

3.2.4 Significant Trees

Significant trees have unique characteristics (e.g. size, age, species, rarity, aesthetic value, cultural significance, ecological importance) that provide considerable social, economic or environmental benefit to a neighbourhood or community.



Photo: An example of a significant tree in the City of Vancouver



Photo: Garry Oak trees identified as being significant in the City limits

Issues and Concerns

The City of Duncan has an incredible natural landscape that deserves recognition. Town character is in part defined by the trees, both native and exotic, within it. Raising awareness of significant trees is a key strategy to promote the urban forest and its values. Significant trees without specific protection are at risk of indiscriminate or inappropriate damage or removal, which can result in irreplaceable loss. The City of Duncan should recognize and promote its natural history by encouraging community groups, individuals and families to “get out” and experience their surroundings by nominating trees or a group of trees that are significant in terms of their age, size, character, rarity or historical significance.

Significant Tree Inventory

Nineteen (19) significant trees were identified during an informal survey of street trees in March, 2010. Trees include non-native and native species (e.g. Garry Oak), many of which are located on private land. This list was prepared so that staff could review their potential for inclusion as candidates as significant trees within its jurisdiction. However, it is important to involve the community in the process for nominating and finding significant trees in Duncan. This will help promote their protection and raise awareness of the benefits they provide to the City. A species list and location map is located in Appendix D.

Rec 25 Identify of all trees that have unique characteristics (size, age, species, rarity, aesthetic value, cultural significance, ecological importance)

Rec 26 Develop a public process for citizens to nominate significant trees as part of city-wide inventory

Rec 27 Develop policy relating to the management and maintenance of significant trees

Rec 28 Raise awareness of significant trees as part of urban forest education strategy

