



Parcs  
Canada

Parks  
Canada



# Parks Canada EIA

## Best Management Practice for Vegetation Removal:

Trent-Severn Waterway and Rideau Canal  
National Historic Sites

<b>Name of Best Management Practice</b>	<b>Terrestrial Vegetation Removal, including pruning, trimming, clearing unsafe trees and earthen dam vegetation clearing and maintenance</b>
<b>Scope of Application:</b>	<p>Activities associated with removal of vegetation on Parks Canada Properties and in areas of Parks Canada Infrastructure Projects. Vegetation removal and accessory activities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation removal</li> <li>• Grass cutting</li> <li>• Pruning</li> <li>• Trimming/limbing</li> <li>• Removal of unsafe trees</li> <li>• Pre-project site clearing as part of migratory bird mitigation</li> <li>• Sediment and Erosion Control</li> <li>• Equipment/Vehicle refueling</li> <li>• Chipping of vegetation and mulching or stockpiling for future use</li> </ul> <p>Vegetation removal is necessary for Park maintenance, safety and often required to implement Parks Canada projects. This BMP will address routine vegetation removal activities in a manner that is considered low risk.</p>
<b>Exceptions:</b>	<p>The following is a list of those works that are NOT suited to this BMP and will therefore require a separate environmental impact analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any work during the active bird breeding season (March 31<sup>st</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>), unless the work is of an urgent nature and a breeding bird survey is conducted by qualified professional and work approved.</li> <li>• Any work that requires grubbing of the cleared area. This may cause erosion and sedimentation concerns and should have a more detailed review including sediment and erosion control plan and planting plan.</li> <li>• Any work that requires the use of herbicides (please see the integrated pest management plan).</li> <li>• Any work that has the potential to impact a member of a Species at Risk (SAR), its habitat, or its residences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure that butternut trees are not being affected.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Any work affecting the bed or bank, during in-water work timing restrictions for the water body in question (see DFO Restricted timing window below).</li> <li>• Any work that may impact a cultural resource.</li> <li>• Any work that is large scale (100 m<sup>2</sup>) which may require a communication strategy unless the work is being conducted on earthen dams that have had previous vegetation removal maintenance in the past 5 years.</li> </ul> <p>For any of these exceptions, the environmental officer will recommend an alternate EIA pathway and/or additional mitigation measures.</p>

	<b>Note</b> The Superintendent or designate may determine at their discretion that a BMP alone may not be sufficient to detect or prevent adverse environmental effects, and recommend a BIA or DIA instead.
<b>Approved geographic area of application:</b>	This BMP can be applied within the Trent-Severn Waterway and Rideau Canal National Historic Sites.
<b>Training</b>	Staff performing activities described in this BMP will receive training from EA staff regarding the mitigation obligations covered in this document

Factor	Potential Key Effects:
<b>Aquatic Habitat/Species</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish mortality from physical activities and/or releases of deleterious substances.</li> <li>• Disruption to fish spawning and migration.</li> <li>• Physical changes to aquatic biota and habitat (e.g. damage or loss of riparian habitat, and water temperature).</li> <li>• Increased amount of suspended sediments introduced to the water column through erosional processes.</li> <li>• Removal of overhanging branches that create cover in near-shore areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Terrestrial Habitat/Species</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disease</li> <li>• Introduction or spread of non-native species or noxious weeds, including opportunistic species, predators and parasitic nesters (e.g. emerald ash borer from removing ash trees and branches to another location).</li> <li>• Physical damage and loss of vegetation and habitat (including riparian habitat).</li> <li>• Disruption to wildlife life cycle patterns (migration, breeding, nesting, feeding, resting) due to noise activity.</li> <li>• Removal of food sources (insects in dead trees, berries etc.).</li> <li>• Reductions in abundance/diversity.</li> <li>• Removal of nesting areas (birds and mammals).</li> </ul>
<b>Water Quality</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contamination of water from spills and/or leaks from equipment.</li> <li>• Reduced water quality and clarity due to increased erosion, sedimentation and transport of debris, (e.g. discharge of waters, leaks and accidental spills, contaminated groundwater input, inputs of contaminants from machinery and from surface runoff).</li> </ul>
<b>Soils</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil compaction from vehicle and equipment use.</li> <li>• Contamination of soil from spills and/or leaks from equipment.</li> <li>• Increased soil exposure resulting in erosion, sedimentation and slope instability.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor Experience</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noticeably cut/modified vegetation may be visually unappealing to visitors</li> <li>• Dangers to public safety while work is being conducted.</li> </ul>

