



2018 Critical Areas Ordinance Resource Sheet

Tree & Vegetation Activities

The following tree and vegetation activities do not require City review or pre-approval. If work exceeds these listed thresholds, a minor critical area permit is required prior to start of work.

Activity	Threshold	Notes
General pruning of trees and shrubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pruning that removes ≤ 10 percent of living material (branches, stems, and leaves) of an individual tree within a three-year period Pruning that removes 10-25 percent of living material (branches, stems, and leaves) of an individual tree within a three-year period <u>if an ISA-certified arborist is on site</u> Pruning of any live branch or stem ≤ 6 inches in diameter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All pruning operations must use the natural pruning system to maintain the characteristic growth pattern of the tree or shrub and conform to applicable practices of ANSI A300 (Part 1 – 2017) Tree, Shrub and Other Woody Plant Management – Standard Practices (Pruning). Copies of ANSI standards are available at City Hall Prohibited: pruning branches overhanging Type F streams and tree topping
Coppicing and pollarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total area of canopy removal shall not exceed 2,500 square feet No ground or root disturbance Stems or shoots removed are <6 inches in diameter at 4-1/2 feet above ground or top of stump Allowed only once every three years Coppicing of big leaf maple trees must retain a stump height equal or greater than previous live stump height or 16 inches above ground level, whichever is greater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowed only for of big leaf maple (<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>), cottonwood (<i>Populus sp.</i>), willow (<i>Salix sp.</i>), hazelnut (<i>Corylus cornuta</i>) and vine maple (<i>Acer circinatum</i>) and any species <u>Not</u> allowed in wetlands or fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas or their buffers
Maintenance pruning of hedges and shrubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions provided the structural integrity and long-term health of the vegetation is retained 	
Invasive species removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work area must be ≤ 2,500 square feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must use hand labor or hand-held equipment Any area of bare ground must be planted with native species or stabilized with erosion control measures Applies only to species listed in BIMC 16.20.090.B.3
Tree and vegetation maintenance in an aquifer recharge protection area (ARPA)	There are no thresholds for tree and vegetation activities within an ARPA. Hazard tree and invasive species removal are allowed. Maintenance pruning is allowed if it retains the structural integrity and long-term health of vegetation. Wildfire mitigation activities , not including significant tree removal, is allowed within 30 feet around a primary residence.	

When you contract with a company to prune your trees, we recommend obtaining written confirmation that pruning will be in accordance with these standards.

Questions: pcd@bainbridgewa.gov or 206.780.3770
 You may also visit us in person at the Department of Planning and Community Development between 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday and Friday and 8:00 am – noon, Wednesday and Thursday.

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