



**City of Ottawa's**

# **Landscaping Education Guide**

*Published March 2026 (v.1)*

## Landscaping Education Guide

The Landscaping Education Guide outlines key regulations and requirements for landscaping in Ottawa.

*The guide cannot address **every** regulation, topic, or question related to landscaping. Official by-laws are the most accurate source of information. It is the responsibility of contractors and homeowners to follow all City by-laws, provincial and federal legislation, and other relevant regulations.*



Proper planning and research **before** starting the project can help prevent costly changes, such as reinstatement of work.

The City of Ottawa Landscaping Education Guide is hosted electronically at [ottawa.ca/landscaping](http://ottawa.ca/landscaping).

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## Understanding property limits

Before starting any outdoor renovation work, verify where the property lines are, including which part of the front yard is the City’s right of way (ROW). The ROW includes the section of the yard and driveway that is on public property. The size of the City ROW varies between properties and may be wider than you think!

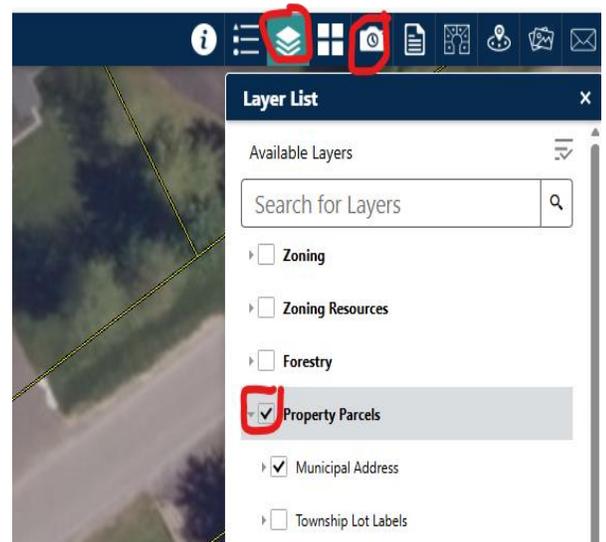


## Finding the property lines: geoOttawa

The City’s geoOttawa program shows the **approximate** location of the City’s ROW and the property lines. If you need the exact property lines, contact a licensed surveyor.

### Instructions

1. Launch [geoOttawa](#).
2. Type the property address into the search bar, found on the top left.
3. Select the “Layer List” icon at the top right menu bar.
4. Select the “Property Parcels” category.
5. Click the camera icon for satellite view.
6. The yellow lines show the approximate boundaries of the property.



## Understanding property grading and drainage

### Lot grading and drainage



**You are not allowed to change the grading of a property.** Property grades are designed to direct water away from the home to prevent damage to foundations, flooding to properties, and soil erosion. All projects must follow approved drainage patterns. Water cannot be directed to neighbouring properties unless that is part of the approved plan. For more information, review the [frequently asked questions about lot grading webpage](#).

#### Access to grading plans

If a grading plan exists for the property, request a copy using the [access to building permit records webpage](#). If there is no plan, call 3-1-1 for guidance. A grading plan may be needed if there are balconies, decks, or pools near the property lines. More information is available on the [preparing your plans webpage](#).

#### Ditch alteration

**Do not alter ditches.** Ditches and storm pipes help slow down water runoff, filter contaminants from surface water, and reduce flooding risks. More information can be found on the [ditches and drains webpage](#).

### Stormwater management

If your project requires a building permit and involves changing the grade or drainage, you may be subject to the City's on-site stormwater management program. Learn more on the [preparing your plans webpage](#).

## Conservation authorities

Conservation authorities protect people, property, and natural resources from hazards like flooding and soil erosion. These agencies regulate development in wetlands, rivers, lakes, forests, and other high-risk areas. Check with the local conservation authority to determine if the property is in a regulated area. If it is, approval is needed before starting work.

- [Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority](#)
- [Rideau Valley Conservation Authority](#)
- [South Nation Conservation Authority](#)

## Resources

Commonly applicable by-laws ([ottawa.ca/bylaws](http://ottawa.ca/bylaws))

- Property Standards By-law
- Site Alteration By-law

## Contacts

*Table 1: Contact information related to lot grading and drainage.*

Topic	Contact information
<b>Grading plans</b> <b>Drainage</b> <b>Ditch alteration</b> <b>Ditch maintenance</b>	<b>Service Ottawa</b> 3-1-1 <a href="http://ottawa.ca/311"><u>ottawa.ca/311</u></a>

## Driveways

**Are you replacing an old driveway or putting a new one in?** It is important to know the rules and apply for the right permits to avoid wasting time and money.

An access permit or road cut permit is **not** needed when resurfacing or changing the type of driveway material if there are no changes to the size or slope of the driveway. **All other driveway installations or modifications require an access permit and a road cut permit**, except in the case of certain driveway extensions.



### Driveway and parking space design

The City has rules for driveway design to preserve green space for tree planting, ensure proper drainage and storage for snow, protect City infrastructure, and improve safety for pedestrians and vehicles. These rules apply to both contractors and homeowners when installing or modifying a driveway.

Rules are different for the part of the driveway on private property and the part that is in the City's right of way (ROW).

#### Driveway design on private property

The Zoning By-law sets out the maximum width and location of driveways, which can vary depending on the area of the city.

To find property rules, check [Schedule A1 of the Zoning By-law](#) to find the area of the property, then refer to Table 2 for the maximum driveway widths.

