

# City of Langley Tree Ordinance

A. **Purpose Statement:** Recognizing that Langley is a rural community, where the forest meets the sea, it's citizens embrace their role as stewards of healthy vigorous trees and tree communities that promote the general welfare. This chapter establishes a process and standards to provide for the protection, preservation, replacement, proper maintenance and use of trees, associated vegetation and woodlands located in the City of Langley in order to:

1. Preserve and enhance the City's s environmental, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, and social character with mature landscapes;
2. Create a safe environment for citizens and structures with standards for removal of "hazard trees" and for provision of emergency access;
3. Promote site planning, building, and development practices which retain and enhance plentiful, diverse and site appropriate tree cover;
4. Comply with the requirements of the Forest Practice Rules pertaining to land use conversion activities;
5. Implement the goals and objectives of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and harmonize with the city's Comprehensive plan including but not limited to elements S-1 (Sustainability) and OS-1 (Parks, Open Space, and Waterfront);
6. Recognize the importance of healthy older trees and protect the benefits related to trees and tree communities which include but are not limited to the following;
  - a. Improvement of air quality with the absorption of air pollutants, assimilation of carbon dioxide and generation of oxygen. Promote physical and mental well being by buffering noise;
  - b. Shelter against severe weather conditions with cooling effects in the summer months and insulating effects in winter and protection from strong winds;
  - c. Enhanced aquifer recharge, storm water and soil retention, land stability, purity of water supplies and waterways, by increasing pervious surfaces and forest cover via sustainable land use activities which minimize public and private costs for storm water control/treatment and utility maintenance;
  - d. Stabilized seaside bluffs resulting from landscape guidelines that retain soils on steep slopes and reduce erosion;
  - e. Increased sense of well being for the citizens, support for property values, and

contribution to the cities natural beauty by enhancing the aesthetic character of the community via landscape transition screens between different land uses, softening the built environment, enhancing views, and creating more tree lined streets;

f. Expanded greenbelts, scenic vistas and canopy cover throughout and around the City which are easily accessed by Langley's citizens, providing habitat, cover, food supply and corridors for a diversity of wildlife, by preserving, protecting and enhancing open spaces;