



STOP! Is that a City Tree?

Some of trees in your front or side yard may be City (public) trees. City trees are owned and maintained by the City of Hamilton and protected through the Public Tree Protection Bylaw. Pruning, digging, storing equipment or materials, or conducting any work near City trees requires a permit. Tree roots grow shallower and further from the tree trunk than you may think!

Steps:

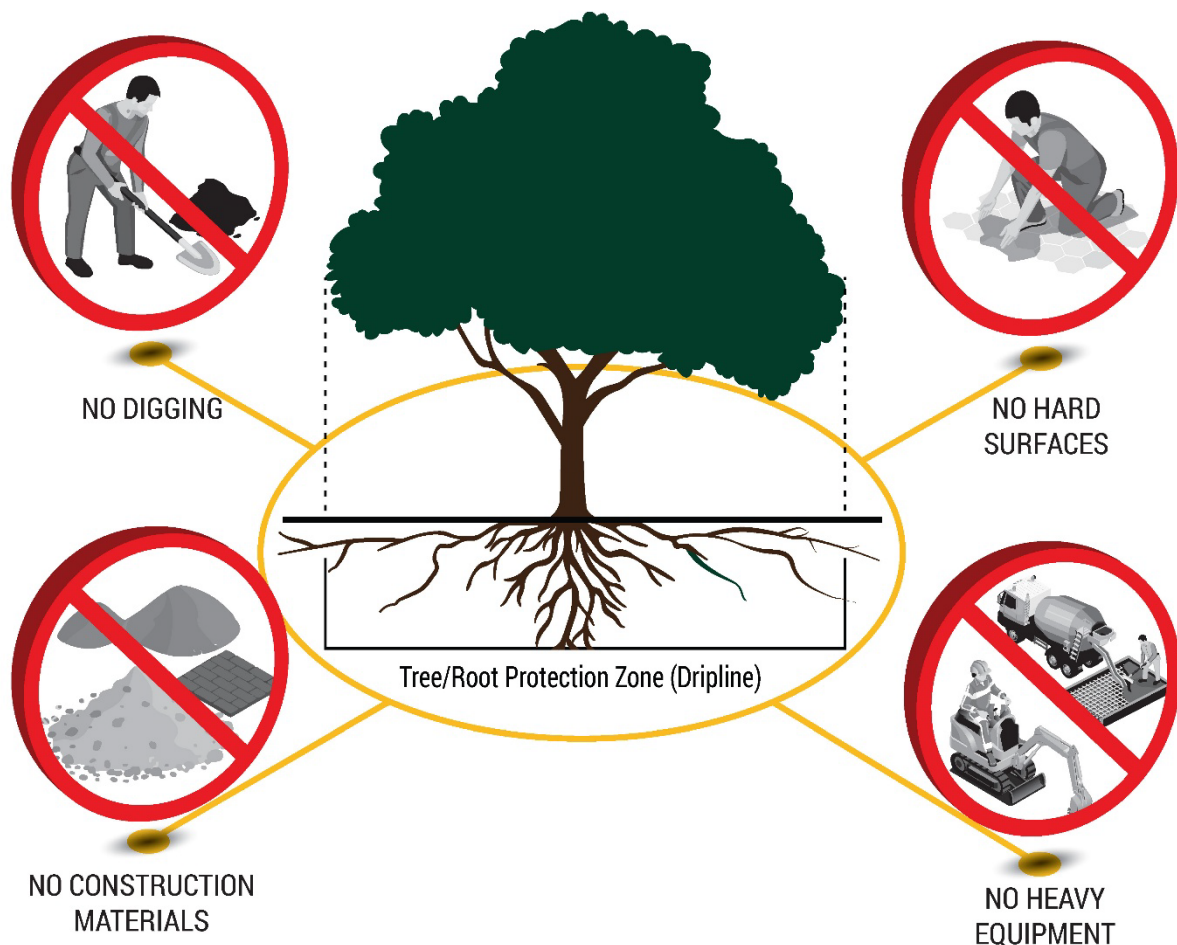
- 1) Verify if you have City trees on your property online at [Public Tree Inventory | Open Hamilton](#). Note: the public tree inventory is not 100% accurate and while most, but not all City trees are inventoried, it is best to proceed to step 2 if you're unsure.
- 2) If you have a public tree or you're not sure, contact urbanforest@hamilton.ca to provide your project information. You can also apply online at [Hamilton.ca/WorkingNearTrees](https://hamilton.ca/WorkingNearTrees). City staff will work with you to determine if a permit is required.
- 3) If City staff confirm that a permit is request, pay the required fee and obtain a public tree permit. You must comply with the conditions of the permit, which may include hand digging within the drip line of the city tree.
- 4) Education first is always our priority, however there are times where failure to comply with the Public Tree Protection Bylaw by not receiving a permit, or not complying with the conditions of permit, can result in:
 - a. A Stop Work Order being issued and / or a Notice to Comply being issued, which may include the requirement to repay Loss of Canopy Fees, if City trees were removed without authorization.
 - b. Enforcement action through the issuance of fines.

We appreciate your attention and cooperation in supporting the City's tree canopy and efforts to grow the City's tree canopy. If you have questions, please contact urbanforest@hamilton.ca.



BEFORE YOU PROCEED

Contact Forestry before working around City trees.



Damage to Public Trees can result in fines up to **\$10,000** and a loss of canopy fee as per **Public Tree Protection By-law 15-125**.