



Tree Management Policy

These principles guide all decisions regarding the more than 1000 trees adorning Victoria Golf Club. The goal is to ensure that the Club cultivates and preserves a healthy inventory of trees and other vegetation throughout the golf course that enhances (rather than detracts from) the golfing experience. These guiding principles are defined in declining order of priority:

Safety

The Club recognizes that safety is paramount. Many present groves of trees play an important part in protecting golfers, pedestrians, adjacent properties and roadways. Funds must continue to be budgeted for maintenance and replacement of these trees. Any replacement species must be selected with safety as the primary factor, although advice should be sought from a certified arborist to determine their appropriateness.

Turf Health

Trees are an important feature of safety, aesthetics and challenge, but the Club also recognizes that they can inhibit the health of turf-grass. Golfers covet pristine turf conditions - but trees which create shade, steal moisture, and outcompete grass plants for the essentials of life, negatively impact the overall condition of the golf course. Trees which do not enhance the safety, challenge or the aesthetics of the course should be removed, within Municipal and Provincial guidelines. The Club should always work closely with government to achieve the mutual objectives of conservation, adequate tree covers and preservation of wildlife habitat.

Challenge and Playability

The positioning of bunkers, contours of greens, shaping of fairways and location of trees create the principal challenges of the golf course. The Club recognizes that there are particular trees on the property that add to the strategic challenge of play. These trees should be protected - with appropriate funds being allocated for their proper maintenance or replacement.

History and Design Pedigree

The Club recognizes, and will be directed by, the distinctive ecology of its property and the unique design- pedigree of its golf course. This should include planting only appropriate tree species recommended by a certified arborist and locating and arranging any new plantings with advice from a consulting golf architect. Any new plantings on the golf course must consider the mature size of the new trees; and their potential impact on turf health, surrounding trees and golfers' safety. It is important to remember that under government regulation, once planted, it is highly unlikely that the removal of overgrown trees will be allowed.



Aesthetics

VGC occupies a uniquely beautiful property - sharing the main characteristic common to the world's greatest golf courses: distinctiveness. This distinctiveness stems primarily from its unique location, abundant ecology and the natural character of its property. The Club will attempt to maintain, restore, and preserve, the nature of its unique inventory of trees, in perpetuity.

Any future plantings on the course must reflect safety and turf-health concerns, complement playability, abide by government guidelines and enhance aesthetics. The Club will seek advice from a certified arborist to ensure correct species of trees are planted; and from a consulting golf architect, to determine the proper location for such plantings.

Approval – This policy was approved by the VGC Board of Directors in 2021.