

DEVELOPMENT NEAR **FORESTS + TREES**

Within the District of Squamish, trees and forests are managed under the Tree Management Bylaw (No. 2640, 2018) and Development Permit Area 1 (DPA 1) which protects the natural environment.

What is a “Tree”?

Under the Tree Management Bylaw, a tree is a woody perennial plant usually having a single trunk or stem which has a diameter of at least 20 centimetres (8 inches); this size threshold does not apply if the Tree is located within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (e.g. within 30 m of a watercourse).

Why do we care about trees?

Trees provide a variety of individual and community benefits such as wildlife habitat, stormwater management, carbon absorption, air quality, heating and cooling, aesthetic values, quality of life and health benefits.

Tree Density Target

The Tree Management Bylaw seeks to maintain a minimum Tree Density Target on each property of 50 trees per Net Developable Hectare. The Tree Density Target may be achieved by retaining native trees, planting replacement trees or paying a fee into the District’s Environmental Reserve Fund for each replacement tree that will not be planted.

Forested Areas

Within the District of Squamish, many young, mature or old growth forests have been mapped as Terrestrial Review Areas and are included in DPA 1. Notably, many of these forests are Blue- or Red-listed Ecological Communities at Risk.

If Your Project is... a residential, commercial or industrial activity **within a Terrestrial Review Area**, AND you are planning to alter vegetation, remove a tree or subdivide land, a municipal Development Permit may be required, along with a Bio-inventory Assessment conducted by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP).

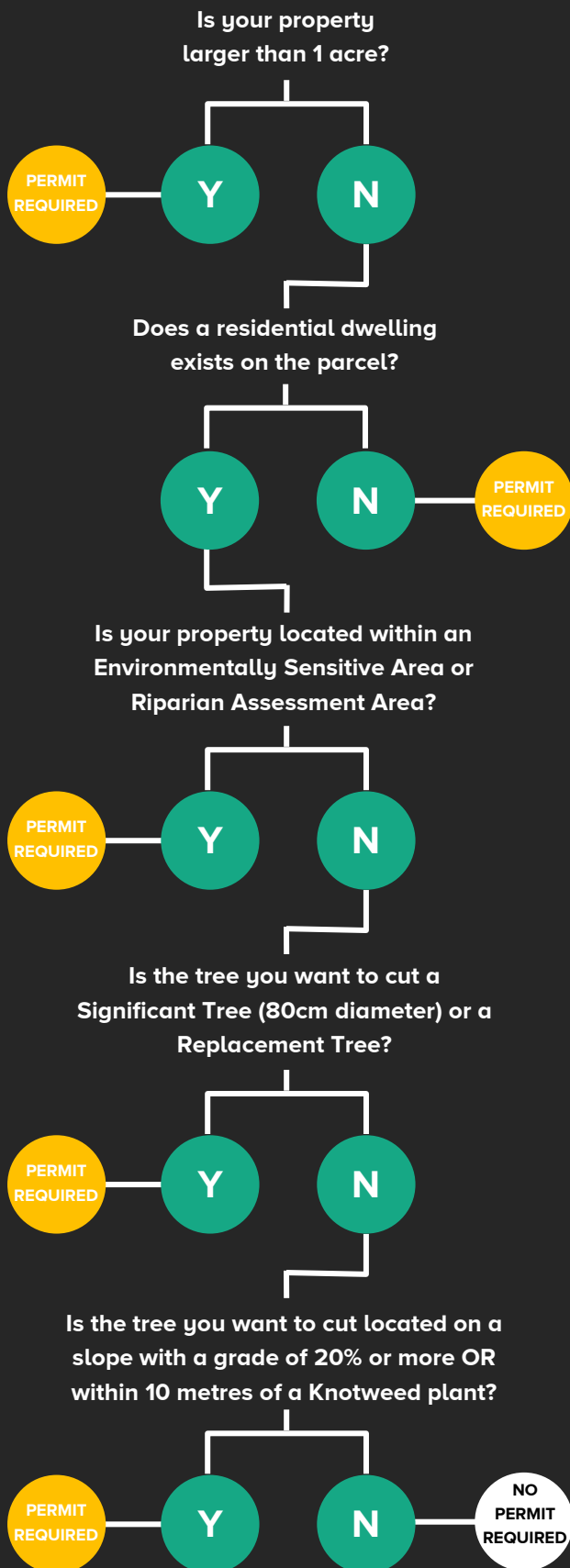
Exemptions

Some activities are exempt from requiring a Tree Permit or Development Permit. For example, treatment of hazard trees and invasive species under the guidance of a QEP, and some forestry practices.

Bird Nests

It is an offence to disturb an active nest. In Squamish, the nesting season is late March to mid-August. If you have to remove vegetation during this period, you must ensure that there are no active nests. A nest survey, conducted by a QEP, helps to protect active nests and may be required by the District.

DO YOU REQUIRE A TREE PERMIT?



Tree Permit Applications

Use the decision tree on the left to determine if you need a Tree Permit. Applications that include the removal of hazard trees, numerous trees or trees of any size in an environmentally sensitive area may require a report from a QEP. Depending on the situation, the District may require an Exemption Report, Danger Tree Report, Tree Removal Plan, Tree Placement Plan or an Impacts Report.

Have a question? Contact Karlene Loudon, QEP, RPBio, Principal Consultant + Biologist, CoastRange Environmental Ltd., Squamish, BC at 604-815-3639 or kloudon@coastrangeenvironmental.ca

