The Corporation of Town of New Tecumseth

Tree Management Policy

Policy Type: Corporate

Policy No.: PW-POL-001-2022

Name of Dept: Public Works

Status: Current

Resolution No.: 2022-114

Previous Policy No.: ID 02 2019

1. Policy Statement

The Town of New Tecumseth (hereafter the "Town") is committed to preserving, protecting, and enhancing the **urban forest** by improving biodiversity, increasing the **tree canopy**, and fostering sustainable practices.

2. Purpose

In keeping with Section 270 (1) (7) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25. A municipality shall 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. This Tree Management Policy will provide guidance on matters related to trees on all lands within the Town of New Tecumseth.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to all lands maintained and/or regulated by and located within the Town of New Tecumseth.

4. Definitions

When used in this policy, the following terms have the following meanings:

"**development**" means the construction, erection, or placing of one or more buildings or structures on land or the making of an addition or alteration to a building or structure requiring approvals under the Planning Act and/or subject to Agreement of, and at the sole discretion with, the Town. This includes, but is not limited to Site Plan Applications, Plan of Subdivision/Condominium, Property Access Permits, Road

Occupancy Permits, Site Alternation and Fill Applications, including lands described in section 4.5.11 of the Official Plan, wooded areas not within the EP1 and EP2 designation.

"**protected tree**" means:

- a Town tree; or
- a designated Significant or Heritage tree; or
- a tree 20cm **dbh** or greater that is part of development applications.

"**significant tree**" means a tree that is recognized because of its size, form, rarity of species, age, its association with a historical figure or event, and/or a tree that is distinctive in the community, or a combination of these criteria detailed in the Technical Tree Guidelines.

"**technical tree guidelines**" means the Town's document designed to provide the technical requirements for tree and tree canopy related matters for the stakeholders of the Town of New Tecumseth (Town). The Guidelines will provide technical guidance to maintain, protect, and enhance trees in the Town. Sometimes referred to as "Tree Guidelines".

"**Town property**" means lands within the Town's boundaries that are owned by the Town of New Tecumseth.

"**Town tree**" means any tree, all, or part of which is located on **Town property**.

"**tree canopy**" means the collective cover of branches and foliage of a group of trees' crowns expressed as a percentage of the area of which they cover. Aggregate or collective tree crowns. Also referred to as the Urban Tree Canopy (UTC).

"**urban forest"** means the trees, forests, greenspace, and related abiotic, biotic and cultural components in areas extending from the urban core to the urban-rural fringe. The Town recognizes these areas to be the 'developed' and/or developing areas within Alliston, Beeton, and Tottenham.

"**urban forest technician or designate"(UFTD)** means the "Town Arborist" or Urban Forest Technician position within the Public Works department as directed by the Director of Public Works.

5. Policy

5.1 General

Preservation, protection, and enhancement of trees and tree canopy shall be an important consideration in all Town operations and development projects. This tree **policy** will focus on trees and the urban forest.

5.2 Trees and Tree Canopy

The Town recognizes trees and tree canopy maintenance, planting, and protection as the basic requirement for the enhancement and sustainability for the urban forest. The Town further acknowledges healthy-maturing trees provide ever-increasing benefits for all in the community and are recognized as **green infrastructure**. Preservation of existing trees will be a central management approach for the Town to achieve increasing canopy cover through optimal maintenance practices in consultation with the Urban Forest Technician or Designate (UFTD).

5.2.1 Routine maintenance and/or protection of **protected trees** and enhancement goals of the tree canopy is to be referenced in the Town's **Technical Tree Guidelines** in conjunction with other mechanisms developed or in development.

5.2.2 All Town stakeholders shall reference the Town's Technical Tree Guidelines for all matters relating to trees as it relates to specifications for tree preservation and enhancement guidelines and procedures including but not limited to arborist guidelines, tree preservation, tree protection, tree planting details, tree inventories, tree selection, tree pruning, tree removal, tree compensation, etc.

5.2.2.1 Tree compensation will be used for the advancement of the goals set out in this Policy including tree planting and tree maintenance.

5.2.3 The Town shall recognize, develop, and adopt protection and enhancement guidelines for Significant Trees and for (potential) Heritage Tree within the Town.

5.2.4 The Town is to achieve and maintain a minimal tree canopy cover of thirty percent (30%) within the developed urban areas of New Tecumseth.

5.2.4.1 All proposed Town property should have requisite number of trees planted to achieve a 30% UTC after a twenty (20) year projection/maturity.

5.2.5 Protected tree removal shall be considered only after all other reasonable preservation efforts have been exhausted.

5.2.6 Contraventions of this policy and the technical tree guidelines will be enforced in accordance with the Town's Tree By-law, as amended.

5.2.7 Residents who wish to plant or perform work on Town trees shall complete an application in accordance with Attachment #1 to this policy.

5.3 Community Engagement

The Town will maintain and encourage mechanisms to engage the community to promote, protect, and enhance trees and the tree canopy.

6. Implementation

6.1 This Policy shall become effective immediately upon approval by Council and shall be administered by the Infrastructure and Development Division.

6.2 This Policy and subsequent guidelines are to be monitored regularly and evaluated every five years.

6.3 The General Manager, Infrastructure and Development is authorized to make updates and revisions to this policy, as required.

Attachments:

□ Attachment 1 - Tree Permit Application
□ Attachment 2 - TECHNICAL TREE GUIDELINES 2022

Approved By:	Department:	Status:
Chad Horan, Director of Public Works	Public Works	Approved - 08 Jun 2022
Bruce Hoppe, MCIP, RPP, GM, Infrastructure & Development	Infrastructure and Development Division	Approved - 14 Jun 2022
Blaine Parkin, P. Eng., CAO	CAO	Approved - 14 Jun 2022