

Tree Protection By-Laws and Tree Removal Permits

Publicly and privately owned Woodlands are regulated by Town of Whitby and Durham Region By-Laws. These By-laws reflect the Town and the Region's commitment to protect forested areas, recognizing that Woodlands contribute to ecosystem health, human health and overall quality of life.

By-Laws

- Town of [Whitby Tree Protection By-Law 4640-00](#)
- [Durham Regional Woodland Conservation and Management By-Law 30-2020](#)

Town of Whitby Tree Removal Permits

The Town of Whitby's Woodlands include trees in urban and rural areas on both municipal property and private property. Generally, individual trees on private property are not regulated and do not require property owners to go through the permit process to remove a tree.

Except for the situations noted below, a Town Tree Removal Permit is not required for the removal of trees on private property where the area of trees is less than 0.2 hectares in size, regardless if the area of trees occupies one property or multiple properties. However, permits from other agencies (e.g. Durham Region, CLOCA, or for properties within a designated Heritage District such as Werden's Plan) may be required.

Prior to removal of any grouping or individual trees on private property, the Town encourages property owners to consult with the Town's Planning and Development Department to confirm that their property is not within a regulated area with permit requirements.

When are Town Tree Removal Permits Required?

Town of Whitby Tree Removal Permits for removal of trees on private property are generally required for the removal of trees from:

- Woodlots 0.2 hectares to 1.0 hectares in size (as defined in the Town of Whitby Tree Protection By-Law 4640-00);
- Major Open Space or Hazard Land (Schedule A, Whitby OP);

- Environmental Protection/Conservation Lands , Major Open Space, and Hazard Lands (Schedule P, Whitby OP), including Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine lands;
- Mature Woodlands and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Schedule C, Whitby OP)
- Identified as a tree for preservation on a Tree Preservation Plan approved by the Commissioner of Planning and Development;
- Located on lands designated 'Residential' (Schedule A, Whitby OP) 2.02 hectares or greater in size; or
- Designated Heritage Districts (Werden's Plan Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation District).

The Town of Whitby Tree Removal Permit Application:

Applications are available here: [Town of Whitby Tree Removal Permit Application](#)

Exemptions from the Town Tree Removal Permit Process:

Property owners are responsible for ensuring the proper maintenance of their private property in accordance with the Town's Property Standards By-law. This may require the trimming or removal of trees that are unhealthy or unsafe. If a tree within a [Woodlot](#) has been assessed by an individual approved by the Commissioner of Planning and Development and determined to be damaged, destroyed or hazardous and requires removal in the interest of public safety, health or general welfare, removal of the assessed tree is exempt from the Tree Removal Permit process.

Questions related to compliance with the Property Standards By-law should be directed to the Town's By-law Services Division.

Penalties for Non-Compliance:

Penalties for non-compliance are as specified within the [Tree Protection By-Law 4640-00](#).

Application and Submission Requirements for the Town Tree Removal Permit:

A checklist of information required to be included with a complete Application for Tree Removal Permit is available in [Tree Removal Permit Application Submission Requirements](#).

When is a Heritage Permit Required for Tree Removal?

If your property is located within the Werden's Plan Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation District, a Heritage Permit may be required prior to the removal of individual trees on private property.

More information about this district is available here:

- [Werden's Plan Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation District](#)

For more information, contact

Planning and Development
905.430.4306
planning@whitby.ca



The **Heritage Permit Application** is available here:

- <https://www.whitby.ca/en/residents/heritagepermit.asp>

More information about Heritage Trees is available here:

- [Heritage Trees](#)

For **more information** regarding tree removal on private property including the various exemptions from the permit process, or to reach the Heritage Planner, please contact the Planning and Development Department at 905.430.4306 or planning@whitby.ca.

Region of Durham Tree Removal Permits

Durham Regional Woodland Conservation and Management By-Law 30-2020 applies to Woodlands that are generally one hectare (2.5 acres) in size and greater.

Two types of Tree Removal Permits are available through the Region:

Good Forestry Practice Permit

This permit is appropriate for selective removals, pruning, and minor works in applicable woodland areas. The application form for this permit is available here:

- [Good Forestry Application](#)

Clear Cutting Permits

Minor Clear Cutting Permits are required for clear cutting woodland areas greater than 0.1 hectare (1/4 acre).

- [Clear Cutting Application \(0.1-1.0 ha\)](#)

Major Clear Cutting Permits are required for clear cutting woodland areas greater than 1.0 hectare. These permits also require a public meeting and approval by Regional Council. To obtain a permit, submit the appropriate completed application form to the Durham Region Planning and Economic Development Department for review, along with the required fee.

- [Clear Cutting Application \(greater than 1.0 ha\)](#)

More information is available here:

- Durham Region Planning and Economic Development Department : (905) 668-7711
- [Durham Region: Do I need a permit to cut down trees](#)

For more information, contact

Planning and Development
905.430.4306
planning@whitby.ca

