

Do I Need a Tree Permit?

To maintain a healthy urban forest and quality of life in Vancouver, the City of Vancouver enforces Street Tree (VMC 12.04) and Tree Conservation (VMC 20.770) Municipal Codes to prevent the unnecessary removal and destruction of trees. Contact Urban Forestry before beginning any major tree work to check if permits are required.

Visit www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry for more information and downloadable permit applications. Contact Urban Forestry at 360-487-8332 or urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us if you have questions about tree permits.

- **If the tree is a Heritage Tree**, permission from the Urban Forestry Commission is required for removal and major pruning. View the Heritage Tree Registry online at www.cityofvancouver.us/urbanforestry.
- **If the tree is in the public right-of-way**, a street tree work permit is required for planting, major pruning, and removal.
- **If the tree is on private property**, there are various situations when a tree removal permit is required.
 - **On developed, single-family residential properties:** either a Level I permit (for site disturbance or building) or a Level III permit (for nuisance or hazard trees) may be required, depending on if the existing dwelling is a duplex or triplex, when the lot was platted or developed, the size of the lot, and the underlying zoning. ***See "Tree Permit Requirements for Developed Single-family Residential Lots" flowchart (on reverse) for more information.**
 - **On undeveloped properties:** a Level III, VI, or VII tree removal permit is required depending on proposed activity.
 - **On developing properties:** a Level I, IV, or V permit is required for all proposed developments.
 - **On properties zoned commercial, industrial, or multiple-family:** a tree removal permit is required, even for nuisance and hazard trees. A level II permit is required for building additions or site disturbance; a Level III permit is required for nuisance and hazard trees (non-development related removals).
 - **On properties containing or adjacent to sensitive areas:** a Critical Areas permit is required for any proposed tree removal which occurs in or near a designated sensitive area, such as a wetland, stream corridor, priority habitat, steep slope, or any associated sensitive area buffers. Please contact Community Development at 360-487-7800 or refer to VMC 20.740 for additional information about Critical Areas permits before beginning any work.

Note: Some tree removal permit applications require a tree plan prepared by a qualified professional. To locate ISA certified arborists, visit www.isa-arbor.com. A list of ISA certified arborists who perform consultations and pay to be on the list is available at www.pnwisa.org. (By these referrals, the city does not intend to exclude other qualified professionals who may prepare appropriate plans and report.)

Tree Permit Requirements for Developed Single-Family Residential Lots

