



# Preservation of Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy

Policy # [C] - [DI] - 00000

Date Last Reviewed: February 24, 2021

## 1.0 Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 The Policy provides a framework for the preservation and enhancement of the Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation in the Municipality of Lakeshore.
- 1.2 Section 270 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* requires all municipalities to adopt and maintain policies with respect to the manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality.
- 1.3 This policy is intended to create awareness of current and future environmental issues that can be mitigated through the plantation of trees within the municipality. In addition, the enhancement of Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation may improve quality of life, air quality, property values and wildlife habitat and reduce crime rates, stormwater runoff, energy use and the urban heat island effect.
- 1.4 This policy applies to all areas within the Municipality of Lakeshore.

## 2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 “Municipality” means the Municipality of Lakeshore.
- 2.2 “Natural vegetation” means the native plant life that grows naturally without human intervention in a geographic region.
- 2.3 “Tree canopy” means the layer of tree leaves, branches and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above.

## 3.0 Policy

- 3.1 The Municipality shall endeavour to protect the Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation on privately-owned lands as part of the development review process and tree conservation and restoration programs as they refer to land use planning proposals.



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- 3.2** The Municipality will enhance the Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation on municipally-owned lands through municipal programs such as the planting of trees in new subdivisions and parks.

## Planning

- 3.3** When considering development proposals, the Municipality will follow the policies of the County of Essex and the Municipality of Lakeshore Official Plans to determine the preservation and enhancement of trees and vegetation on the subject property. These policies raise awareness of the need for the municipality to be environmentally aware and encourage the protection and enhancement of trees on both private and public property.

## Education and Advice

- 3.4** The Municipality will work to promote an understanding of the benefits associated with the protection and enhancement of trees and Natural Vegetation by working with developers and community organizations.

## 4.0 Responsibilities

- 4.1** The Manager of Planning is responsible to ensure development approvals are reviewed for compliance to this policy prior to being given approval.
- 4.2** The Chief Administrative Officer will ensure that the policy is implemented.

## 5.0 Consequences

- 5.1** Adherence to this procedure ensures that the Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation are maintained or enhanced.
- 5.2** Failure to comply with this policy may endanger the health and growth of the Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation in the municipality.
- 5.3** Employees who do not adhere to this policy may be subject to discipline.



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## 6.0 Reference Documents

6.1 *Municipal Act, 2001*

6.2 County of Essex Official Plan

6.3 Municipality of Lakeshore Official Plan

6.4 Report to Council – Protecting and Enhancing the Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation

6.5 Development Review Manual

## 7.0 Communication and Training

7.1 This policy will be communicated to developers and to members of the public involved in the development review process.

7.2 Members of Administration will be trained on this policy.

## 8.0 Review/Revisions

8.1 This policy will be reviewed every five years.

#	Date Revised	Author	Section	Details of Change
1	February 24, 2021	Ayusha Hanif	Creation	Creation of Policy on the template
2				
3				
4				

Refer policy questions to: Manager of Planning