

Arborist Report Specifications – Impact Assessment

This should be considered with the [General Arborist Report Specifications](#) for additional information required from an ISA-certified arborist to comply with the [Tree Protection Bylaw](#).

Purpose

A tree Impact Assessment is required when a tree has been impacted by tree damaging activities (typically associated with construction and landscaping) and Saanich Parks requires more information to assess the health and safety of affected trees.

Should excavations be required to assess the level of impact please have your arborist contact Saanich Parks to apply for a permit to work within the Protected Root Zones (PRZ) of any Bylaw-protected tree.

Description of tree(s) included in the impact assessment

- Tree Tag Number(s) that correlate to inventory and/or plans (if existing from prior reports)
- Tree Inventory and Location information (see [General Arborist Report Specification](#))
- Level 2 Tree Risk Assessment for each impacted tree (per [Arborist Report Specifications – Tree Risk Assessment](#)) with all details of how assessment was determined (TRAQ)
- Site History (if known)
- Photographs
 - Must be labelled by tree id # and contain a description
 - Include image of the entire tree
 - Include a close up of work areas and impacts
 - Entire site showing trees being reviewed
 - Include photos of relevant targets in context to the tree
- Any other relevant details or other pertinent information
- Description of damage sustained. These include but are not limited to:
 - Canopy damage/improper pruning– height of crown raising, final height of topped tree, number of scaffold limbs removed or stubbed
 - Damage to trunks – site of wound, severity (% of trunk circumference impacted), cause of damage, type of damage

- Damage to tree roots – Cause of damage, type of damage, distance to excavation from trunk of tree, size of cut roots, number of structural roots damaged
- Other negative impacts – Phytoxic chemical spill, soil compaction, fill soil, site hydrology changes

Further information may be required:

- Recommendations if trees require a level 3 Advanced Assessment
- Soil testing for Ph, texture and chemical makeup

Mitigation Measures for Impacted Trees

The arborist should provide feasible recommendations to mitigate tree impacts and damage including but not limited to:

- Removal of fill and building materials using the least invasive method possible (such as hand tools, air spade, or hydro-vac excavation)
- Pruning
- Tree support systems (cabling or bracing union)
- Soil improvements (watering/fertilization (including interval), mulching, drainage improvements (aeration and soil amendments).
- Tree protection measures (for construction related impacts) for the remainder of the project such as: tree protection barriers, hoarding or root armoring.

The report should detail how the mitigation works will be completed while avoiding further impacts to retained trees.

In some cases, the tree's stability or structure may require the tree to be removed. Saanich Parks requires the arborist to justify what mitigation measures were explored and why those measures are not able to reduce the impacts or risk posed by the tree before removal will be considered.

If removal is the accepted outcome, a tree permit and conditions such as replacement tree deposits are required.

Residual Risk Rating

All reports must include an anticipated residual risk rating for the tree following the completion of mitigation. Where multiple mitigation options are proposed, residual risk ratings are to be provided for each relevant option.

If you have any questions about any of the information presented in these tips, please contact Saanich Parks: 250-475-5522 or Parks.Admin@saanich.ca