

# **TREE BYLAW INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**



January 2012  
BUILDING DIVISION

## **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/treeprotection](http://www.surrey.ca/treeprotection).***

### **Purpose of the Bylaw**

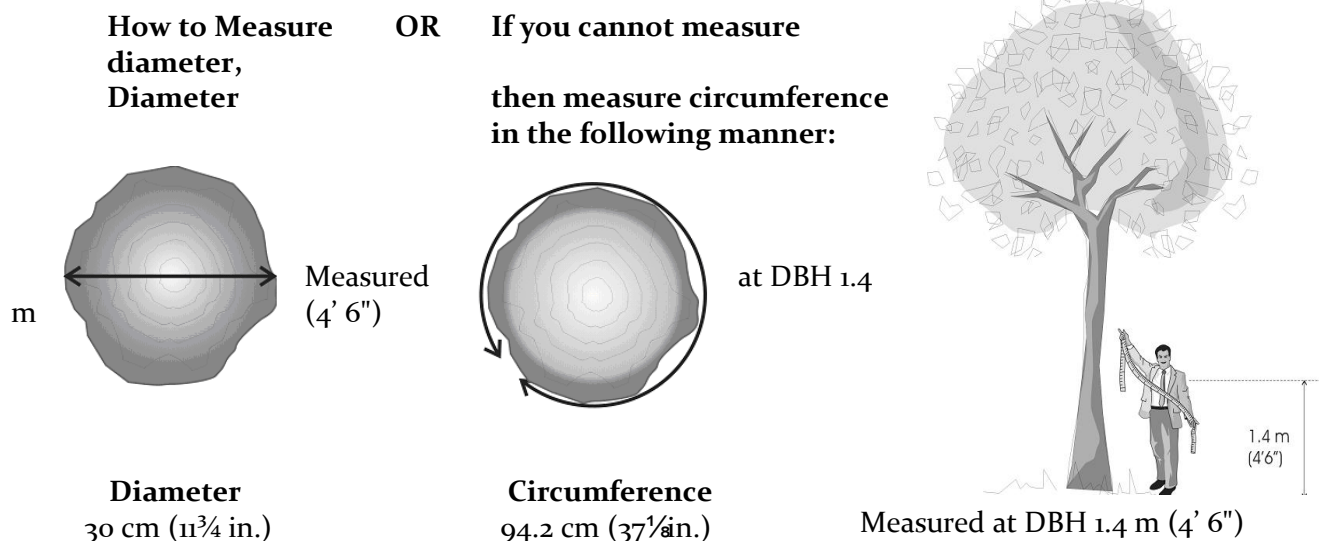
- The Tree Bylaw reduces the number of trees removed, killed, cut or damaged, by improved protection and replanting requirements. With these requirements the City's goal is to provide a balance of saving the right tree in the right place while removing trees and replanting trees. This will ensure a sustainable healthy, viable urban forest for the City of Surrey and its residents.

### **Tree Permits**

#### **A tree removal permit is required:**

- to cut or remove any protected tree on private land or ESA.
- to prune any significant tree.
- 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 of the 3 largest stems 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 3 largest 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.



### 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**

- Please call 604-591-4675 or email [TreeBylaw@surrey.ca](mailto:TreeBylaw@surrey.ca) for an update of the current fee structure.
- 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.
- There will be a charge for re-inspections for planting, 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/treeprotection](http://www.surrey.ca/treeprotection) For additional clarification of these materials please email [TreeBylaw@surrey.ca](mailto:TreeBylaw@surrey.ca) or you can phone 604-591-4675.