

City of Prince George Tree Protection Bylaw No. 6343, 1995

Rationale and Recommendations for Updates

December 5th, 2022

ENVS 230: Introduction to Environmental Policy
with Dr. Sinead Earley





**Last Update:
June 2012**

**Tree Protection
Bylaw No. 6343, 1995**

Sustainable Cities and Urban Trees

- OCP review process
- Wider levels of public input
- Recommended updates to Bylaw
- Youth perspective
- Holistic approach

Purpose and Language

Purpose

- current limitations
- core objective for bylaw success: tree protection

Language

Lessons from case studies: Kamloops and the Town of Gibsons

- Interpretation
- Purpose

Expansion of Definition section

Accessibility: bylaw availability in multiple languages (Carrier/Dakelh, Punjabi, German, Tagalog, etc.)

TOWN OF GIBSONS BYLAW NO. 1282

A Bylaw to provide for the protection and preservation of Trees within the Town of Gibsons.

WHEREAS it is deemed desirable to regulate the removal and retention of trees within the Town of Gibsons; and

WHEREAS trees are recognized as a Natural Asset of the community; and

WHEREAS trees and tree cover provide many services for the Town,

THEREFORE, the Municipal Council of the Town of Gibsons, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SHORT TITLE

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Tree Preservation Bylaw No. 1282, 2020".

1.2 REPEAL

Tree Cutting Permit Bylaw No. 623, 1990 is hereby repealed.

1.3 PURPOSE

This Bylaw is enacted for the purposes of regulating the damaging, removal and replacement of trees within the Town of Gibsons and to preserve the overall ecological function of the Urban Forest by:

- 1.3.1 Regulating the altering, cutting, damaging or removing of trees within the Town of Gibsons;
- 1.3.2 Describing the conditions under which permits will be granted for the altering, cutting, or removal of trees.

Expansion of Protected Area

Existing Protected Area

- AG Greenbelt (rural zone)
- Select riparian zones

Riparian Zones

- Ecosystem services
- Earth retention

Urban Areas

- Included in expanded zone
- Applies to new development

The Tree Protection Bylaw should apply across all zones within the City of Prince George.

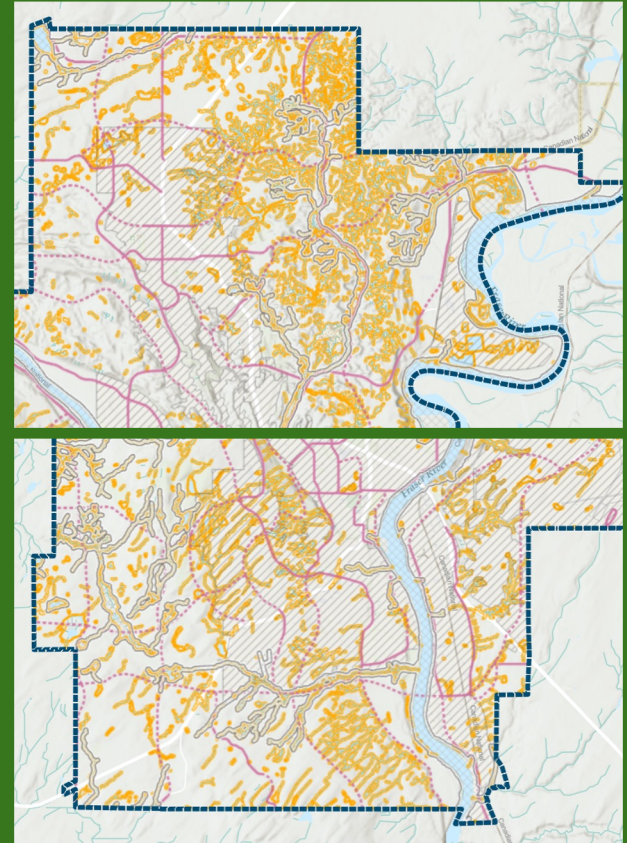


Image credit: pgmap.princegeorge.ca

Tree Replacement, Retention, and Care

Replacement

- Currently no species specification for replacement trees
- Relevance to tree species that are removed

Retention

- Currently no tree retention guidance
- Arboriculture/urban forester maintenance

Care

- Tree health managed or monitored by certified arborists



Image credit: City of Prince George

Urban Livability

Demographic Representation

- Increase active engagement and community participation
- Recognize Prince George as a space for students and young professionals to live and grow

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- Low-income residents
- Racialized residents

Urban Green Infrastructure

- Urban heat islands
- Heat domes

Human Health

- Improve mental health (e.g., reduce stress)
- Improve physical health (e.g., physical activity, social contact)



Image Credit: City of Prince George

Community Profiles

Learning from Other Communities

- Require two-for-one tree replacement
- Require a security deposit for replacement of trees and their maintenance
 - Where a tree cannot be replaced on the property, require cash in lieu, with the money going towards the planting and maintenance of City trees
- Require consultation with professionals with horticulture, planting design and arboriculture expertise to review significant development applications
- Develop procedures for ensuring that tree protection and management bylaws are enforced

Recommendations

- Acknowledge impact of green space and green infrastructure on residents
- Recognize Prince George as an urban heat island
- Revise Bylaw to expand protected areas
- Update the Recommended Tree List with certified arborists and City planners
- Include tree protection provisions in other municipal legislation





Prince George exists within an urban forest.

Resources:

ENVS 230 Report

HealthyPlan.city/en

Thank you

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