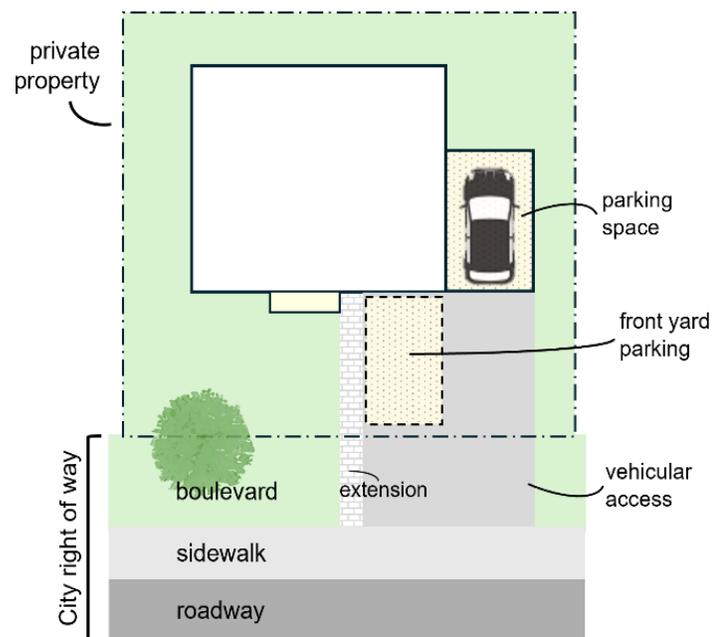


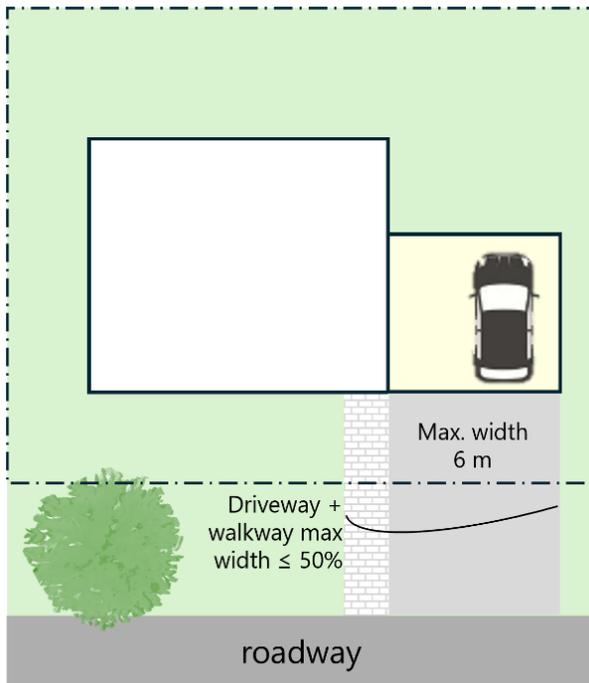
Table 2: Zoning regulations for driveways by area

Zoning areas	Maximum width	Front yard parking space allowed?
<b>A</b> (downtown core)	6 m	No
<b>B, C</b> (inner / outer urban)	6 m	Yes, on lots wider than 6 m
<b>D, E, F</b> (greenbelt, suburban, and rural)	50 per cent of the lot width	Yes, on lots wider than 6 m

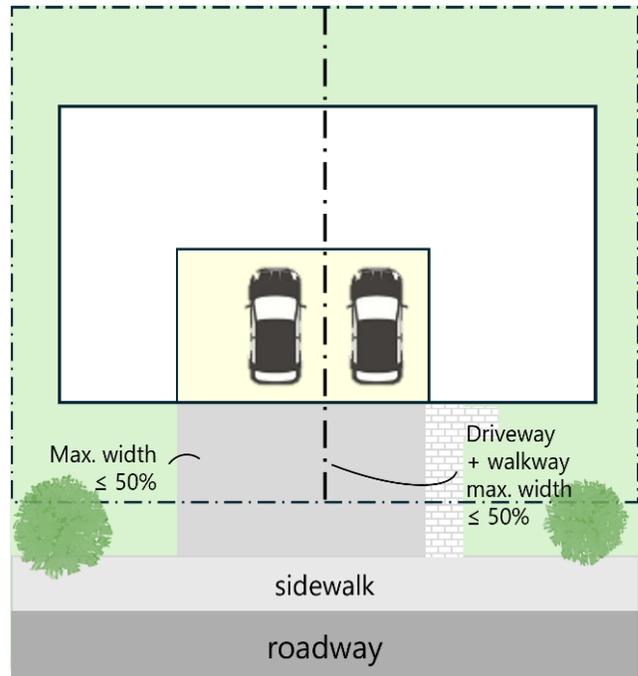


The total width of the driveway and walkway going into the City's ROW cannot be more than 50 per cent of the total frontage width.

Example of Area B, C driveway width



Example of Area E driveway width



### Parking spaces

Parking spaces are usually located in a garage, carport, the side yard, or the back yard.



You can park a vehicle on a driveway, but a driveway itself is not automatically a parking space – it must always lead to a proper parking spot.

All vehicles must be parked at least 0.5 m from the sidewalk edge and 1.5 m from the edge of the road, to follow the Traffic and Parking By-law.

Before adding a parking space, speak with a Development Information Officer to confirm what is allowed in each area. **If front yard parking is allowed, it counts towards the maximum driveway width outlined in Table 2.**

### Driveway design in the City's ROW

There are specific requirements for the part of your driveway that is in the ROW.

Figure A: Driveway design requirements in the ROW



Width follows Table 2 and never more than 50%



Maintain 0.3 m from neighbouring property line



Keep min. 6 m from an intersection



Maintain the priority of the sidewalk and connect into the existing sidewalk/curb grades



Do not modify the sidewalk or curb without approval



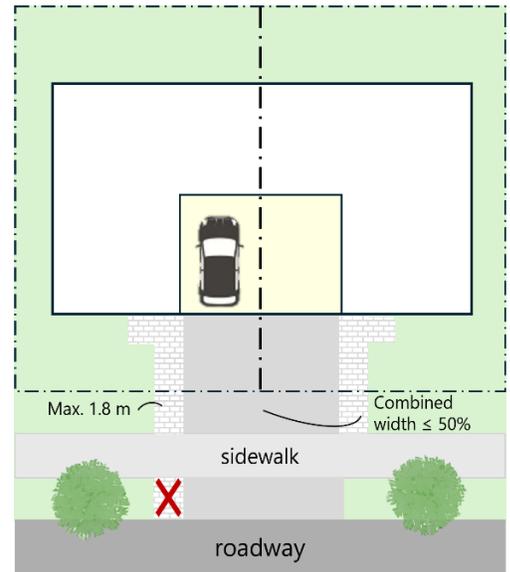
Follow City Standards

## Driveway widening and driveway extensions

**Driveway widening:** Increasing a driveway by more than 1.8 m requires an access permit and a road cut permit.

**Driveway extension:** Adding a driveway extension can usually be done without a permit if all the following are true:

- Extension not wider than 1.8 m
- Total hard surface, including the driveway and any walkway does not exceed 50 per cent of the frontage.
- Not asphalt
- Not in the critical root zone of a tree (refer to **Protecting trees**)
- At least 1 m from infrastructure, like hydro poles, transformer boxes, Canada Post mailboxes
- At least 1.5 m from a fire hydrant
- At least 0.3 m from the neighbour's property
- Does not cross a ditch
- Does not change sidewalk or lower curb
- Ends at the sidewalk (if there is one)



Refer to the Access By-law for all requirements.

## Driveway material

Driveway material can be made of:

- Asphalt, cement, permeable pavement
- Honeycomb or turf blocks
- Cobblestones or similar stable, dust-free materials
- Gravel (only in rural areas)

Driveways may include wheel strips made of compacted or hardened materials.

## Driveways with culverts

Ditches are part of the City's stormwater system and cannot be altered. If your driveway crosses a ditch, a culvert may be required. All new, widened, or rebuilt driveways with culverts must be approved and built to City standards. Property owners are responsible for maintaining, repairing, or replacing culverts.



## Headwalls

A headwall is a small retaining wall placed at the inlet or outlet of a culvert or stormwater pipe. If headwalls are a part of your driveway, it should be noted in the permit application. Headwalls cannot block the culvert or impact ditch maintenance. Headwalls cannot be taller than the driveway surface and decorative elements are not allowed on top of the headwall or on the driveway.



## Driveways and encroachments

Encroachments are any above and below ground features that extend into the City's ROW from private property. Approval from the City is required, which involves an annual fee and a formal agreement registered on title. Registration with Ontario One Call is required if the infrastructure affects underground utilities.

