

Arborist Report

Introduction

Arborist reports guide decisions on tree preservation, removal, and replacement to balance development with the natural environment. Certified arborists and TRAQ-certified arborists conduct these assessments.

What does an Arborist do?

Arborists evaluate the health and condition of trees, identify potential issues, and provide recommendations for preservation, removal, or remediation. Their main tasks include:

- Conducting tree risk assessments
- Documenting tree conditions
- Identifying and treating tree diseases and pest infestations
- Recommending remedial actions such as pruning, fertilization, and soil management
- Developing tree protection plans during construction

Why is it requested?

Arborist reports are requested to:

- Ensure compliance with tree protection bylaws
- Assess the impact of development on existing trees
- Identify significant trees for preservation
- Recommend protective measures during construction
- Propose tree planting strategies for sustainable development

Scope of Work

Tree Inventory

The Tree Inventory includes a comprehensive assessment of all trees on and near the development site. This includes a Level 1 risk assessment and hazard evaluation.

Components	Description
Tree Inventory Table	Document each: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Tree species and tag number.○ Ownership (on-site/City/off-site).○ Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), height, crown class, and Live Crown Ratio (LCR).○ Health/vigor rating and structural assessment (crown, trunk, roots).○ Recommendations for retention or removal

Tree Tagging	Tag trees individually or conduct arial assessments to identify key areas.
Tree Locations	Record tree locations relative to the development plan, distinguishing on-site and off-site trees.
Data Collection	Gather data on DBH, protected status, crown radius, critical root zone diameter, and tree condition.
Field Observations	Perform comprehensive assessments of tree health, structure, damage, rot, and risk factors.
Photographs	Include labeled pre-construction photos of trees and site conditions.
Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures	Brief assessment on potential impacts of the proposed development on trees, providing mitigation recommendations.

Tree Management Plan

The Tree Management Plan integrates the Tree Inventory and includes strategies for tree retention and replacement.

Components	Description
Comprehensive Plan	Develop a plan for managing trees that aligns with the proposed development layout.
Work Identification	Identify work zones near trees, root zones, and probable excavation areas.
Tree Removal and Preservation	Identify trees to be removed and those to be preserved.
Tree Retention Plan	Detail trees >20 cm DBH on the parcel and within 2 m of the boundary, including ESAs or RAAs, neighboring District trees, etc.
Tree Retention Summary	Provide a summary table outlining the number of trees identified, removed, retained, and the replacement plan.
Tree Replacement Plan	Include a summary of replacement trees with species, size, maintenance, monitoring, and reporting requirements. Specify locations on a site plan with details on species, size, existing and proposed buildings.

Site-Specific Mitigation	Describe site-specific mitigation options like relocating retaining walls, hand-digging, pruning, aeration techniques, etc.
Tree Protection Fencing	Detail the location and dimensions of tree protection fencing on the Tree Retention Plan.
Tree Canopy Study	Evaluate future canopy cover to meet municipal requirements.
Photographs	Include photos supporting recommendations.

What is generally required at each stage in the development process?

Due diligence / securing land	<p>A basic Tree Inventory to identify any major trees that need to be protected, on or immediately adjacent a site, that would impact the site's layout or developability.</p> <p>If a full Tree Inventory is not completed with a supporting survey at the early stages of a project, then a site visit by an Arborist and a short report on areas to be protected can be provided.</p>
Rezoning	<p>A Tree Inventory to inform the application and review process of any significant or protected trees.</p> <p>Note: A Tree Management Plan should not be needed for basic land use approvals – it comes later to prep for construction so long as the roots of trees to be retained on/offsite are addressed in the plan.</p>
Development Permit	A Tree Inventory and Tree Management Plan can be required for a Development Permit application to ensure the design of the site and building will provide any necessary tree protection.
Subdivision	A Tree Inventory can be included to provide assurance that proposed lot layouts are viable for development in the context of any protected trees.
Building Permit	A Tree Inventory and Tree Management Plan can be required for a Building Permit application to ensure the design of the site and building will provide any necessary tree protection.
Construction	The Tree Management Plan would be implemented during construction and monitored to ensure construction activities are in alignment with the Plan.

Post-Construction	Some elements of the Tree Management Plan may be implemented post-construction.
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