PORT MOODY
CITY OF THE ARTS

Guide to Tree Management Permits

Homeowners, Strata Managers, and Other Multi-Residential Properties

March 2026

This guide summarizes the key changes that were introduced in the 2026 Tree Protection Bylaw, which is now in effect. For detailed requirements or clarification on specific scenarios, consult the bylaw directly or contact City staff.

Trees help keep our neighborhoods healthy, livable, and resilient. This bylaw update helps protect important trees and ensures that when trees are removed, new ones are planted or funded.

Note: Instream applications where applicable fees have been paid (as of March 10, 2026) will be processed in accordance with the regulations under City of Port Moody Tree Protection Bylaw No. 2961, and any previous permits, notices, or orders issued by City staff under that bylaw will remain in effect.

What's new?

- Trees ≥30 cm DBH are protected on all properties, not just properties under development or Environmentally Sensitive Area lands.
- Fewer replacement trees may be required if your property already has 35-45% tree canopy.
- If your tree canopy is above 45%, replacement may be waived.
- Permit fees and deposits are lower for homeowners and existing strata developments than for proposed new development.

When do I need a Tree Management Permit?

You need a Tree Management Permit if the tree on your property is:

- ≥30 cm DBH (diameter at breast height);
- ≥10 cm DBH and located in an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) or Riparian Management Zone (RMZ);
- ≥10 cm DBH and is one of the following protected native species: arbutus, cascara, pacific dogwood, pacific yew, shore pine, western white pine;
- ≥10 cm DBH on properties with a development application (e.g. demolition permits, building permits, development permits, OCP amendments, rezoning applications, heritage alteration permits, etc.); or
- a replacement or retained tree under a previous permit or a tree protected by a covenant.

You don't need a permit if you are:

- pruning your tree in accordance with best arboricultural practices;
- removing an invasive tree species listed by the province or Invasive Species Council of BC;
- removing a tree under the authority of BC Hydro or a provincial/federal agency;
- a City crew or agent performing work under an approved City operational plan; or
- removing a tree due to a documented emergency, such as imminent tree failure (you must apply for a permit the next business day and provide evidence).

What happens if I remove a protected tree?

You'll need to plant one or more replacement tree based on the size of the tree removed, and the type of replacement species (small species require more). If you can't plant replacement trees on site, a cash-in-lieu payment may be considered acceptable, to be considered on a case-by-case basis by the City Arborist.

Fees and deposits

Permit type	Fee	Tree replacement security
Tree management permit	$75	$370 per tree
Hazardous or dead tree*	No fee	$370 per tree

*Generally, permits are still required for hazardous and/or dead trees. See permit requirements below.

What do I need to apply?

Before starting your application, make sure you have the required documents. Documents may include:

- Site plan showing tree location(s) relative to buildings and lot lines
- Arborist Report (required for hazardous trees, infrastructure conflicts, or when the tree's condition is unclear)
    - For dead trees, clear photos are usually sufficient
    - An arborist report may still be requested to confirm the condition)
- Letter of Authorization (if not applying as the property owner)
- Photos of the tree (if not submitting an arborist report)
- Nesting bird surveys prepared by a Qualified Environmental Professional may be required for tree removal between March-August

If it's for a hazardous tree removal, you will need:

- Arborist report
- Tree replacement plan
- Tree risk assessment report

Visit portmoody.ca/tree-permits for detailed lists.

How do I submit an application?

You can submit your application online or in person at City Hall (100 Newport Drive).

Questions?

Contact Planning staff at treepermits@portmoody.ca or 604.469.4540.