The Value of Wildlife Trees and Best Management Practices for Invasive Ivy Around Trees	No.: TREE-13 Date: 2022-06-02

Purpose

To provide residents with a greater understanding of the ecological value of Wildlife Trees in an urban environment and Best Management practices for addressing invasive Ivy around trees.

Wildlife Trees

What is a Wildlife Tree?

Wildlife trees are standing dead, or nearly dead trees that have special characteristics that provide valuable habitat for the enhancement or conservation of wildlife. As trees advance in age, decline, and eventually die, they continue to provide ecosystem services as they break down and return to the earth.
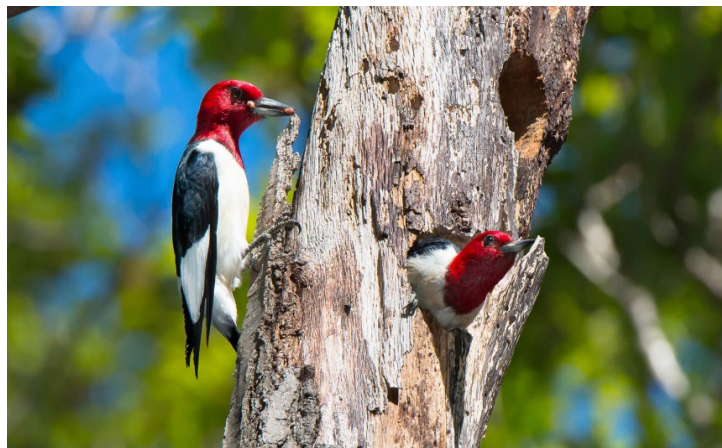
Wildlife Habitat

In the urban environment, the opportunity exists to enhance our community's biodiversity by retaining wildlife trees. Approximately 80 species in BC depend on wildlife trees to complete their life cycles include cavity nesting and insectivorous birds, bats, small mammals, and amphibians.

What Constitutes Good Wildlife Tree Habitat?

- Tall enough to provide vertical structure on the landscape
- Large enough in diameter to support cavities for birds
- Some scaffold branches for perching
- Some intact bark
- Sound root system
- A reasonable distance from structures and high frequency areas.

*Note: a good wildlife tree does not need to meet all of the above criteria. Additional information regarding wildlife trees in BC can be found at: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife-habitats/wildlife-tree-committee/wildlife-tree-guidance-policies.

See over →

Managing Invasive English Ivy Around Trees

What is English Ivy?

English ivy is an evergreen woody vine, introduced as an ornamental plant from Europe. The plant is listed as invasive in the province of BC, as it can reproduce and quickly outcompete local vegetation. The plant has a creeping habit, capable of forming dense mats, and climbing trees and buildings. This can eventually cause mortality in trees as a result of girdling (strangling), and can cause damage to infrastructure, including to pipes, drainage networks, and building envelopes.

Managing English Ivy

The best practice for managing English ivy is to prevent it from establishing in the first place, especially near trees, building, and utilities. Established ivy can be severed at its base and left to die, at which point it becomes much easier to remove. It's also best to remove the entire root system if possible, as English ivy can reproduce by sprouting from its root system. Additional information on English ivy can be found at: https://bcinvasives.ca/invasives/english-ivy/.

Should you have any questions or comments concerning this bulletin, please reference the bulletin number and email treeprotection@richmond.ca.

Community Partner Information Contact: Garden City Conservation Society.