

Terms of Reference: Tree Risk Assessment Reports

City of Surrey
Trees and Landscape Section

May 2019

Background:

Tree Protection Bylaw, 2006, No. 16100

Tree Cutting Permit (TCP) applications are reviewed by City arborists. The review includes a field visit to undertake a Level 2: Basic Tree Risk Assessment (TRA). The City arborist will use the Level 2 TRA to determine if a TCP application meets the requirements of the bylaw for removal. A TCP application will be denied if the Level 2 TRA does not meet the requirements of the bylaw for removal.

Consulting arborists can submit a Level 2 or a Level 3: Advanced TRA Report to City for review. TRA Reports must meet the requirements of this Terms of Reference.

Arborist:

An arborist is defined in the Tree Protection Bylaw as a person who is both an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist and an International Society of Arboriculture Qualified Tree Risk Assessor.

Tree Risk Assessment Report Process:

TRA Reports may be submitted in person to City Hall or by email to treebylaw@surrey.ca.

Level 2: Basic Tree Risk Assessments will be accepted for the following:

- Dead standing trees or trees in significant decline
- High risk trees (i.e. trees with an “imminent” likelihood of failure or “extreme” risk rating)
- Trees with a mature height of 8m or less that are within 2m of a foundation
- Trees with a mature height of greater than 8m that are within 3m of a foundation
- TCP applications for five (5) or more trees
- Trees in conflict with Agricultural works
- Pruning of Significant Trees

Level 3: Advanced Tree Risk Assessments will be accepted for the following:

- When a TCP application has been denied by the City
- When submitting a TCP application that does not meet one of the Level 2 requirements listed above

Tree Risk Assessment Report Requirements:

The following must be included in a Tree Risk Assessment Report.

- Site address
- Date of assessment
- Client's name, phone number and email
- Arborist's name, phone number and email
- Map showing location of tree(s) on the site
- Tree information
 - Species
 - DBH
 - Height
- TRAQ assessment results
- Recommendation (i.e. retention, removal, mitigation)
- Rationale for removal
- Photo of the entire tree and photo(s) that demonstrate reason for removal

The following must be included in a Level 3 Tree Risk Assessment Report.

- Photos of the part(s) investigated
- Details of the advanced tree risk assessment methods or tools used in the investigation

Surrey's Trees and Landscape Section:

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