



# The Corporation of the Township of Prince

Adopted by Resolution: 2019- 44

## **Township of Prince Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy**

### **Background and Purpose**

Section 270 (1) (7) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25 requires a municipality to adopt a policy which will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality.

The purpose of this policy is to offer a summary understanding of local vegetation, planting considerations and promote best practices.

The need for such a policy would appear to be directed more to an urban centre however there are some practices that could benefit this municipality.

### **Who is it For?**

This policy applies to all public properties in the Township of Prince. It is a resource which can be referred to and utilized as guiding principles for residential, commercial and public development.

### **What is an Urban Tree Canopy?**

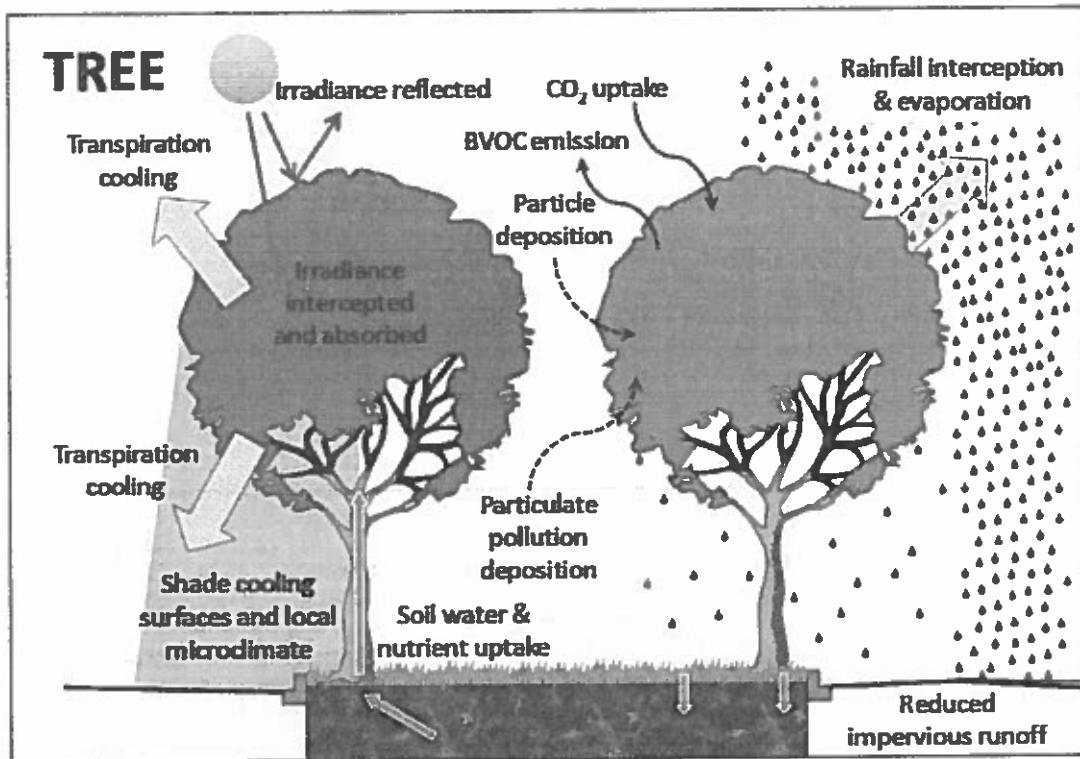
According to the Center for Watershed Protection, an urban tree canopy is the layer of leaves, branches and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above. Essentially, it is the same as a forest canopy but in an urban context.

