

THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

BY-LAW

BY-LAW NUMBER 251-2025

A By-law of the Corporation of the City of Vaughan to amend Tree Protection By-law 177-2025, as amended, to clarify definitions and other by-law provisions, and enhance the enforceability of various offences related to the injury and/or destruction of trees.

WHEREAS section 8(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 ("*Municipal Act*"), as amended, provides that the powers of a municipality under this Act shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on the municipality to enable the municipality to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate and to enhance the municipality's ability to respond to municipal issues;

AND WHEREAS section 135(1) of the *Municipal Act*, without limiting sections 9, 10 and 11 of the *Municipal Act* states that a lower-tier municipality may prohibit or regulate the destruction or injuring of trees;

AND WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the City of Vaughan has determined that it is desirable to amend the Tree Protection By-law 177-2025, as amended to clarify definitions and other by-law provisions, and enhance the enforceability of various offences related to the injury and/or destruction of trees;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Vaughan ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That Tree Protection By-law 177-2025, as amended, be further amended as follows:

- a. To add the following recital:

AND WHEREAS section 444 of the *Municipal Act*, provides that where a municipality is satisfied that a contravention of a by-law of the municipality passed under this Act has occurred, the municipality may make an order requiring the person who contravened the by-law or who caused or permitted the contravention or the owner or occupier of the land on which the contravention occurred to discontinue the contravening activity;

- b. by deleting the definitions of “‘Injure’ or ‘Injury’ or ‘Destroy’ or ‘Destruction’” and “Tree Removal Permit” from section 3.0.4. and replacing them with the following in alphabetical order:

“Destroy” means to remove, cut down or in any other way damage a *Tree* to such an extent that the *Tree*, as deemed by the *Director of Forestry*, cannot recover and it is necessary to remove or cut down the *Tree*, and “Destruction” has a corresponding meaning;

“Injure” means any act that may harm a *Tree’s* health including abuse, attaching, burning, cutting, carving, damaging, painting, pasting, peeling, pulling up, removing, scraping, tacking, trimming, or any other act deemed by the *Director of Forestry* as having the potential to harm a *Tree’s* health, and “Injury” has a corresponding meaning;

“Tree Permit” means a permit issued by the *City* pursuant to this By-law to *Injure* or *Destroy* or otherwise remove a *Tree* on *Private Property* within the *City* or a permit issued to approve *Tree* protection measures pursuant to the *Tree Protection Protocol*;

- c. by replacing all references to “*Tree Removal Permit*” throughout the by-law with “*Tree Permit*”.

- d. by deleting subsection 4.0.1.(a) and replacing it with the following:

1. No *Person* shall do or cause or allow to be done, any of the following to a *Public Tree*:

(a) *Injure*, *Destroy*, or *Prune* it or a part thereof unless permitted by a *Tree Permit* or *Tree Protection Agreement*;

(b) attach any object to all or any part of it including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, a birdhouse, cable, light, nail, poster, rope, sign, twine, wire or other contrivance; or

(c) pour any substance that will *Injure* it within its drip line, being the area at the outer edge of the spread of its branches.

- e. by deleting section 4.0.2. and replacing it with the following:

2. No *Person* shall do any of the following unless permitted by a *Tree Permit* or *Tree Protection Agreement* issued pursuant to this By-law:

- (a) *Injure* or cause or permit *Injury* to a *Tree* that is not a *Public Tree*, with a *Diameter* of twenty (20) centimeters or more, or having a *Base Diameter* of twenty (20) centimeters or more; or
- (b) *Destroy*, cause or permit the *Destruction* of a *Tree* that is not a *Public Tree*, with a *Diameter* of twenty (20) centimeters or more, or having a *Base Diameter* of twenty (20) centimeters or more.
- f. by adding subsection 9.0.3.(c) to read as follows:
- (c) where it is satisfied that a *Tree* has been *Injured or Destroyed* without permission from the *City* under a *Tree Permit* or *Tree Protection Agreement*, issue an *Order* to discontinue the contravening activity.
- g. by deleting section 9.0.4. and replacing it with the following:
4. No *Person* shall hinder or obstruct or attempt to hinder or obstruct *Municipal By-law Enforcement Officers* who are exercising any powers or performing any duties under this By-law.
- h. by deleting Schedule 1 and replacing it with the following:

Schedule 1 – Administrative Penalties

Section	Description Summary	Administrative Penalty Amount
4.0.1.(a)	<i>Injure, Destroy, or Prune Public Tree</i> or part thereof without a <i>Tree Permit</i> or <i>Tree Protection Agreement</i>	\$900 for Trees 20 to 30 cm in Diameter/Base Diameter \$1,500 for Trees 31-40cm in Diameter/Base Diameter \$2,100 for Trees 41-50cm in Diameter/Base Diameter \$2,700 for Trees greater than 50cm in Diameter/Base Diameter
4.0.1.(b)	Attach an object to a <i>Public Tree</i>	\$500
4.0.1.(c)	Pour any substance that will <i>Injure</i> a <i>Public Tree</i> within the drip line of the <i>Public Tree</i>	\$1,000
4.0.2.(a)	<i>Injure</i> a <i>Tree</i> that is not a <i>Public Tree</i> without a <i>Tree Permit</i> or <i>Tree Protection Agreement</i>	\$750
4.0.2.(b)	<i>Destroy</i> a <i>Tree</i> , that is not a <i>Public Tree</i> without a <i>Tree Permit</i> or <i>Tree Protection Agreement</i>	\$900 for Trees 20 to 30 cm in Diameter/Base Diameter \$1,500 for Trees 31-40cm in Diameter/Base Diameter \$2,100 for Trees 41-50cm in Diameter/Base Diameter \$2,700 for Trees greater than 50cm in Diameter/Base Diameter
4.0.5.	Undertake unauthorized activities within a <i>Tree Protection Zone</i>	\$2,700

7.0.2.	Fail to comply with conditions of a <i>Tree Permit</i> or <i>Tree Protection Agreement</i>	\$1,000
7.0.3.	Fail to comply with an <i>Order</i>	\$1,000
9.0.4.	Hinder or obstruct or attempt to hinder or obstruct <i>Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer</i>	\$1,000

Voted in favour by City of Vaughan Council this 25th day of November, 2025.

Steven Del Duca, Mayor

Todd Coles, City Clerk

Authorized by Item No. 7 of Report No. 39 of the Committee of the Whole.
Report adopted by Vaughan City Council on November 25, 2025.
City Council voted in favour of this by-law on November 25, 2025.
Approved by Mayoral Decision MDC 015-2025 dated November 25, 2025.
Effective Date of By-Law: November 25, 2025