

# DESIGNING FOR TREE RETENTION

LOW-DENSITY DEVELOPMENT

## Why we need to retain as many trees as possible:

- Trees and associated benefits (flood mitigation, air cleaning and cooling, wildlife habitat and access to nature) are steadily declining across the city.
- Existing, healthy mature trees provide 12 x or more benefits than newly planted trees.
- Therefore, retain as many trees as possible by ensuring you've explored **designing away from trees** early in your design process:

### Explore locating **buildings** away from trees

- This includes: main houses, LWH's, infills and garages.
- Relaxations for requirements such as setbacks may be granted to achieve tree retention.
- If the building cannot be located away from the tree, some designers explore whether the building can be designed differently (i.e. alternate foundation or envelope configuration) to retain significant trees such as large neighbor trees.

### Explore locating **landscape** elements away from trees

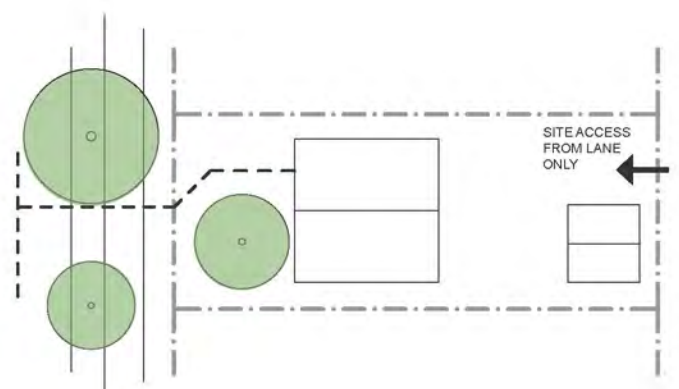
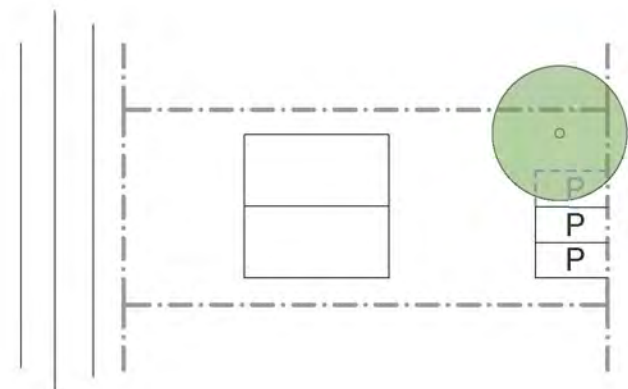
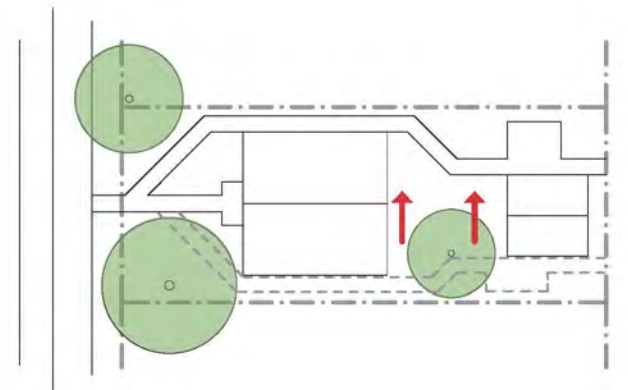
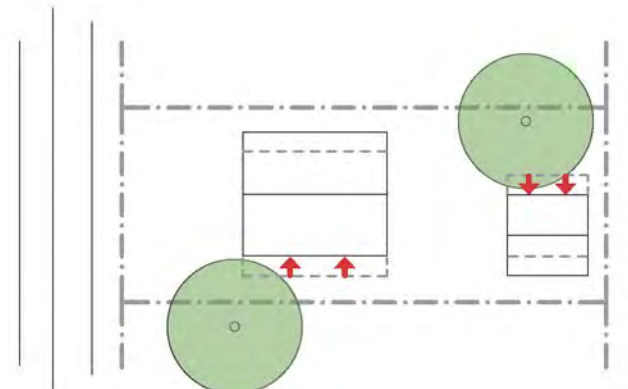
- This includes: walkways, sunken patios, decks, trellises, fences, pools.
- Relaxations for requirements such as setbacks may be granted to achieve tree retention.

### Explore locating **parking** away from trees or reducing number of spaces.

- This includes: surface parking stalls and garages.
- Relaxations for requirement such as setbacks and number of spaces may be granted.

### Show **utility** service locations and construction **site access** on your Site Coordination Plan.

- This includes: gas, water, sewer.
- If there are any conflicts with tree retention, Landscape staff will work with the applicant, Engineering and Park Board to achieve a resolution.



- Applicants should explore all of these strategies early in the design process and before approaching the City for intake screening
- Project Arborists will determine how much room trees need to be retained
- The City will consider relaxations to retain trees