## Melting systems

Snow and ice melting systems under driveways cannot extend into the ROW unless you have City approval.

## Retaining walls

Driveways should not have retaining walls in the ROW. Retaining walls are occasionally approved depending on the lot's grading but you will need an encroachment agreement with the City of Ottawa.

## Lighting

Driveway lighting must be on private property and cannot be installed in City's ROW.

## Considerations checklist for driveway projects

*Use this checklist to help your project go smoothly. Projects can vary from one to another, so it is important to seek further assistance from a Development Information Officer if required.*

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- Check driveway size:** Make sure your parking area and driveway width meet zoning rules. If not, contact a Development Information Officer.
- Permits:** Apply for an [access permit](#) and [road cut permit](#) if needed.
- Protect trees:** Check if any trees are affected and follow proper protections (refer to **Protecting trees**).
- Permanent structures:** If your project includes any permanent structures such as retaining walls, stairs, lighting, or ice melting systems in the ROW, contact the City. These are often not allowed.
- Locate underground utilities:** Contact Ontario One Call to locate and flag utilities before digging.
- Follow permit rules:** Make sure you read and follow the terms of any permits issued.
- Inspections:** For projects that require permits, request a post-construction inspection when the driveway and ROW reinstatement are finished.

## General considerations

### Licensed contractors

Hardscaping contractors must be licensed with the City as per the Licensing By-law.

### Excavation and permits

A road cut permit is needed if excavation in the City's ROW is needed. To apply for a road cut permit, visit the [road cut permit webpage](#). A building permit is also required for any excavation work for service replacement, such as sewer or water connections.

### Drainage

Driveway projects must not alter grading and drainage patterns (refer to **Understanding property drainage and grading**).

### Using the City right of way for materials and equipment



If you need to store materials or equipment on the roadway, boulevard, or sidewalk, a [Temporary Construction Related Encroachment Permit](#) is required.

## Locates

Provincial law requires you to locate underground utilities and infrastructure before you dig, even if you are using a hand shovel. Before you dig, call Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 or visit [Ontario One Call](#).

## Trees

Driveway projects must not harm trees. All City-owned trees are protected and private trees may also be protected under the [Tree Protection By-law](#) (refer to **Protecting trees**).

## Resources

### City Standards

The part of the driveway in the City’s ROW must be built to City standards. Contactors can request access to the City’s Infrastructure Standards and Guidelines, including technical drawings, by emailing [standardssection@ottawa.ca](mailto:standardssection@ottawa.ca).

### Commonly applicable by-laws ([ottawa.ca/bylaws](http://ottawa.ca/bylaws))

- Access By-law
- Encroachments on City Highways By-law
- Licensing By-law (Hardscaping Contractor)
- Road Activity By-law
- Traffic and Parking By-law
- Tree Protection By-law
- Zoning By-law

## Contacts

*Table 3: Contact information related to driveways*

Topic	Contact information
Zoning rules	<b>Development Information Officer</b> <a href="mailto:dioinquiry@ottawa.ca">dioinquiry@ottawa.ca</a>
Driveway permits Driveway culverts Driveway extensions Encroachment agreements	<b>Public Realm Permits and Agreements</b> <a href="mailto:rowadmin@ottawa.ca">rowadmin@ottawa.ca</a>
Road cut permits	<b>Right of Way Permit Office</b> <a href="mailto:ROW_Permit_Office@ottawa.ca">ROW_Permit_Office@ottawa.ca</a>
Licensing of hardscaping contractors	<b>By-law and Regulatory Services</b> <a href="mailto:businesslicensing@ottawa.ca">businesslicensing@ottawa.ca</a>

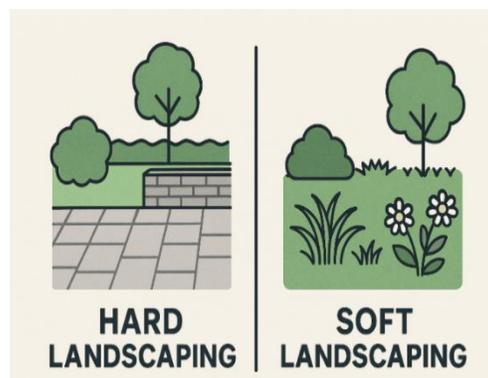
## Hard landscaping



Too much hard landscaping can lead to drainage issues, leave less room for snow storage, and make neighbourhoods hotter, so limits are needed.

### Licensing requirements

***Hardscape contractors must be licensed with the City of Ottawa.*** This applies to any business that installs or reconstructs driveways, parking areas, retaining walls, steps, patios, walkways, or pathways on private property using hard landscaping materials.



### Hardscape structures

Some hardscape structures need a building permit, such as stairs, landings, and decks that provide access to a building. Even if a building permit is not required, structures like the rise and run of steps, guards, handrails, landing size, and walking surfaces must still meet Ontario Building Code requirements. For more details, refer to the [landscaping materials providing access to a building advisory](#).

A building permit is needed for retaining walls that are more than 1 m high when they are next to public property, next to access to a building, or on private property that is open to the public.

To apply for a building permit, visit [applying for a building permit webpage](#).

## Hard landscaping in the City’s ROW

In the City’s right of way (ROW), the only hard landscaping allowed is a driveway and/or walkway. Together, the driveway and walkways cannot be more than 50 per cent of the width of your property frontage (refer to **Driveways**). If considering a permanent structure like a retaining wall, contact 3-1-1.



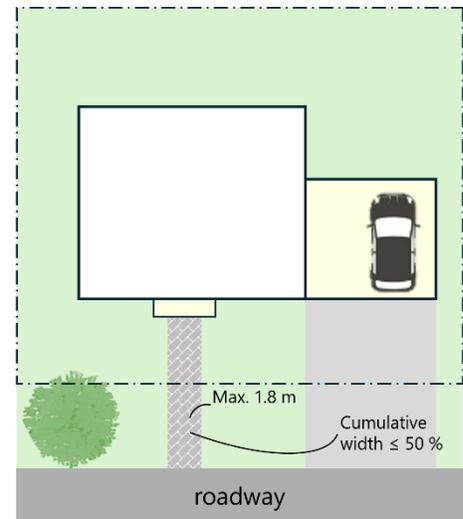
**River rock, stones, boulders, and architectural or raised decorative features are not allowed in the ROW.**



### Walkways

Property owners can add one walkway in the ROW without a City permit, if all the following are true:

- Not wider than 1.8 m
- Total hard surface, including driveway and walkway, is not more than 50 per cent of the frontage.
- Outside the critical root zone of a tree (refer to **Protecting trees**)
- At least 1 m from infrastructure, like hydro poles, transformer boxes, Canada Post mailboxes
- At least 0.6 m from a fire hydrant
- At least 1.8 m from a driveway or extension
- Does not cross a ditch
- Does not change sidewalk or lower curb
- Ends at the sidewalk (if there is one)



Refer to the Access By-law for all requirements.

