





# Love the Trees in Your Yard!



Love and protect the trees in your yard. Whether they are evergreen or deciduous, and whether you live by water or inland, know your trees and what they need for optimum health. In order to protect Esquimalt's natural heritage and urban forest, it's important to understand trees and their basic needs.

## Trees 101

-  An average tree has a horizontal root spread much wider than its branch spread
-  Most nutrient absorbing roots reach beyond the branch spread
-  Most tree roots are in the top metre (40 inches) of soil
-  Most of the fine, absorbing roots are in the top 15 centimetres (6 inches) of soil.

## What You Can Do to Protect the Trees in Your Yard

Give your trees what they need to be vibrant and healthy. A properly planted and maintained tree will grow faster and live longer.

### 1. Prune with Care

Effective pruning can provide clearance above the ground, and remove dead or damaged limbs or suckers that sprout from the trunk. Pruning larger trees allows more light to enter the canopy. Small branches can be easily removed with pruners, but larger branches need to be removed with a pruning saw. If you're not sure about your ability to prune properly, hire a professional arborist to do the job for you.



*Protecting*  
**Esquimalt's  
Urban Forests**

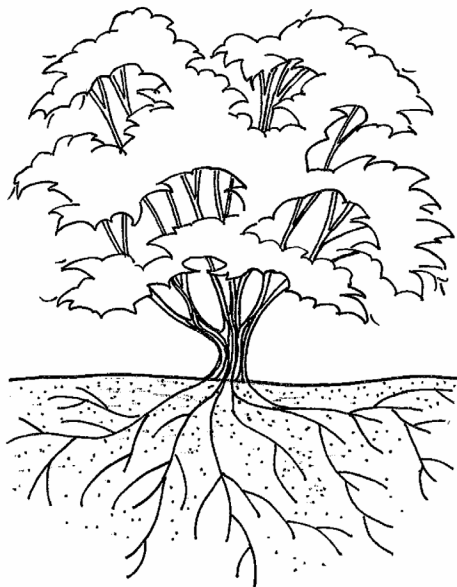
# What You Can Do to Protect the Trees in Your Yard

## 2. Obtain a Permit

Remember that you will need a Tree Cutting or Removal Permit if you are pruning or cutting a branch larger than 30 centimetres (12 inches), or if you wish to remove a tree from your yard. If a removal permit is approved, you may be required to replace your original tree, or provide cash for tree planting in a municipal park or boulevard.

## 3. Plant a New Tree in Your Yard

Select trees that are suitable for the microclimate in your neighbourhood and the size of your lot. Consider native trees that are drought resistant and pest resistant. Don't forget to factor in the average life expectancy of your tree, and its size at maturity.



For more information on **Tree Cutting or Removal Permits**, contact the Esquimalt Parks Supervisor at 412.8526.

