will disturb the protected root zone of one or more protected trees.
- If a tree does not fall under the exemptions outlined in the “Permit is not required” section or exceeds their limit.

Fees and Bonding

Application fee is **\$100.00**.

As a condition of the permit, you will need to plant two (2) trees per every one (1) tree that is removed.

The Town of Qualicum Beach will collect a bond of **\$700.00** per replacement tree. This replacement bond is returned to the payee two years after planting the replacement trees or after the tree cutting permit has expired without any trees being cut, provided the replacement trees are healthy and thriving.

Ex: if you are removing one tree, you will need to plant two trees and pay a bond of \$1,400.00.

The Town may accept a payment (not a bond) of **\$1,000.00 per replacement tree if the property cannot accommodate more trees and the Town will plant two trees on Town land.

Permit fees are exempt if the permit application is for the removal of dead, dying, or hazard trees.

Replacement Trees

Must be planted and maintained in accordance with sound horticultural and arboricultural practices.

Must be planted within 90 days of the date of issuance of the tree cutting permit, unless construction or site disturbance activities are planned that would affect the planting of replacement trees.

What do I need to consider when applying for a tree cutting permit?

The application for a tree cutting permit needs to include all required information as outlined in the application form.

Please review the information on the Town of Qualicum Beach's website, www.qualicumbeach.com/treeprotection as well as the Tree Protection Bylaw No. 725 carefully before you submit your application.

Application forms can be found on the Town's website (website address noted above) or requested at the front desk of Town Hall. Applications may also be submitted through the permit application webform, also located on the website.

What is a protected root zone?

A protected root zone is the area of land surrounding the trunk of a tree that contains the critical root system of the tree.

A certified arborist can define the area of a protected root zone by preparing a tree protection plan. If such information is not available, then the protected root zone is the circle of land around a tree with a radius that is equal to the tree's diameter at breast height (DBH) multiplied by 18. Simply, a circle with the following radius:

$$\text{Radius} = \text{DBH} \times 18$$

Activities not permitted in a protected root zone (unless specified otherwise by valid permit):

- Damaging or undermining the roots of a protected tree
- Operating trucks, backhoes, excavators, or other heavy equipment.
- Placing fill, building materials, asphalt, or a building or structure on land.
- Denting, gouging, or damaging the bark, trunk, branches, or roots of a protected tree.
- Depositing concrete washout or other liquid or chemical substances harmful to the health of a protect tree.
- Removing soil.
- Blasting within 2x the protected root zone radius of a protected tree.
- Topping a protected tree.
- Altering the groundwater or surface water level within the protected root zone.