## General considerations

### Excavation and permits

A road cut permit is required if excavation in the City's ROW is needed. To apply for a road cut permit, visit the City's [road cut permit webpage](#). A building permit is also needed for any excavation work for service replacement, such as sewer or water connections.

### Drainage

Hard landscaping projects must not alter grading and drainage patterns (refer to **[Understanding property drainage and grading](#)**).

### Trees

Hard landscaping projects must not harm trees. All City-owned trees are protected and private trees may also be protected under the [Tree Protection By-law](#) (refer to **[Protecting trees](#)**).

### Locates

Provincial law requires you to locate underground utilities and infrastructure before you dig, even if you are using a hand shovel. Before you dig, call Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 or visit [Ontario One Call](#).

### Using the City's right of way for material and equipment



If you need to store materials or equipment on the roadway, boulevard, or sidewalk, a [Temporary Construction Related Encroachment Permit](#) is required.

## Resources

### Commonly applicable by-laws ([ottawa.ca/bylaws](http://ottawa.ca/bylaws))

- Access By-law
- Encroachments on City Highways By-law
- Road Activity By-law
- Site Alteration By-law

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- Tree Protection Bylaw
- Use and Care of Roads By-law
- Zoning By-law

### Provincial legislation

- [Building Code Act](#)

### Contacts

*Table 4: Contact information related to hard landscaping*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contact information</b>
<b>Licensing of hardscaping contractors</b>	<b>By-law and Regulatory Services</b> <a href="mailto:businesslicensing@ottawa.ca">businesslicensing@ottawa.ca</a>
<b>Building permits</b>	<b>Building Code Services</b> <a href="mailto:buildingpermits@ottawa.ca">buildingpermits@ottawa.ca</a>
<b>Zoning regulations Hard landscaping in the right of way</b>	<b>Service Ottawa</b> 3-1-1 <a href="http://ottawa.ca/311">ottawa.ca/311</a>

## Soft landscaping



**Did you know? 50 per cent or more of your front lawn must be dedicated to soft landscaping.** Soft landscaping includes natural materials like plants, soil, lawn, grass, mulch, and other organic materials.



**Artificial turf does not count as soft landscaping material.** On private property, it is treated as hard landscaping and is not allowed in the City's right of way (ROW)!

## Noxious weeds and invasive species

You are not allowed to plant noxious weeds in Ottawa. Examples of noxious weeds include Giant Hogweed, Wild Parsnip, Poison Ivy, and Ragweed.

The Province of Ontario regulates which invasive species are not allowed to be planted and requires property owners to remove them. For a full list, visit [Managing Invasive Species in Ontario webpage](#).

The City also has a list of species that cannot be planted in the ROW, even if they are available at local garden centres. Always check the [prohibited species within the ROW webpage](#) before planting.

## Native plants

Choosing native plants from Eastern Ontario is strongly encouraged. Native plants are well-suited to our local climate, soil, and pests, and they support pollinators and wildlife. Examples of native plants include Bearberry, Partridgeberry, Wintergreen, Blue Flag,

Asters, Canada Anemone, Trilliums, and Canada Yew evergreens. For more information, visit the City's [native plants webpage](#). Another helpful resource is the Province of Ontario's [Grow Me Instead \(Southern Ontario\) guide](#).



## Gardening on private property

### Planting trees

You may plant trees and hedges on private property given they are not invasive species and are properly cared for. Native trees and hedges are recommended.

#### *Tree planting tips*

- **When to plant:** Spring is usually best, and some trees can be planted in the fall. A local nursery can help you choose the right timing.
- **Choose the right tree:** Research how tall and wide the tree will grow.
- **Pick the right location:** Keep trees out of utility areas and make sure there is enough space from buildings. Trees are not allowed to be planted in the City's ROW. Plant trees at least 3 m from building foundations and leave 1.5 m of open space around the trunk so water and nutrients can reach the roots (do not pave around the tree). Visit Hydro Ottawa's [tree planting advice brochure](#) for more information on best practices for planting near hydro utilities.



**Did you know? Well-placed trees can reduce home energy costs by 10 to 50 per cent.**

Plant evergreens on the north or west side of your home to block winter winds. Plant leafy trees on the south and west sides to provide summer shade and let sunlight in during the winter.

### Garden maintenance

Gardening on private property is encouraged and helps support biodiversity and beautify neighbourhoods. However, all gardens must be properly maintained and follow the City's [Property Standards By-law](#) and [Property Maintenance By-law](#).

### Naturalized gardens

Naturalized gardens must meet certain requirements. The owner must understand how to maintain the garden and be able to identify all the plants. Native species should be prioritized. The garden should provide good ground cover and limit the spread of

invasive plants. The garden must be managed so it does not spread onto neighbouring properties.

### Gardens in the City's ROW (boulevard gardening)

Property owners and tenants may plant and maintain gardens in the City's ROW next to their residential property without a permit if City rules are followed.

Before planting, review the City's [Boulevard Gardening Comprehensive Guide](#). The guide outlines height limits, required setbacks, where planting is allowed, and materials that cannot be used, including raised garden beds.

**You are not allowed to plant trees or hedges in the ROW.** If you would like a tree planted in the ROW, visit the City's [Tree planting webpage](#) to learn about available programs.

### Understanding visibility triangles

Plants must not block sightlines at intersections or on corner lots. In areas called visibility triangles, plants and their containers must not be taller than 0.75 m to keep everyone safe.

### General considerations

#### Irrigation

Irrigation systems are only allowed on private property and are not permitted in the City's ROW. Systems must not spray water onto sidewalks or roads, and all irrigation fixtures must be weather rated.

#### Pesticides

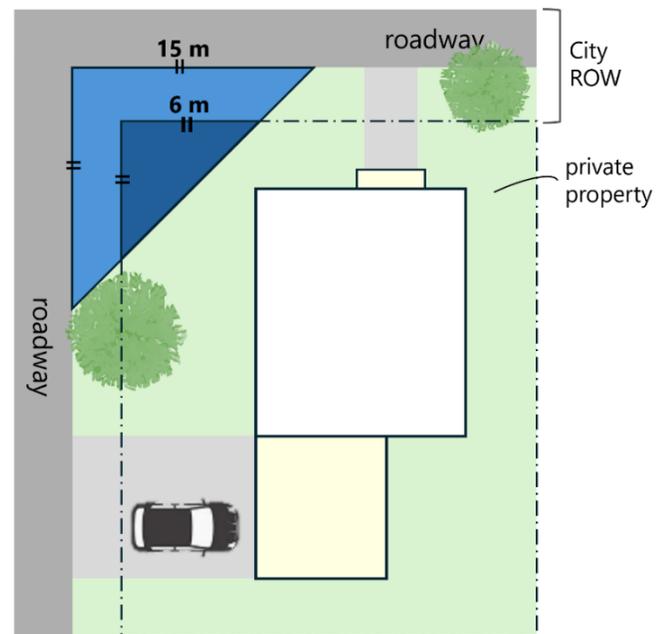
The Province of Ontario [bans the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides](#).