### **Benefits**

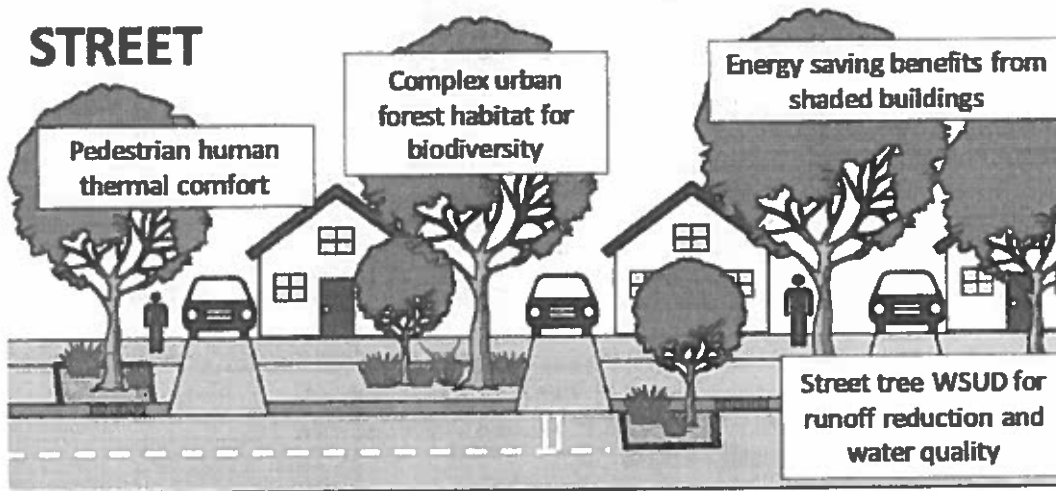
There are several benefits to a tree canopy, including:

- A mature tree canopy creates shade, which lowers energy consumption for a community. This is accomplished via the direct link of shading households, and a community wide impact of reducing the heat island effect;
- Reduces air pollution;
- Increases property value;
- Provide shelter for wildlife;
- Improves the usability of public parks;
- Improves the aesthetics of properties and street lines;
- Assists in storm water management; and
- Prevents erosion, especially along slopes.

The following from Water the Journal of Environmental Quality illustrates the above:



BVOC = Biological volatile organic compounds



WSUD = Water Sensitive Urban Design

### Native Plantings

When planting any vegetation, local species/native vegetation should be considered first. Some examples of are included in Schedule "A".

### Where to Plant

Consideration should be given to where trees and vegetation are planted. Prior to planting a tree, property lines, utilities (power lines, buried water/septic laterals or other 'hard' infrastructure) should be considered. The location of a tree should take into context its future size as it relates to a building's foundation and roof.

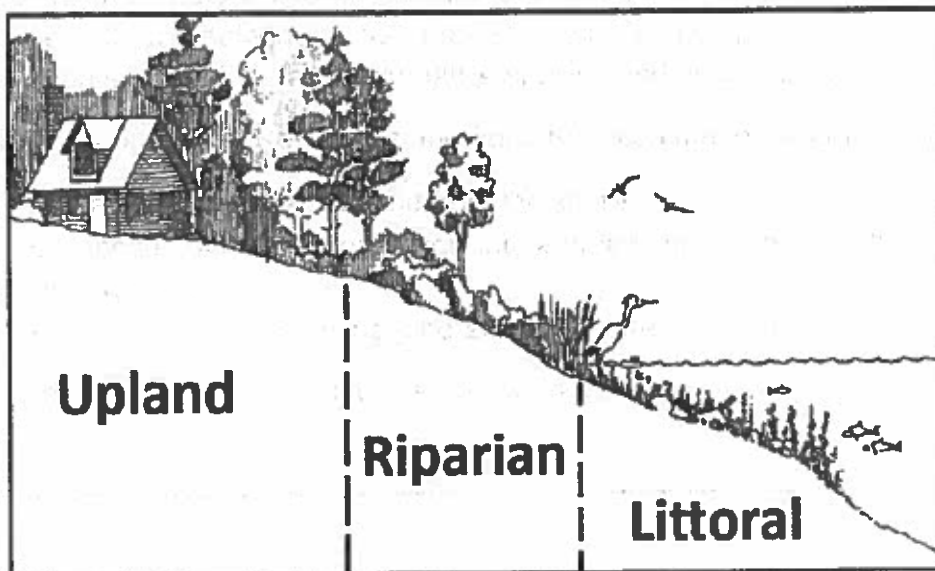
### **Shoreline Vegetation**

Vegetated areas adjacent to watercourses, lakes, rivers and wetlands are known as shoreline buffers. Shoreline buffers protect water from pollutants by filtering contaminants, providing habitat for native species and preventing shoreline erosion.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry recommend Shoreline buffers be:

- At least 15-30 metres upland from the shore
- Composed of natural vegetation with a broad corridor of undisturbed vegetation;
- Not be grassed.
- Avoid shoreline hardening (shoreline structures built parallel to the shore).

