

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Popular tree voucher program returns for a limited time

#### Summary

Continuing its partnership with Green Thumb Garden Centre, the City of Nanaimo will once again provide residents with affordable trees for planting on their property. Starting Monday, November 4, 2019, \$25 vouchers for trees will be available for purchase in the Service and Resource Building located at 411 Dunsmuir Street. The vouchers can then be redeemed at Green Thumb Garden Centre for a designated tree worth up to \$90 in value.

Trees provide many social, economic and environmental benefits to a city. One mature tree can sequester over 50lbs of carbon in a year and produce enough oxygen for two adults. This partnership with Green Thumb Garden Centre has been successful with vouchers selling out quickly in past offerings.

A total of 400 vouchers will be available on a first come, first serve basis - no holds allowed. A limit of two vouchers will be sold per property. They are available for owners of properties within the City of Nanaimo only. Proof of residency or photo ID may be required.

*Strategic Link:* Promoting a healthy urban forest supports a priority to be environmentally responsible.

#### Key Points

- A healthy urban forest canopy provides critical habitat for wildlife, reduces the impacts of global warming, provides storm water abatement, increases property values and help define the character of the city.
- Vouchers will be available to purchase Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Service and Resource building, 411 Dunsmuir Street.
- The vouchers expire on July 1, 2020.
- Renters must get written permission from the property owner to purchase a voucher.

#### Quotes

"The City tree voucher program is a great way for residents to help improve the beauty of our neighbourhoods while help to improve habitat for wildlife."

Rob Lawrance  
Environmental Planner  
City of Nanaimo

"Choosing to plant trees around the home has been shown to increase property values while contributing greatly to ones mental and physical well being."

Patrick McIntosh  
Urban Forestry Coordinator  
City of Nanaimo

Continued... Popular tree voucher program returns for a limited time

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