### Using the City's right of way for material and equipment

If you need to store materials or equipment on the roadway, boulevard, or sidewalk, a [Temporary Construction Related Encroachment Permit](#) is required.

#### Drainage

Planting must not alter grading and drainage patterns (refer to [Understanding property drainage and grading](#)).



\* Illustration is not to scale. The triangles may differ depending on the geometry of the lot and the size of the City's ROW



## Locates

Provincial law requires you to locate underground utilities and infrastructure before you dig, even if you are using a hand shovel. Before you dig, call Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 or visit [Ontario One Call](#).

## Resources

### Commonly applicable by-laws ([ottawa.ca/bylaws](http://ottawa.ca/bylaws))

- Property Maintenance By-law
- Property Standards By-law
- Tree Protection By-law
- Use and Care of Roads By-law
- Zoning By-law

### Provincial legislation ([ontario.ca/laws](http://ontario.ca/laws))

- Invasive Species Act
- Pesticides Act

## Contacts

*Table 5: Contact information related to soft landscaping*

Topic	Contact information
Naturalized gardens Property maintenance Property standards	By-law and Regulatory Services 3-1-1 <a href="http://ottawa.ca/311">ottawa.ca/311</a>
Gardening in the City ROW	ROW Public Realms Permits and Agreements <a href="mailto:ROWadmin@ottawa.ca">ROWadmin@ottawa.ca</a>

## Protecting trees

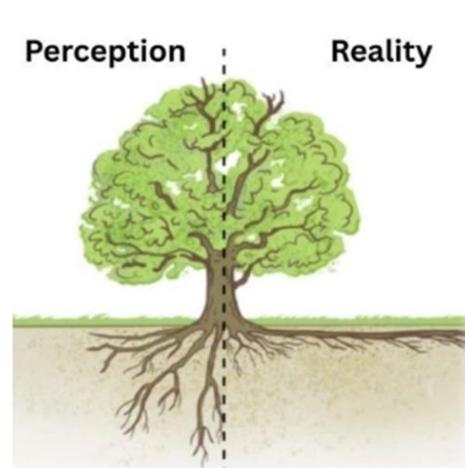
**Protected trees and their critical root zones cannot be harmed or removed during landscaping projects.**

Before starting any work, check if there is a protected tree on the property or neighbour's property.

To find out which trees are protected, visit [Tree Protection By-law](#) or use the [Tree Protection By-law Flowchart](#). If the project involves work near a protected tree, contact Forestry Services to discuss the next steps.

### Permit requirements

If a tree is protected under the by-law, you must get a permit to remove it. Complete the [Tree Information Report application form](#) to apply or call 3-1-1 if it is a City-owned tree.



### Critical root zone (CRZ)

The CRZ is the area around a tree that must be protected. It is calculated as a radius of 10 cm from the trunk of a tree for every 1 cm of trunk diameter at breast height (DBH). For example, a tree with a 30 cm trunk diameter has a CRZ radius of 300 cm (3 m).

### Excavating around trees

**You cannot dig within a tree's CRZ without approval from Forestry Services.** Even when digging outside this area, you may still find tree roots. If that happens, cut the roots cleanly with an appropriate saw, and fill in the excavation hole as soon as possible or keep the exposed roots moist until backfilling can occur.

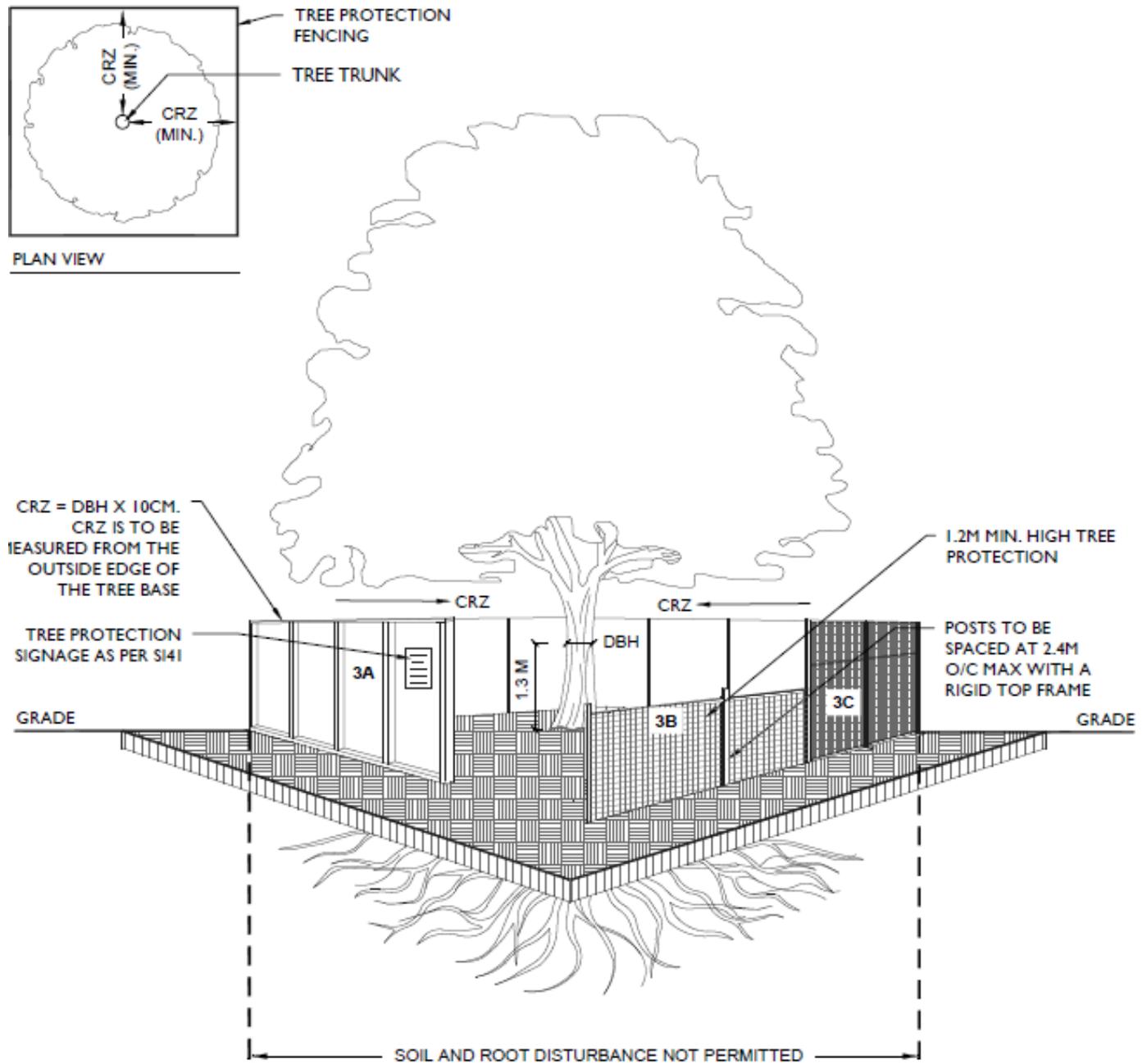
### Tree protection fencing

Tree protection fencing must be installed around the CRZ before any work begins. The fencing protects trees from damage caused by heavy machinery or stored materials, excavation, soil compaction, cutting roots, and bark or branch damage. Fencing must stay up for the entire duration of the project.