The types of vegetation by zone are illustrated below.



Courtesy of the Muskoka Watershed Council 2013

### **Maintenance and Preservation**

Trees and vegetation require special care and treatment. If it appears the vegetation is struggling, it is recommended you speak to a professional.

### **Commercial / Higher Density Uses**

In addition to this policy applying to single detached homes and smaller residential uses, it can also provide guidance to larger commercial/multiple residential developments.

In addition to the benefits listed previously, increased vegetative buffers help beautify commercial properties and match the natural beauty of Prince Township.

We are a rural municipality with an abundance of tree growth however, a more urban area may benefit from some of the following:

- Green parking lots to reduce storm water flows and the costs of storm water maintenance.
- Vegetated aisles and parking islands to increase shaded areas and reduce micro climates.
- Green roofs to reduce total storm water runoff and enhance the urban canopy.

Illustrations of the above mentioned options are available for viewing on the City of Toronto Design Guidelines for "Greening" Surface Parking lots.

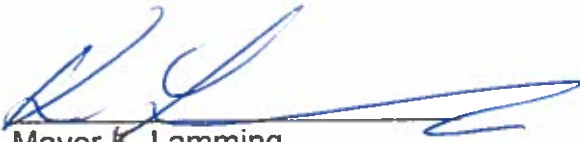
### **Other Concerns**

Though protecting the tree canopy will always be a consideration, public safety and infrastructure maintenance will be a priority. There are occasions when, because of these two factors, vegetation needs to be removed.

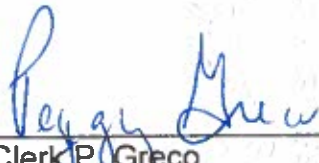
### **Disclaimer**

This policy does not take priority over any By-laws, Resolutions or Agreements of the Township of Prince Council, which includes but is not limited to:

- Any agreement made under the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13
- This policy requirement will be considered when the any reviews of the Official Plan are conducted.



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Mayor K. Lamming



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Clerk P. Greco

**Schedule "A" – this is meant as a guideline and does not include every plant or tree native to Prince Township (this list was reviewed and edited by a Master Gardener familiar with Zone 4B vegetation and trees**

Trees	Shrubs	Partial Shade	Full Sun	Shoreline
<p><b>Riparian Zone</b>                      Balsam Fir Red                      Maple                      Tamarack Black                      Spruce                      Eastern Hemlock</p> <p><b>Medium Sized</b>                      Chokecherry                      Pin Cherry                      Serviceberry                      Striped Maple                      Ironwood                      Eastern White Cedar</p> <p><b>Large Sized</b>                      Bur Oak Red                      Oak Silver                      Maple                      Trembling Aspen                      White Birch                      Red Spruce Eastern                      White Pine Butternut                      Sugar Maple                      Elm                      Ash (white and Black)                      Balsam                      Willow</p>	<p><b>Black Chokeberry</b>                      Northern Bush                      Honeysuckle Pagoda                      Dogwood Red Osier                      Dogwood Smooth                      Wild Rose Swamp                      Rose                      Sweet Gale                      Winterberry Holly                      Common Elderberry                      Highbush Cranberry                      Lowbush Cranberry                      Lowbush Blueberry                      Meadowsweet                      Serviceberry                      Steeplebush                      Speckled Alder                      Labrador Tea                      Swamp Currant                      Ground Juniper</p>	<p><b>Bearberry</b>                      Bloodroot                      Bunchberry                      False Solomon's Seal                      Jack-in-the-pulpit Wild                      Columbine Foamflower                      Ostrich Fern                      Other ferns</p>	<p><b>Black-eyed Susan</b>                      Big Bluestem Grass                      Goldenrod Common                      Milkweed Aster                      Pearly Everlasting</p>	<p><b>Blue Flag Iris</b>                      Blue Vervain                      Boneset Cardinal                      Flower                      Swamp Milkweed Joe                      Pye Weed White                      Turtlehead                      Grasses                      Rushes                      Sedges                      Tufted loosestrife                      Wild Raspberry                      Dwarf Raspberry                      Jewel weed                      Marsh Marigold                      Marsh St. John's wort                      Mosses</p> <p><b>Aquatics</b>                      Cat tails                      Arrowhead                      Yellow pond lily                      White water lily</p>