



critical
aquifer
recharge
areas

fish &
wildlife
habitat
areas

frequently
flooded
areas

geologically
hazardous
areas

wetlands

2018 Critical Areas Ordinance Resource Sheet

Tree & Vegetation Activities – Invasive Species Removal

What is allowed without a permit?

Invasive species removal within critical areas and their buffers or setbacks is allowed without a permit if:

- The **work area** does not exceed 2,500 square feet
- Only **hand labor or hand-held equipment** is used
- Any area of bare ground is **planted with native species or stabilized** with erosion control measures, as needed
- The work occurs between **April 1 – October 31** if in a landslide hazard area or 25 feet from top of slope
- The plant is **included on the list of invasive species** in BIMC 16.20.090 (see sidebar)

Invasive plant species in BIMC 16.20.090:

- English ivy (*Hedera helix*) from tree trunks or ground surface
- Himalayan blackberry Evergreen blackberry
- English/Portuguese laurel
- English holly
- Scotch broom
- English hawthorne
- Poison oak
- Any plant on the Kitsap County or Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board list of noxious weeds, whether or not listed above

How is “work area” defined?

The work area is the area of ground disturbance or bare ground created as a result of plant removal. The work area is not the total square footage of the area within which removal is occurring (e.g., size of “treatment area” or parcel).

What if the work area is over 2,500 square feet?

Invasive species removal over 2,500 square feet within critical areas requires a **minor critical area permit**.

How do I submit a minor critical area permit?

Minor critical area permits may be submitted at the Department of Planning and Community Development at any time during regular business hours (see below). No intake appointment or fee is required. Submittal requirements include:

- ✓ The City’s Master Land Use Application (check Critical Area Permit, Minor)
- ✓ A replanting plan, if needed
- ✓ If the work occurs within a landslide hazard area or 25 feet from top of slope, a letter by a geotechnical engineer documenting that the work complies with development standards for landslide hazard areas
- ✓ Owner/agent agreement if anyone other than the landowner is applying for the permit

Many minor critical area permits can be reviewed and approved when you come in to apply. Some may require additional analysis or a site visit and may take one to two weeks to review.

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.

City of Bainbridge Island
280 Madison Avenue N
Bainbridge Island, WA
www.bainbridgewa.gov