### Materials

**Fencing should be at least 1.2 m high and use rigid or framed materials,** such as plywood hoarding, snow fencing, or modular steel panels. Take care not to damage roots when installing the fence.

Tree protection fencing design specifications



There are unique circumstances where it is difficult to achieve all specifications. Contact Forestry Services if you need further assistance.

Figure B: Best practices for tree protection



**DO:**

- Apply for a tree permit if required
- Follow the Tree Protection By-law
- Install tree protection fencing for the entire duration of project
- Direct equipment exhaust fumes away from the tree
- Excavate in the CRZ only by tunneling, boring, or hydrovac with Forestry's approval



**DON'T:**

- Put materials, objects or equipment in the CRZ
- Operate machinery in the CRZ
- Damage the roots, trunk, or branches
- Attach signs or notices to the tree
- Change the ground level around the tree
- Extend or rebuild hard surfaces in the CRZ without Forestry's approval



## Resources

Commonly applicable by-laws ([ottawa.ca/bylaws](http://ottawa.ca/bylaws))

- Tree Protection By-law

## Contacts

*Table 6: Contact information related to protecting trees*

Topic	Contact information
Forestry inspections	Forestry Services
Tree programs	3-1-1
Tree Protection By-law	<a href="http://ottawa.ca/trees">ottawa.ca/trees</a>

## Fences

### Height and location

Fence height depends on where it is on your property. Always check property lines before installing a new fence or replacing an old one to make sure it is on your property, and it can be placed there. Fences are not allowed in the City’s right of way.

Table 7: Fence height regulations

Property type	Location	Maximum height	Notes
Residential	Front yard	1 m	Gates can be 30 cm taller
Residential	Back or side yard	2.1 m	Gates can be 30 cm taller
Non-residential	Front, back, or side yard	3 m	Some exemptions may apply for certain businesses or for safety (corner lots)

### Materials

Fences should be built with the finished side facing outwards and supports facing towards the yard.

Barbed wire and electric fences are not allowed in residential zones. In non-residential areas, barbed wire may be added 250 cm above the fence.

Chain link fences next to residential properties must be vinyl or powder coated.

### Permit requirements

No permit is needed for standard residential fences. Exception: fences for pools require a pool enclosure permit (refer to **Pool enclosures**).

### General considerations

#### Locates

Provincial law requires you to locate underground utilities and infrastructure before you dig, even if you are using a hand shovel. Before you dig, call Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 or visit [Ontario One Call](#).

#### Easement obligations

Check if there are obligations to maintain easements or pathways for use by neighbours to access their property, or easements for City and utility access and do not block these

areas. These can be determined by reviewing the deed or title documents. If unsure, the homeowner should consider contacting a lawyer.

### Using the City’s right of way for material and equipment



If you need to store materials or equipment on the roadway, boulevard, or sidewalk, a Temporary Construction Related Encroachment Permit is required.

### Trees

Fencing projects must not harm trees. All City-owned trees are protected and private trees may also be protected under the Tree Protection By-law (refer to **Protecting trees**).

## Resources

### Commonly applicable by-laws ([ottawa.ca/bylaws](http://ottawa.ca/bylaws))

- Fence By-law
- Pool Enclosure By-law
- Property Standards By-law
- Tree Protection By-law
- Use and Care of Roads By-law
- Zoning By-law

### Contacts

*Table 8: Contact information related to fences*

Topic	Contact information
Fence regulations	By-law and Regulatory Services 3-1-1 <a href="http://ottawa.ca/311">ottawa.ca/311</a>

## Pools, hot tubs (spas), and water features



### Pool enclosures

Enclosures are required for pools, hot tubs (spas), and ponds that hold more than 60 cm of water. You must apply for a pool enclosure permit if you are building a new enclosure, replacing an old enclosure, or installing a new pool where fencing already exists.



**Pools cannot be filled with water until the City has done a final inspection.**

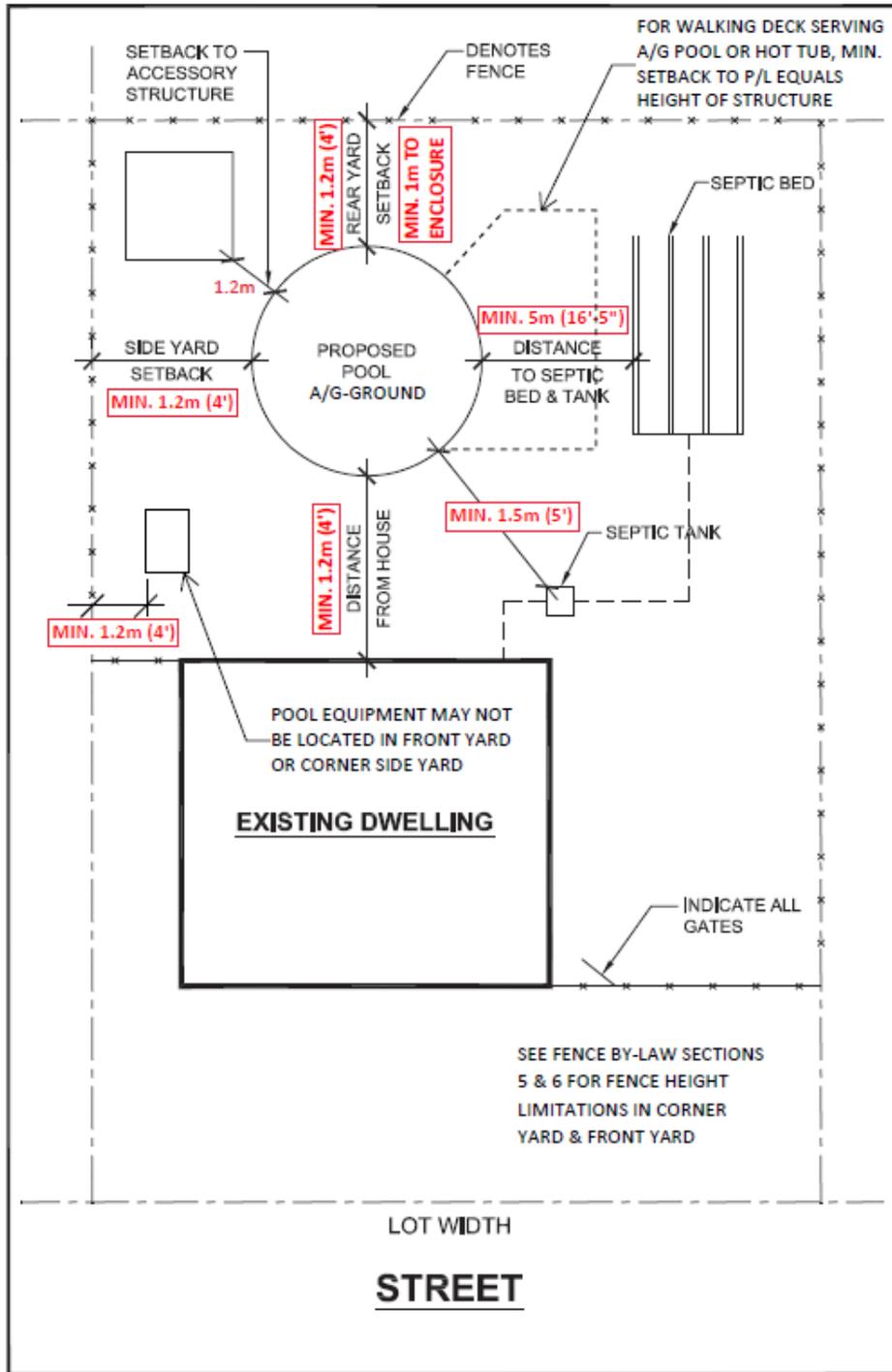
#### Temporary enclosures during construction

