

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH

BY-LAW NO. 2019-07

A By-law to adopt a policy for the Protection and Enhancement of the Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation in the Municipality

WHEREAS Section 11 of the of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended*, authorizes municipalities to pass by-laws regarding Accountability and Transparency of the municipality and its operations;

AND WHEREAS Section 270 (1) 7. of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended* requires a municipality to adopt and maintain a policy with regards to the Protection and enhancement of the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Wasaga Beach hereby enacts as follows:

1. THAT the Protection and enhancement of the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality Policy, Schedule "A", attached hereto and forming part of this By-law be adopted.
2. THAT in the event that section or sections of this by-law thereof are found by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or ultra vires, such section, sections or parts thereof shall be deemed to be severable, with all other sections or parts of this by-law remaining in the full force and effect.
3. THAT this By-Law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its final passing.

BY-LAW READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2019.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH

Nina Bifulchi, Mayor

Dina Lundy, Director, Legislative Services & Clerk



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH
POLICY MANUAL

SECTION NAME: Planning	POLICY NUMBER: 7-6
POLICY: Protection and enhancement of the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality.	REVIEW DATE: 2023
EFFECTIVE DATE: February 19, 2019	REVISIONS:
ADOPTED BY BY-LAW: 2019-07	ADMINISTERED BY: Manager of Planning and Development Review

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide an understanding of municipal protection and enhancement of the tree canopy and natural vegetation and to promote best practices.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all properties and developments, on public and private lands, in the Town of Wasaga Beach. It is a resource, which can be referred to and utilized as guiding principles for residential, commercial and public purposes.

DEFINITIONS

Tree Canopy: the layer of leaves, branches and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above.*

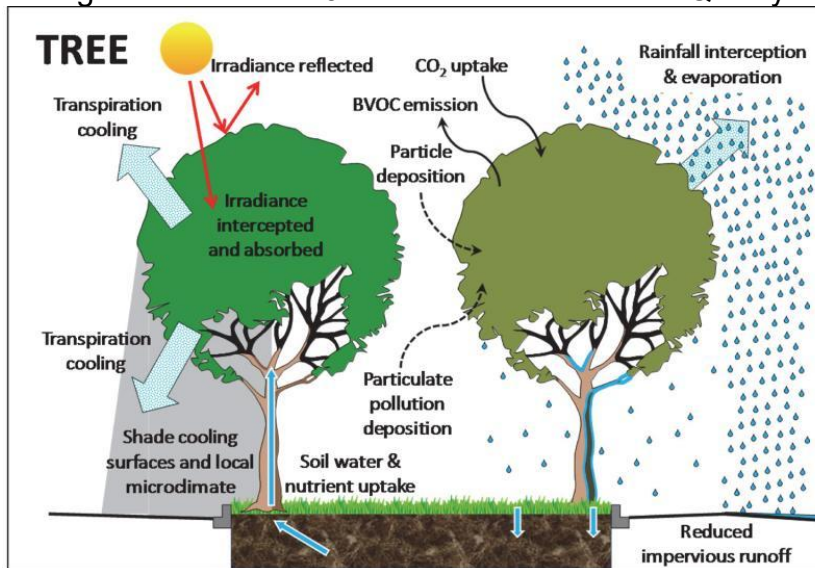
BENEFITS

There are a number of benefits to protecting and enhancing the tree canopy:

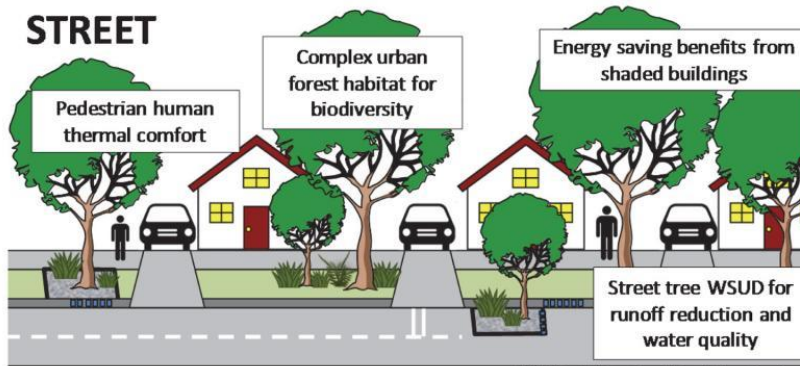
- A mature tree canopy creates shade, which lowers energy consumption for a community. This is accomplished via the direct link for shading households, and a community-wide impact of reducing the urban heat island effect;
- Reduces air pollution;
- Increases property value;
- Provide shelter for wildlife;
- Improves the usability of public parks;

- Improves the aesthetics of properties and street lines;
- Assists in stormwater management; and
- Prevents erosion, especially along slopes.

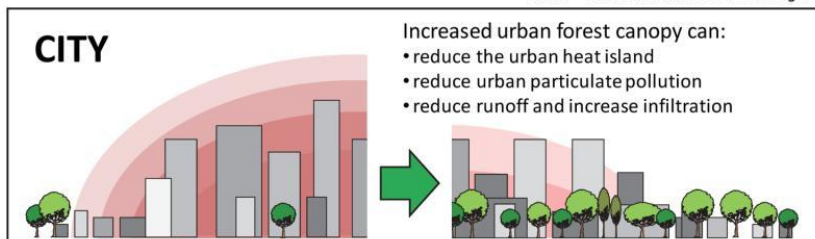
The following from Water the Journal of Environmental Quality illustrates the above:



BVOC = Biological volatile organic compounds



WSUD = Water Sensitive Urban Design



Plantings

When planting any vegetation, local species/native vegetation should be utilized.

Consideration should be given to where trees and vegetation are planted. Prior to planting a tree, property lines, utilities (power lines, buried water/sewer 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 rationale (from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority) includes:

- To increase the amount of riparian vegetation in order to improve water quality, stabilize stream banks, filter excess nutrients and create habitat corridors to permit the migration of native wildlife;
- Streamside buffers are among the most effective runoff reduction techniques, and provide critical fish and wildlife habitat;
- The NVCA watershed restoration target is to have an over 30m wide natural cover buffer along 75% of the watershed's streams and rivers.

In addition to the benefits listed previously, increased vegetative buffers help beautify commercial properties and enhance the existing natural beauty. Other benefits that can be considered are:

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

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

POLICY ADMINISTRATION AND REVIEW

This policy is reviewed every three years and the administrator of this policy will initiate the review.

DISCLAIMER

This policy does not take priority over any By-laws, Plans, Policies, Resolutions or Agreements of the Town of Wasaga Beach.

REFERENCES

Section 270(1) (7) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25
Town of Wasaga Beach Tree Cutting By-law
Engineering Standards
Official Plan
Urban Design Guidelines