



Benefits of Trees-

- Conserve energy ~ by providing shade and evaporative cooling
- Are a food source: plum, cherry, pear, apple, walnut, hazelnut trees, and berry bushes grow well here
- Improve air quality ~ absorbing pollutants & by producing oxygen
- Reduce wind speed and direct air flow (can reduce heating costs)
- Reduce noise pollution
- Provide habitat for birds, small mammals, and other wildlife
- Reduce storm runoff and the potential for soil erosion
- Increase property values: trees can add 20% to property values
- Enhance visual qualities and enhance community pride.

DID YOU KNOW?

Revelstoke expanded their Urban Forestry program with the introduction of a tree bylaw and policies to guide management and protection of cities trees.

The Mt. Begbie Elementary School Greening Project added 17 trees, including 10 different native species, to the school grounds. The grounds are enjoyed by students and the neighbourhood. Everyone benefits when there is a natural setting in an urban area.

According to Tree Canada

An "average" Canadian tree in an urban setting can provide one day's oxygen for up to four people & can absorb about 9.2 kg of carbon dioxide per year, that's the same as almost a ton of carbon dioxide over an 80-year lifespan!

Revelstoke Eco-Fact Sheet

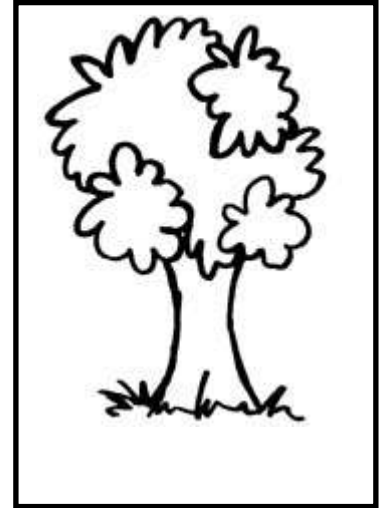
Backyard Trees

Why Should I Plant Trees in my Backyard?

Trees along Revelstoke's streets and in our yards bring economic, aesthetic, and environmental benefits to our city. Revelstoke has lots of trees, so why should we worry about our urban forest? Well, it's not just the number of trees that we need to be concerned about, but their health and whether or not they will persist into the future.

While some of our city's trees are well maintained to provide shade, windbreaks, aesthetic value and other benefits, there are also locations that are without trees, or are slowly losing their trees. In some instances, trees have not been planted following development or have subsequently died. Other areas are quickly reaching the age where trees are dying or becoming too large or structurally unsafe. Some of these trees are being removed. Others are being pruned so drastically that they have lost much of their aesthetic value and in time will lose their structural integrity.

Trees on residential lots are a critical component of the urban forest. In many neighborhoods the trees that line our streets are on private property, not a



public boulevard. Many more trees dot backyards providing shade and shelter, habitat for birds and small wildlife, enhancing aesthetics and property values, and improving air quality. If you have space in your yard, **planting a tree will help to strengthen our urban forest and bring to your backyard all the benefits that trees provide.**

Top 10 things you can do for your tree:

1. Ensure adequate below and above ground space for roots and branches.
2. Water regularly (in the absence of rain) and replenish mulch as it decomposes.
3. Protect trees from physical damage (eg. lawn mowers, falling or piled snow).
4. Protect the tree and its roots during home renovations or construction.
5. Do not apply salt near trees in winter.
6. Never tie, nail or attach anything to the trunk or branches.
7. Leave some leaves on the ground as mulch - they are the best fertilizer.
8. Keep your eye out for early signs of pests or disease.
9. Use natural alternatives to chemical pesticides.
10. Use proper pruning methods – research how or consult a qualified arborist.

Right Tree in the Right Place

What Kind of Tree to Plant?

- Is it important that the tree provide shade, privacy, wildlife habitat, noise reduction, heat control or wind modification? Do you want spring flowers, fall colour, fruit production?
- Be sure to note the mature height and width of the tree. Be aware of overhead wires, property lines, neighboring trees and structures, and areas needed for winter snow clearing and storage.
- Growing tree roots can crack sidewalks and driveways and interfere with underground wires and sewer systems.
- Match the pattern of root growth (shallow and spreading versus deep and narrow) to the site.
- Remember that Revelstoke often has water regulations in summer, consider a tree that doesn't need a lot of watering.
- Consider the needs of your neighbour; leaves, roots, and shade from your tree may not be something they want.

- Know what type of soil and moisture conditions exist. Is it sunny or shady, windy or sheltered? Is the site "typical" of Revelstoke, which would make it Plant Hardiness Zone 5 to 6, or is it a more exposed or higher elevation site which would decrease the Zone? Also remember that trees in Revelstoke must be able to withstand heavy snowfalls.

- Finally, think about your maintenance needs. Are you willing to deal with large quantities of leaves each fall? What about fruit, nuts or seed pods?

- Remember that Revelstoke trees must be managed to prevent attracting bears.

Tree selection is one of the most important steps in adding trees to your yard. Planting the right tree can help insure the best chance for healthy growth, development, and survival.

Consult the resources on the sidebar for detailed instructions. Happy tree planting (remember, green side up)!

Six Reasons Not To Top Trees

- 1. Topping starves a tree** by drastically reducing the amount of leaf surface and its food-making ability. Good pruning removes less than 30% of the leafy crown.
- 2. Topping causes decay** by making pruning cuts that leave branch stubs with wounds that heal poorly. Fungi can create a structurally weak and hazardous tree.
- 3. Topping shocks a tree** by suddenly exposing the trunk and previously shaded limbs to full sun, leading to sun-scald damage to the bark and tissues beneath.
- 4. Topping creates hazards** when multiple and weakly attached shoots arise from below the cuts. These shoots grow rapidly, causing a topped tree to grow back to its original height faster and denser than a properly pruned tree and be more prone to wind breakage.
- 5. Topping leads to increased expenses** from repeated follow-up pruning and the cost of eventual tree removal. Topping can lead to lower property resale values and because topping is considered to be an unacceptable pruning practice, any damage caused by branch failure of a topped tree may lead to a finding of negligence in a court of law.
- 6. Topping disfigures a tree** by destroying its natural form. A tree that has been topped can never fully regain its natural form.



For More Information

- <http://www.northcolumbia.org/> for more links and also check out the NCES binders on the reference shelf at the Revelstoke Public Library.
- <http://www.treesaregood.com/> for excellent downloadable leaflets on several tree related topics.
- <http://www.treecanada.ca> describes the programs of the Tree Canada Foundation. Info on tree planting/care.
- <http://www.treelink.org> provides information, research, and networking for people working in urban and community forestry. Excellent links to tree selection, siting, planting, & care.
- Two good books available from the Revelstoke Library for tree selection are *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest* and *Tree and Shrub Gardening for British Columbia*
- For selecting trees to plant near powerlines, read BC Hydro's *Planting Near Powerlines* guide available at http://www.bchydro.com/rx_files/info/info703.pdf.
- <http://www.cityofrevelstoke.com> for Revelstoke's Urban tree bylaw or contact the Public Works Department.

*This Eco-Fact Sheet
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