If your pool is under construction and the permanent enclosure is not yet installed, a temporary pool enclosure must be put in place before filling the pool with water. Temporary enclosure requirements are outlined in the Pool Enclosure By-law.

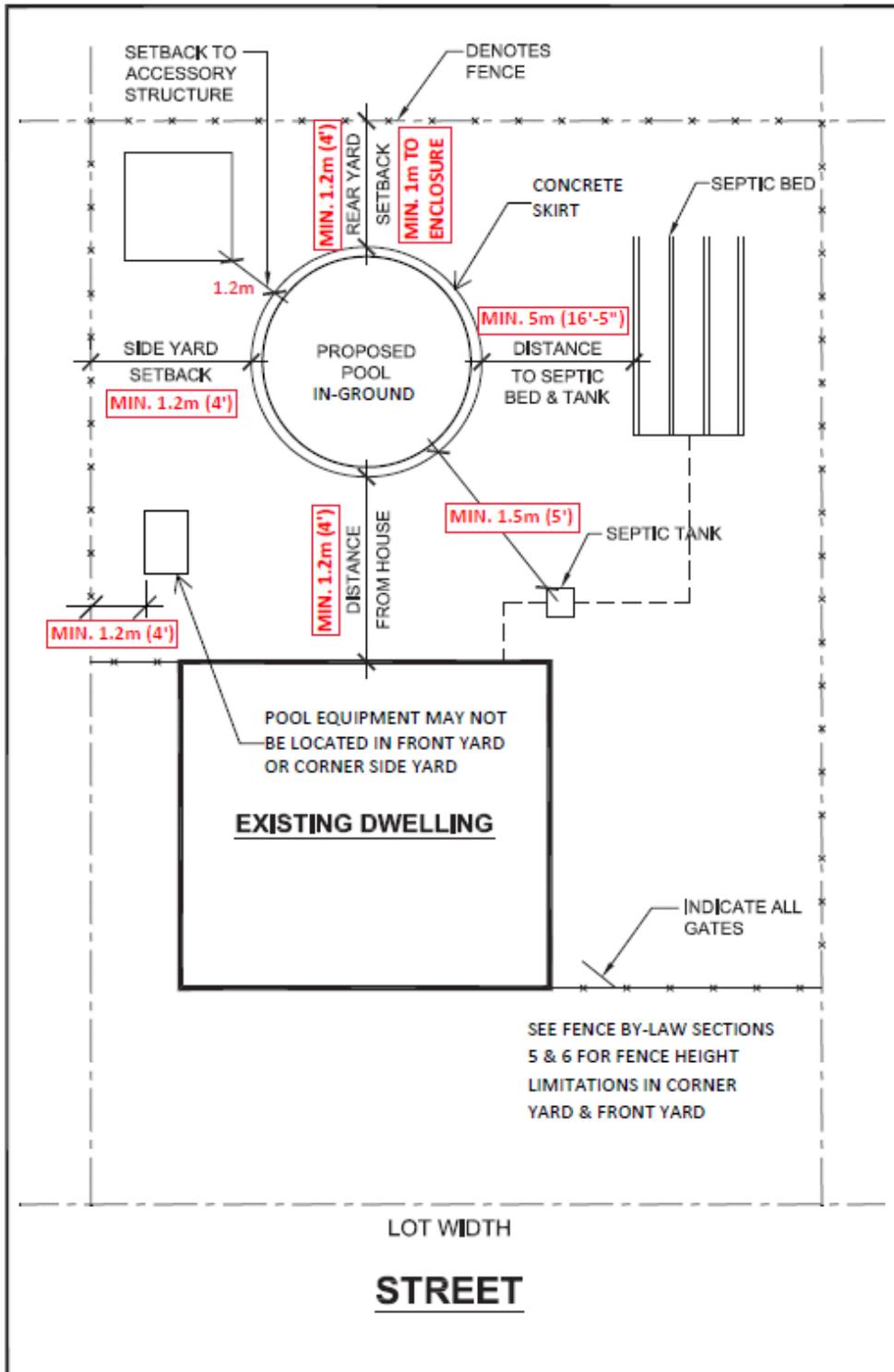
### Pool installation requirements

Pools must be properly set back from rear and side yards, septic systems, buildings, and accessory structures, and overhead or underground utilities.

Above-ground pool setback minimums



In-ground pool setback minimums



## Permit requirements

- **Pool enclosure permit:** For installing a new fence or an existing one.
- **Building permit:** For decks that are part of the enclosure or serve the pool.
- **Tree permit:** If you need to remove trees on your property larger than 30 cm in diameter. For trees on City property, contact City Forestry.
- **Temporary access permit:** If you need a temporary driveway for pool construction.
- **Conservation authority approval:** If pool is in a conservation-regulated area or flood plain (refer to **Understanding property drainage and grading**).
- **Temporary construction-related encroachment permit:** Using the City right of way to store material or equipment.

## General considerations

### Drainage

Pool projects must not alter grading and drainage patterns. Ensure that the pool does not drain towards neighbouring properties (refer to **Understanding property drainage and grading**).

### Using the City's right of way for material and equipment

If you need to store materials or equipment on the roadway, boulevard, or sidewalk, a [Temporary Construction Related Encroachment Permit](#) is required.

### Locates

Provincial law requires you to locate underground utilities and infrastructure before you dig, even if you are using a hand shovel. Before you dig, call Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 or visit [Ontario One Call](#).

### Trees

Pool installation projects must not harm trees. All City-owned trees are protected and private trees may also be protected under the [Tree Protection By-law](#) (refer to **Protecting trees**).