Mitigations	
	<b>Planning</b>
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	<p>clearing near water bodies. If buffers cannot be maintained, avoid grubbing of vegetation root mass in proximity to shorelines and stream banks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When feasible, alter riparian vegetation by hand. If machinery must be used, operate machinery on land and in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the banks of the water body.</li> <li>• Grubbing should not be conducted unless a suitable planting plan and Erosion and Sediment Controls are in place. Discuss with EA officer for suitable plans.</li> </ul> <p>Sediment and erosion control measures shall be implemented prior to work and maintained during the work phase, to prevent entry of sediment into the water where site access or other activities cause exposed soil.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All sediment and erosion control measures shall be inspected daily to ensure they are functioning properly and are maintained and/or upgraded as required to prevent entry of sediment into the water.</li> <li>• If sediment and erosion control measures are not functioning properly, no further work shall occur until the sediment and/or erosion problem is addressed.</li> <li>• All disturbed areas of the work site shall be stabilized immediately with erosion protection. All exposed areas should be covered with erosion control blankets or other measures such as mulch to keep the soil in place and prevent erosion until vegetated in the spring.</li> <li>• Sediment and erosion control measures shall be left in place until all areas of the work site have been stabilized.</li> <li>• Upon completion of the work all debris shall be completely removed and the area restored to its original state or better. Repair all damages to property due to project activities.</li> </ul> <p>All materials and equipment used for the purpose of site preparation and project completion shall be operated and stored in a manner that prevents any deleterious substance (e.g. petroleum products, debris etc.) from entering the water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any stockpiled materials shall be stored and stabilized a safe distance away from any watercourse, drainage course or swales to prevent erosion and subsequent entry into the water body OR removed from the site, in accordance with all federal, municipal and provincial regulations.</li> <li>• Refuelling of equipment (e.g. chainsaws) and maintenance shall be conducted off slopes and away from water bodies on impermeable pads or buried liners to allow full containment of spills at a recommended distance of 30 meters from any watercourse. Any part of a vehicle and/or equipment entering the water shall be free of fluid leaks and externally degreased to prevent any deleterious substance from entering the water.</li> <li>• Only clean material free of fine particulate matter shall be placed in the water.</li> <li>• A spills kit will be maintained on site and the contractor will ensure that adequate additional resources are available. The Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Spills Action Center, (1-800-268-6060) shall be immediately notified of any spills occurring on site.</li> </ul> <p>Whenever possible, vegetation should be trimmed in early spring, late fall or winter. Trimming when the plant is actively growing (i.e. late spring summer and early fall) can further stimulate growth, weakening the plant and making it susceptible to disease.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prune limbs close to the tree trunk. For a clean cut, make a shallow undercut first, then follow with the top cut. This prevents the limb from peeling bark off the tree as it falls. Do not use an axe for pruning.</li> <li>• If over half of a tree needs pruning, in most circumstances it will be best to cut it down instead of pruning. Cut trees off at ground level and do not leave pointed stumps.</li> </ul> <p>Vegetation should be selectively cut to allow a diversity of vegetation types to persist within the immediate area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special attention should be paid to maintain fruit bearing shrubs</li> <li>• In larger areas to be cleared attempts should be made to keep trees &gt;15cm DBH intact and instead remove lower limbs (&lt; 2.5m high)</li> <li>• Cluster of young trees should be selectively cut to allow some to continue to grow maintaining diversity in age structure and genetics.</li> <li>• Delineate areas to be avoided with flagging tape or temporary fences</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate handling procedures are followed for noxious weeds such as Giant Hogweed or Wild Parsnip.</li> </ul> <p>Adhere to local noise by-laws. Notify residents of planned activities that may cause disturbance and schedule them to avoid sensitive time periods.</p> <p>Use temporary fencing and or signs as necessary to ensure public safety while work is being conducted.</p> <p>Should any artifact be found that could be of historical significance work shall stop until the object can be assessed; contact Trent-Severn Waterway, Peterborough Office at 705-750-4900.</p> <p>Should conditions at the work site indicate that there are unforeseen negative impacts to fish, wildlife, cultural or visitor experience resources, all works shall cease until the problem has been corrected and/or any required input can be obtained by Parks Canada or other relevant authorities. The Trent-Severn Waterway has the right to require that work be altered or ceased immediately.</p>
	<p><b>Post vegetation clearing</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Restore banks to original condition if any disturbance occurs.</li> <li>2. Sediment control measures and exclusion fencing must be removed in a way that prevents the escape or re-suspension of sediments.</li> <li>3. All disturbed surfaces and shorelines shall be stabilized and re-vegetated as soon as possible after project completion. Native species are to be used for tree planting and/or ground cover with mulch to prevent erosion and to help seeds germinate. If there is insufficient time remaining in the growing season, the site should be stabilized (e.g., cover exposed areas with erosion control blankets to keep the soil in place and prevent erosion) and vegetated the following spring.</li> </ol>