

Niagara Region Tree Preservation Guidelines

As per the Region's EIS Guidelines (January 2018) and Official Plan Table 7-1 and Policy 7.B.1.19, a Tree Preservation Plan is required for development within or adjacent a Significant Woodland. The purpose of the Plan is to preserve as many trees as possible, confirm there are no species of concern within the development/construction footprint, and where applicable, quantify the removals for replacement plantings.

"Tree Preservation Plan" means a plan, prepared for the purpose of protecting and preserving trees on properties where development or disturbance of the natural forest cover is to occur. Such plans shall attempt to retain as many trees as possible and as a minimum shall include all of the following:

- a) an inventory and graphic display of trees on the property including location, size, species, general age distribution health and any individual trees or grouping of trees with particular significance such as but not limited to age, species and size;
- b) identification of natural features and functions present, whether they should be protected, and if not, why;
- c) a statement identifying whether any threatened or endangered species are present and if so, how they are to be protected;
- d) a description and a map of the trees to be removed and retained including written reasons why the trees are to be removed or retained;
- e) an indication as to how the trees to be retained will be marked or otherwise identified as trees to be protected;
- f) the layout of the proposed development superimposed on the woodland area, including existing and proposed grades, services/utilities, roads, surface drainage and building envelopes;
- g) the specific measures to be used during and after construction or site disturbance to protect and preserve individual trees or clumps of trees identified for retention, including but not limited to fencing around the dripline, the avoidance of storage or dumping of materials over root zones and operation of equipment over root zones;
- h) a tree replanting program using native species;
- i) a statement indicating that the plan conforms to the Region's Tree and Forest Conservation By-law; and
- j) consideration of the relationship between an Environmental Impact Study, prepared as part of a development application, and requirements of the Regional Policy Plan.

It is especially important that the Tree Preservation Plan include an updated drawing showing the limits of construction impact (i.e., including the site preparation/grading plan, servicing or drainage, stockpile areas, driveway, backyard development, etc.) in relation to the trees to be removed or retained, and an indication of how the trees to be retained will be protected. A 10 m buffer from the dripline of mature trees is typically required to adequately protect the root system of those trees to be maintained.

The drawing should illustrate where protective tree hoarding and/or any other mitigation measures for protection are proposed, and include protection notes and details.

Mitigation measures should include **but are not limited to:**

- Protective tree hoarding locations and specification;
- Root pruning standards following International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) protocols; and
- A note indicating that if trees are being removed within the active nesting period for migratory birds (generally between March 15 and August 31), a nest search will be completed by a qualified biologist.

Please note that the tree inventory should include all trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 10 cm or more, but any species of concern, regardless of size, should be identified. Smaller trees may be grouped as per item a) above, and location accuracy (i.e., the exact, surveyed location of trunks larger than 10 cm DBH) is not required, except where 1) trees along the property line (including tree hedges) belonging to an adjacent landowner may be impacted; and 2) trees to be retained immediately adjacent to the proposed development require specific mitigation measures that necessitate survey by an Ontario Land Surveyor (OLS). In such case, the OLS shall take every reasonable measure to determine the exact location of trunks of trees growing on a property line without damaging said trees, and noting the angle of lean where a tree straddles a property line below where the tree would naturally begin to branch out.