



City of Brantford Tree Canopy Fact Sheet

What is a Private Tree Protection By-law?

A regulation that requires a permit from the City be applied for prior to undertaking any work that will result in damage to or removal of healthy, non-hazardous trees on private properties.

Goals of the Private Tree Protection By-law

To protect and increase Brantford's tree canopy coverage by:

- Preventing clear cutting of trees.
- Discouraging the removal of healthy, non-hazardous trees and suggesting alternatives where possible.
- Requiring a replanting plan for the removal of healthy, non-hazardous trees.
- Encouraging a culture of tree preservation at the core of local growth.

What is Tree Canopy Cover?

A count and visual representation of all the trees in the City on both public and private lands, including trees in natural areas and built settings (such as yards, parks, and streets).

- As of Fall 2022, Brantford's tree canopy cover is 21.5% (approximately 675,000 trees).
- 74% of these trees (approximately 500,000) are located on private properties.

Importance of Urban Trees

Urban tree canopies are important community assets that help mitigate the effects of climate change. Some of the many benefits of urban trees include:

- Sequestering carbon and providing clean air to breathe.
- Providing shade to protect from harmful UV rays and cool ground temperatures.
- Helping reduce energy consumption for low-rise buildings.
- Helping manage stormwater and flooding.
- Providing natural habitats for native species of animals, birds, and insects.
- Creating an aesthetic, liveable environment that increases property values by up to 30%.



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We Want to Hear from You

To protect the majority (74%) of local tree canopy on private properties, we are looking for feedback from community members about what properties and trees should be covered by an enhanced Private Tree By-law.

- Should the Private Tree By-law apply to all private properties regardless of property size? (to ensure more trees are not being removed than are being replanted).
- Should the Private Tree By-law apply to trees above a certain size? (ex. 20cm DBH, to prioritize the protection of larger, established trees that provide the most shade and sequester the most carbon).

How is Tree DBH Measured?

DBH stands for Diameter at Breast height. It is generally measured at 1.4 meters (4.5 feet) from the ground. To measure DBH, use a soft measuring tape or string around the trunk to get the circumference then divide by 3.14 to get the diameter. There are also professional tools (such as tree calipers) that provide DBH measurements on the spot.

City of Brantford's Role

The City's Forestry and Horticulture Services, in partnership with Brant Tree Coalition and the Grand River Conservation Authority, conducts annual tree planting, maintenance, and community engagement activities such as:

- Maintenance of trees in parks and other public green spaces
- Street and boulevard tree planting and maintenance
- Removal of tree stumps and pegs
- Free mulch (April-November each year)
- Annual Free Residential Tree Giveaways

Requests for City Tree Maintenance

- Visit Brantford.ca/TreesAndForestry
- Email Forestry@Brantford.ca
- Call 519-759-4150



To Provide Feedback

- Visit Let's Talk Brantford to share feedback online.
- Attend a public Ward meeting to share feedback in person.

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LetsTalkBrantford.ca/Trees