## Resources

Commonly applicable by-laws ([ottawa.ca/bylaws](http://ottawa.ca/bylaws))

- Access By-law
- Fence By-law



- Pool Enclosure By-law
- Road Activity By-law
- Site Alteration By-Law
- Tree Protection By-law
- Zoning By-law

### Contacts

*Table 9: Contact information related to pools, spas (hot tubs), and water features*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contact information</b>
<b>Pool enclosure permits</b>	<b>Building Code Services</b> <a href="mailto:buildingpermits@ottawa.ca">buildingpermits@ottawa.ca</a> 613-580-2424 ext. 29312
<b>Zoning</b>	<b>Development Information Officers</b> <a href="mailto:diinquiry@ottawa.ca">diinquiry@ottawa.ca</a> 613-580-2424 ext. 23434
<b>Pool regulations and compliance</b>	<b>Service Ottawa</b> 3-1-1

## References

To assist readers who are using the printed version of the Landscaping Education Guide, Table 4 outlines all referenced links used in full hyperlink form. You can type the full hyperlinks in an online search bar to find the electronic source.

*Table 10: Reference hyperlinks in full form*

Reference name	Full hyperlink	Guide section
<b>geoOttawa program</b>	<a href="http://ottawa.ca/geoottawa">ottawa.ca/geoottawa</a>	Understanding property limits
<b>Frequently asked questions about lot grading</b>	<a href="https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/drinking-water-stormwater-and-wastewater/stormwater-and-drainage/frequently-asked-questions-about-lot-grading">https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/drinking-water-stormwater-and-wastewater/stormwater-and-drainage/frequently-asked-questions-about-lot-grading</a>	Understanding property grading and drainage
<b>Submit an access to building records</b>	<a href="https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/building-and-renovating/access-building-permit-records/access-building-permit-records">https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/building-and-renovating/access-building-permit-records/access-building-permit-records</a>	Understanding property grading and drainage
<b>Preparing your plans webpage</b>	<a href="https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/building-and-renovating/planning-your-project/preparing-your-plans">https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/building-and-renovating/planning-your-project/preparing-your-plans</a>	Understanding property grading and drainage
<b>Ditches and drains webpage</b>	<a href="http://ottawa.ca/ditches">ottawa.ca/ditches</a>	Understanding property grading and drainage
<b>Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority</b>	<a href="http://mvc.on.ca/">http://mvc.on.ca/</a>	Understanding property grading and drainage
<b>Rideau Valley Conservation Authority</b>	<a href="http://www.rvca.ca/">http://www.rvca.ca/</a>	Understanding property grading and drainage

Reference name	Full hyperlink	Guide section
<b>South Nation Conservation Authority</b>	<a href="http://www.nation.on.ca/">http://www.nation.on.ca/</a>	Understanding property grading and drainage
<b>Commonly applicable by-laws</b>	<a href="http://ottawa.ca/bylaws">ottawa.ca/bylaws</a>	All Sections (Resources)
<b>Schedule A1 of the Zoning By-law Map of zoning areas</b>	<a href="https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/default/files/schedulea1_nzbl_en.pdf">https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/default/files/schedulea1_nzbl_en.pdf</a>	Driveways
<b>Access permit application</b>	<a href="https://forms.ottawa.ca/en/form/pred/row-heritage-urban-design/private-approach-form">https://forms.ottawa.ca/en/form/pred/row-heritage-urban-design/private-approach-form</a>	Driveways
<b>Road cut permit application</b>	<a href="https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/construction-right-way/road-cut">https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/construction-right-way/road-cut</a>	Driveways Hard Landscaping
<b>Temporary Construction Related Encroachment Permit</b>	<a href="https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/construction-right-way/temporary-construction-related-encroachments">https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/construction-right-way/temporary-construction-related-encroachments</a>	General Considerations
<b>Ontario One Call</b>	<a href="https://ontarioonecall.ca/">https://ontarioonecall.ca/</a>	Locate considerations
<b>Tree Protection By-law</b>	<a href="https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/environment-conservation-and-climate/trees-and-urban-forests/tree-protection-law/general-information">https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/environment-conservation-and-climate/trees-and-urban-forests/tree-protection-law/general-information</a>	Tree considerations Protecting Trees

Reference name	Full hyperlink	Guide section
<b>Landscaping materials providing access to a building</b>	<a href="https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/default/files/advisory_landscape_materials_en.pdf">https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/default/files/advisory_landscape_materials_en.pdf</a>	Hard landscaping
<b>Building permit application</b>	<a href="https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/building-and-renovating/building-permit-approval-process/applying-building-permit">https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/building-and-renovating/building-permit-approval-process/applying-building-permit</a>	Hard landscaping
<b>Building Code Act Provincial legislation</b>	<a href="https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/92b23">https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/92b23</a>	Hard landscaping
<b>Managing Invasive Species in Ontario webpage</b>	<a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/managing-invasive-species-ontario">https://www.ontario.ca/page/managing-invasive-species-ontario</a>	Soft landscaping
<b>Prohibited species within the ROW</b>	<a href="https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/residential-property-regulations/all-about-your-property/right-way/prohibited-species-within-right-way-row">https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/residential-property-regulations/all-about-your-property/right-way/prohibited-species-within-right-way-row</a>	Soft landscaping
<b>Native plants webpage</b>	<a href="https://ottawa.ca/en/plants/native-plants">https://ottawa.ca/en/plants/native-plants</a>	Soft landscaping
<b>Grow Me Instead (Southern Ontario) Guide</b>	<a href="https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Southern-Grow-Me-Instead-1.pdf">https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Southern-Grow-Me-Instead-1.pdf</a>	Soft landscaping
<b>Boulevard Gardening Comprehensive Guide</b>	<a href="https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/residential-property-regulations/all-about-your-property/right-way/boulevard-gardening-comprehensive-guide">https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/residential-property-regulations/all-about-your-property/right-way/boulevard-gardening-comprehensive-guide</a>	Soft landscaping
<b>Tree planting webpage</b>	<a href="https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/environment-conservation-and-climate/public-spaces-and-environmental-programs/tree-planting">https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/environment-conservation-and-climate/public-spaces-and-environmental-programs/tree-planting</a>	Soft landscaping

Reference name	Full hyperlink	Guide section
<b>Tree planting advice (Hydro Ottawa)</b>	<a href="https://www.hydroottawa.com/en/outages-safety/safety-outside-home/planting-trees">https://www.hydroottawa.com/en/outages-safety/safety-outside-home/planting-trees</a>	Soft landscaping
<b>Using pesticides in Ontario</b>	<a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/using-pesticides-ontario">https://www.ontario.ca/page/using-pesticides-ontario</a>	Soft landscaping
<b>Invasive Species Act</b>	<a href="https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/s15022">https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/s15022</a>	Soft landscaping
<b>Pesticides Act</b>	<a href="https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p11">https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p11</a>	Soft landscaping
<b>Tree Protection By-law Flowchart</b>	<a href="https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/default/files/decision_tree_flowchart_en.pdf">https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/default/files/decision_tree_flowchart_en.pdf</a>	Protecting trees
<b>Tree Information Report application form</b>	<a href="https://forms.ottawa.ca/en/form/pwes/parks-forestry/tree-information-report-application-form">https://forms.ottawa.ca/en/form/pwes/parks-forestry/tree-information-report-application-form</a>	Protecting trees
<b>Tree programs</b>	<a href="http://ottawa.ca/trees">ottawa.ca/trees</a>	Protecting trees

