

Existing trees on municipal (public/town) property may be impacted through various activities that generally fall outside the scope of the Town's tree removal permit process and are not associated with a development application. Activities that may impact existing trees on public property should be planned for well in advance to minimize any impacts. Requirements can be determined through consultation with the appropriate department at the Town.

Driveway Widening Requests

Driveway widening may become necessary to accommodate vehicles. Residents may widen the driveway on their own property subject to specific conditions in the Town's zoning by-laws, but widening any portion of the municipal boulevard requires a "Curb Cut Application". This process is facilitated through the Town's Engineering Services division of the Public Works Department. Applications are reviewed by Engineering Services. Consideration is given to maintaining existing trees within the municipal boulevard that may interfere with a widening request.

Additional information is available on the Town's website:

<https://www.whitby.ca/en/residents/Driveway-Widening-and-Curb-Cuts.asp>

A link to the application is available here:

https://www.whitby.ca/en/townhall/resources/pw-application_curbcut.pdf

Construction and other Activities on Private Property

In circumstances where construction activity on private property may impact a nearby tree on municipal property, such as on an adjacent boulevard, in a park or in an open space, the resident /private property owner should contact the Town's Supervisor of Parks (Forestry) in the Operations Department for guidance and to determine any requirements. An inspection and assessment by Town Forestry staff may be required. The Town may also require the resident /private property owner to retain the services of an Arborist to make an assessment of potential impacts, including recommendations for appropriate tree protection measures. The resident /private property owner may be required to enter into an agreement with the Town to protect the tree throughout the duration of the construction activities.

Trees on municipal property will not be removed by the Town to accommodate construction on private property. Alternatives to removal that preserve existing trees on municipal property are preferable. Alternative strategies will be reviewed with the adjacent property owner prior to consideration for any removals of trees from public property. Compensation requirements for damaged or removed municipal trees will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

For more information, contact

Operations/Forestry: 905.668.3437 / pw.operations@whitby.ca

Planning and Development: 905.430.4306 / planning@whitby.ca



Appraised Values for Existing Trees on Public Property

The Operations (Forestry) Arborist may generate an appraisal to determine the value of the potentially impacted tree(s). If removal of a tree is unavoidable, the resident/private property owner will be required to provide financial compensation and/or replacement of the tree based on the appraised value of the tree to be removed. Financial compensation received by the Town will be directed to the Town's Tree Reserve and used to support future tree planting on municipal property elsewhere in the Town. All costs related to unavoidable removals will be the responsibility of the private property owner.

Appraisals for trees on municipal property will be generated by ISA Certified Tree Appraiser staff in the Forestry Division of the Town of Whitby Operations Department. Appraisals rely on the methods published in the Guide for Plant Appraisal, 10th Edition (Second Printing) (Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers) International Society of Arboriculture, 2019. The Reproduction Cost Method in combination with the Trunk Formula Technique is generally utilized. Additional costs are typically not included, such as the cost of removal or for tree maintenance required due to damages resulting from construction, as these works are not provided by the Town. This method also does not account for ecological and/or environmental benefits lost due to tree removal.

Development related Construction Impacts

For construction projects related to a proposed development application, tree protection requirements and/or consideration of removals related to trees located on municipal property are determined through the development application process in consultation with the Planning and Development Department, and with consideration for the [Tree Protection Requirements for New Development](#).

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