Tree Removal/Maintenance Permit Information
(Information required for every Application for Tree Removal)

It is necessary to obtain a Tree Removal Permit for activities such as:

- Tree removal for a proposed development
- Tree removal for the subdivision of a parcel of land
- Tree removal on parcels of land where more than four non-significant trees that are 6 cm (2-3/8”) or larger in diameter at breast height (dbh – measured at 1.4 m or 4’7” above the ground) are to be removed
- The logging of commercial timber
- The cutting or pruning of a significant tree
- Tree removal in a watercourse setback or other Development Permit Area

Note: This is not a comprehensive list; refer to “TREE PROTECTION BYLAW 2013 NO. 7126” for more information.

Diagram 1 – Measuring Diameter

How to Measure Diameter
If you cannot measure diameter, then measure circumference in the following manner, then divide by 3.14 to get diameter:

- 6 cm (2-3/8 in.)
- 18.84 cm (7-2/5 in.)

Diagram 2 – Site Sketch
The term “Significant Tree” is defined in the Bylaw. There are three categories:

1. **Heritage Trees** – specific trees of heritage/historic value are listed in “TREE PROTECTION BYLAW 2013 NO. 7126” by species and location within the city.

2. **Wildlife Trees** – trees that provide habitat for an egg or next of species such as bald eagle, heron, and other species protected under the *Wildlife Act*.

3. **Landmark Trees** – trees of certain species and size important to the community for landmark value, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Minimum Tree Diameter To Be Considered A Significant Tree</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain Juniper, Garry Oak, Pacific Crabapple,</td>
<td>10 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Hawthorn, Western Dogwood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Yew, Pacific Willow, Hooker’s Willow, Sitka Willow, Bitter</td>
<td>15 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry, Cascara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western White Pine, Shore Pine, Trembling Aspen</td>
<td>20 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Maple</td>
<td>40 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Hemlock, Arbutus</td>
<td>50 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitka Spruce, Douglas Fir, Grand Fir, Western Red Cedar, Black</td>
<td>80 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood, Bigleaf Maple</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please be aware that, although the City of Nanaimo does not regulate or enforce the *Wildlife Act*, you may be in contravention of the Provincial *Wildlife Act* if you are removing trees during the spring nesting season. It is, therefore, in your best interest to retain a Registered Professional Biologist to confirm nesting or the lack thereof on your site prior to removals.

The *Wildlife Act (RSBC 1996)* CHAPTER 488, Part 1 – General Provisions – Section 34 – Birds, nests and eggs, states:

> “34 A person commits an offence if the person, except as provided by regulation, possesses, takes, injures, molests or destroys
>  
> (a) a bird or its egg,
>  
> (b) the nest of an eagle, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, osprey, heron or burrowing owl, or
>  
> (c) the nest of a bird not referred to in paragraph (b) when the nest is occupied by a bird or its egg.”

For further information, please contact the British Columbia Ministry of Environment.