

Are there any Exemptions to Fees?

There are no Permit Fees for removing Dead trees, Hazardous trees and EAB infested Ash trees however a Permit is still required for their removal.

There are no Fees for an Application to Injure (prune) a tree as long as it is carried out by an Arborist in accord with Good Arboricultural Practice, as defined in the By-laws.

Do Permits have Conditions?

A Permit to Injure a healthy tree will usually have conditions attached that require an Arborist (as defined in the By-law) to undertake the work and that the Injury (pruning) is in accord with Good Arboricultural Practice

A Permit to Destroy (remove) a healthy tree will have a condition attached that requires replacement planting.

The number of replacement trees required depends upon the size (DBH) of the healthy tree being removed.

The replacement ratios are:

- One tree for every 15 cm to 30 cm DBH tree removed.
- Two trees for every 31 cm to 40 cm DBH tree removed.
- Three trees for every 41 cm to 50 cm DBH tree removed.
- Four trees for every 50 cm DBH or bigger tree removed.

Replacement plantings must be planted on the same property where the tree was destroyed. The City can plant on its property in lieu of this, but it will mean a higher cost for the property owner. Check the By-laws for specific details or consult with the City.

What are Boundary Trees?

Boundary Trees are defined in the Forestry Act, s 10(2) as:

“Every tree whose trunk is growing on the boundary between adjoining lands is the common property of the owners of the adjoining lands.”

Boundary Trees will require all of the owners to consent to the requested Injury or Destruction before any Permit can be issued.

Contact Information

For more information, to comment or to consult with the City, please call the City of Peterborough's Urban Forestry Division at 705-742-7777 ext. 1813 or 1878 or email treebylaw@peterborough.ca

For information about the urban forest visit: www.peterborough.ca/trees.

This is not a bylaw. This document has been prepared to provide information only. It is not a legal document. If any contradiction exists between this document and the relevant City bylaws, codes or policies, the text of the bylaws, codes or policies shall be the legal authority.



City of
Peterborough

Tree and Woodland Conservation By-laws in the City of Peterborough



On October 23, 2017 The City of Peterborough strengthened its approach to tree conservation by introducing two new by-laws, the Tree Conservation By-law 17-120 and the Woodland Conservation By-law 17-121.

The purpose of these By-laws is to regulate the Injury or Destruction of healthy trees, regardless of ownership. This will promote the conservation of the urban forest and protect the benefits of trees for all residents in the City and help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Why does the City need to protect healthy trees?

Trees benefit the entire community regardless of where they are growing. Private and publicly-owned trees in the City make up the urban forest and, collectively, they provide significant environmental, economic, aesthetic and public health benefits to the entire community.

What are the Benefits of Trees?

- reduce flooding
- improve air quality
- increase property values
- provide habitat for wildlife
- reduce household energy bills
- reduce heat build-up in the City
- improve mental and physical health

One tree 15 cm in diameter can absorb 22 kg of Carbon dioxide and intercept nearly 2000 litres of rainfall per year.

The City will lose around 10% of the urban forest canopy within the next 10 years as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) killing ash trees. It is therefore increasingly important to protect private and publicly-owned trees to preserve the tree canopy for the benefit of future generations.

Why are new tree By-laws needed?

The By-laws are designed to regulate the Injury (usually defined as pruning) or Destruction (usually defined as removal) of healthy trees. This allows the City to make sure that Permitted pruning will promote tree health or, if healthy trees are removed, they are always adequately replaced.



What is the difference between the Tree Conservation By-law 17-120 and Woodland Conservation By-law 17-121?

The Tree Conservation By-law regulates the Injury or Destruction of healthy trees on properties less than 1 hectare in size. The Woodland Conservation By-law regulates the Injury or Destruction of trees on properties that are 1 hectare or more in area. Trees in woodlands usually require distinctly different management practices than those on smaller properties.

The two By-laws will help conserve our City's Urban Forest and the many benefits it provides to all our residents.

Who's Tree is it?

A tree growing on a property line may be a Boundary tree and jointly-owned (see later in this leaflet). Trees within the road allowance are City property and are protected by two By-laws that prohibit their unauthorized Injury or Destruction. Always check the ownership of trees with the City before considering an Application.

When is a Permit required for the Tree Conservation By-law 17-120?

Before you injure or destroy any tree, with a trunk diameter (diameter at breast height or DBH) measuring over 15 cm a Permit is required.

If in doubt consult with the City or an Arborist and complete an Application. There is no charge from the City for the Application itself.

Applications are available at City Hall in the main reception or Utility Services reception, or online at:

www.peterborough.ca/trees

What are the Permit Fees?

Once it has been determined by the City that a Permit Fee is required, they are as follows;

Tree Conservation By-law: -

- \$150.00 for one to five trees
- \$300.00 for six to ten trees
- \$600.00 for eleven or more trees.

Woodland Conservation By-law:-

- \$300.00 Per Permit