

# City of Langley Tree Ordinance – Draft

December 22, 2010

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

1. Preserve and enhance the City’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 Practices Act pertaining to land use conversion activities;
5. 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. Improve air quality with the absorption of air pollutants, assimilation of carbon dioxide and generation of oxygen;
  - b. Promote physical and mental well being by buffering noise;
  - c. Provide shelter against severe weather conditions with cooling effects in the summer, insulating effects in winter and protection from strong winds;
  - d. Enhance aquifer recharge, stormwater management, soil retention, land stability, drinking water purity and clean waterways;
  - e. Reduce public and private costs for stormwater control/treatment and utility maintenance;
  - f. Stabilize steep slopes to retain soils and reduce erosion;
  - g. Soften the built environment, enhance views, and create more tree lined streets;
  - h. Maintain greenbelts, habitat and canopy cover throughout and around the City.