

DOS AND DON'TS

Woodlands are intricate ecosystems and are an important part of the health and well being of our city and residents. Disrupting the delicate balance within woodlands can lead to the deterioration and destruction of this important natural resource.

You can do your part in protecting our woodlands by following these guidelines:

- Comply with the City Tree By-Law and Parks By-Law
- Do not dump garbage, grass clippings, sod, garden waste, construction debris or dirt in woodlands
- Place litter in garbage receptacles
- Do not encroach onto City property
- Plant native trees and shrubs on your property
- Do not remove leaves, twigs, branches or stumps from woodland areas
- Notify the City of any hazardous trees
- Please pick up after your pets
- If you suspect an illegal tree removal is taking place, contact Parks Services at (905) 436-3311



TREE PRESERVATION - FAQs

Q: There is a tree near the street that is damaged. Who is responsible for maintaining this tree?

A: If this tree is within the City road boulevard it is the City's responsibility to maintain. Otherwise, the property owner is responsible.

Q: There are branches and logs scattered in the woodland behind my home. Can it be cleaned up?

A: Woodlands are managed in a natural state. Logs and brush are left on site to provide wildlife habitat and decompose naturally.

Q: There is a tree in the natural area behind my home that looks hazardous. Who is responsible?

A: If you suspect that any City-owned tree is hazardous please contact Parks Services at (905) 436-3311 and an inspection will be scheduled.

Q: I saw someone dumping debris into the woodland in our neighbourhood. Who do I call?

A: Dumping of any kind on Parkland is against the Parks By-Law. Please contact Parks Services to report any dumping activity.

Q: There is litter and garbage in our neighbourhood woodland. How can I help to get it clean?

A: Community initiatives such as Pitch-in week provide an excellent opportunity to participate in clean-up activities. Contact Parks Services for more information.

Q: There is illegal activity occurring the natural area in our neighbourhood. Who do I call?

A: Contact Durham Regional Police Services at (905) 579-1520

PEST MANAGEMENT

Through the City's Pest Management Plan the health of trees and potential for pests and disease are monitored throughout the year.

Watch Out For:

Asian Long-Horned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer.



Asian Long-Horned Beetle



Emerald Ash Borer

If you suspect an infestation of Asian Long-horned Beetle or Emerald Ash Borer contact the City of Oshawa Forestry Services at (905) 436-3311 or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at (800) 442-2342. www.inspection.gc.ca

GETTING INVOLVED

The City has several programs promoting the importance of trees, planting activities, and natural area stewardship. Contact Parks Services for more information.

Get involved by:

- Recognizing someone important in your life by dedicating a tree through our donation programs
- Assisting City staff and volunteering at a community forestry event
- Learning how to take care of trees and shrubs on your property
- Participating in family-friendly programs such as Arbor Week, Pitch-in, and Scout Trees



For more information please contact
City of Oshawa Parks Services
(905) 436-3311
www.oshawa.ca

The City of Oshawa gratefully acknowledges
"Trees are Good" and the International Society of Arboriculture.



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TREE PRESERVATION and protection in Oshawa



Our Trees, Our Future



THE URBAN FOREST

Urban forests are a significant part of the municipal landscape. The importance of urban forests as green infrastructure is related to their capacity to limit energy use, improve air quality, reduce noise, increase water storage and maintain fragmented ecosystems. It is generally accepted that a strong urban forest has significant positive effects on our quality of life.

ENHANCING TREES IN OUR COMMUNITY FORESTRY BUSINESS PLAN

Oshawa City Council approved a Forestry Business Plan in 2006 as a proactive step to ensure the effective management of the City's urban forest.

As a key stakeholder in the management of the urban forest, the City of Oshawa has a significant role in the management of this resource. Forestry Services has been recognized through the Communities in Bloom program for environmental stewardship and the exceptional management of our urban forest.

The Forestry Business Plan is a proactive approach that establishes key objectives to help meet existing challenges and prepare for the future. The implementation of the Forestry Business Plan will ensure that the City's award winning forest management practices continue in a progressive and proactive manner.



Dear Resident:

As a resident of Oshawa with property near a natural area, you enjoy many benefits and opportunities not available to residents in other neighbourhoods. You can benefit from natural privacy and experience nature's beauty up close amidst an urban setting. You can also have a positive influence on the City's vast network of woodlands and natural areas.

As a steward of Oshawa's natural areas, you not only increase the value of your own property but you also make a valuable contribution to the community as well. In addition to being aesthetically pleasing, natural areas provide space for activities such as walking and hiking and they provide important wildlife habitat for both plants and animals. In an urban setting, trees and other vegetation play a crucial role in flood prevention and erosion control.

The City of Oshawa is committed to enhancing the City's woodlots and natural areas now and into the future. We are working to protect and preserve our trees and woodlands by developing a variety of green policies and regulations and by participating in tree planting and naturalization projects. These initiatives are important; however the continued quality of our woodlands and natural areas depends on the stewardship and involvement of Oshawa residents as well.

PROTECTING OUR TREES

The City of Oshawa maintains and protects the trees on City property, and works to ensure that trees are preserved and protected during various subdivision projects. The City's Tree By-Law protects trees on the public boulevard in front of your home while the Parks By-Law 83-2000 protects all vegetation in public parks and open space.



Tree Planting and Replacement

Through planting programs, community partnerships and development tree planting initiatives the City plants approximately 1500-2000 trees on streets, in parks and in natural areas each year.

Trees are only removed if they are dead or hazardous, and in those situations they are replaced on a one to one basis to ensure the stability of the urban forest.

Woodland and Ravine Management

The City of Oshawa manages woodland areas in a natural state according to City Council approved quality standards. Brush and wood resulting from the removal or maintenance of City-owned trees in woodland and natural areas remains on site in a location away from property lines, pathways and waterways to decompose naturally.



Encroachments

Encroachment is the use of City-owned property including woodlands for personal use. Preventing encroachment is one of the most effective ways we can protect our woodlands.

- Dumping
- Landscaping
- Structures
- Storing Materials
- Removal or disturbance of vegetation

ARE PROHIBITED ON CITY PROPERTY

The dumping of garden debris and compost is considered an encroachment as well and is not permitted under the Parks By-Law 83-2000. Although it may seem like a good idea, accumulated garden debris such as leaves, branches and grass clippings take a long time to decompose and can destroy natural habitat by smothering plants underneath. On slopes, this can be a particular problem leading to erosion and bank instability. Dumping garden waste also contributes to the spread of invasive plants into natural areas.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Trees keep our air supply fresh by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen
- The amount of oxygen produced by an acre of trees per year equals the amount consumed by 18 people annually
- In one year, an acre of trees can absorb as much carbon as is produced by a car driven up to 14,000 kilometres
- Trees lower air temperature by evaporating water in their leaves
- Trees reduce noise pollution by acting as sound barriers
- Tree roots stabilize the soil and prevent erosion
- Trees provide protection from downward fall of rain, sleet, and hail as well as reduce storm run-off and the possibility of flooding
- Trees provide food and shelter for wildlife
- Shade trees can make buildings up to 20 degrees cooler in the summer
- Trees improve water quality by slowing and filtering rain water, as well as protecting aquifers and watersheds