



The Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound

Town of Parry Sound 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 plan which describes how to protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation.

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

Who is it For?

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

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.

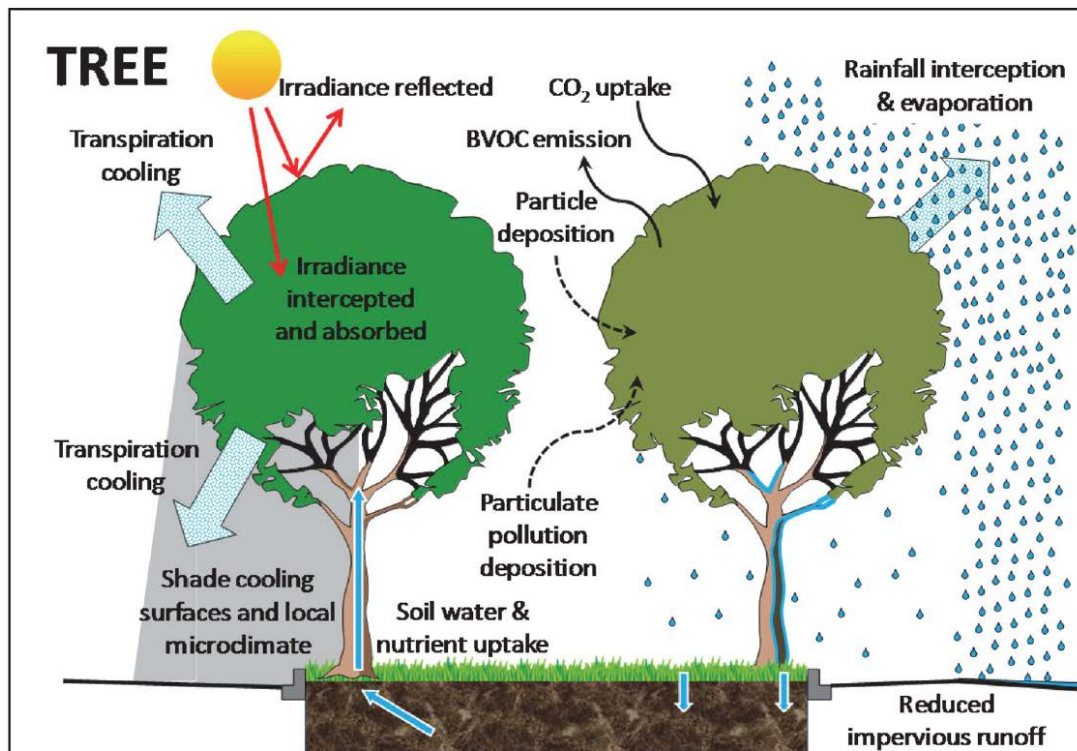
The Town is in a UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) Biosphere Reserve. A Biosphere Reserve is an internationally recognized ecosystem. For this reason, the importance of an urban tree canopy and the use of native vegetation is very important.

Benefits

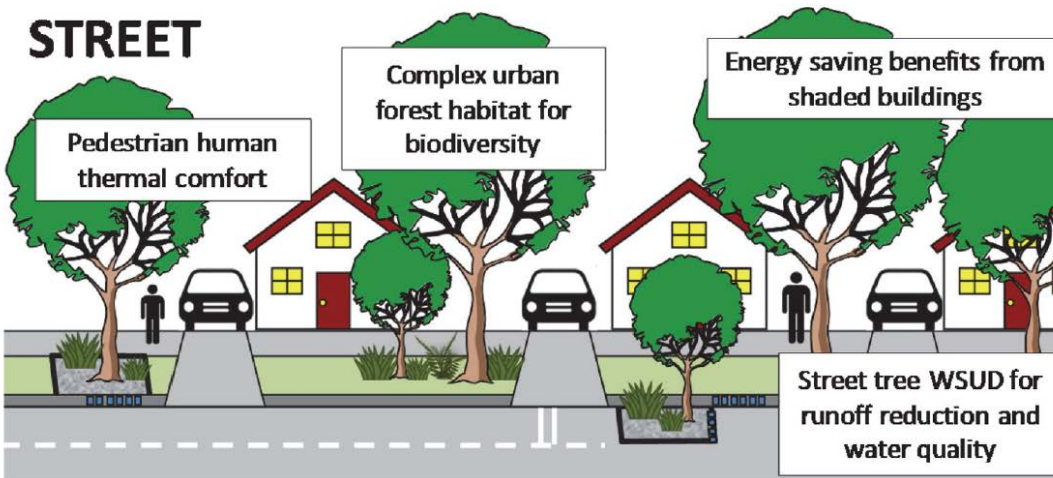
There are several benefits to an urban tree canopy, including:

- A mature urban 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 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

Native Plantings

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

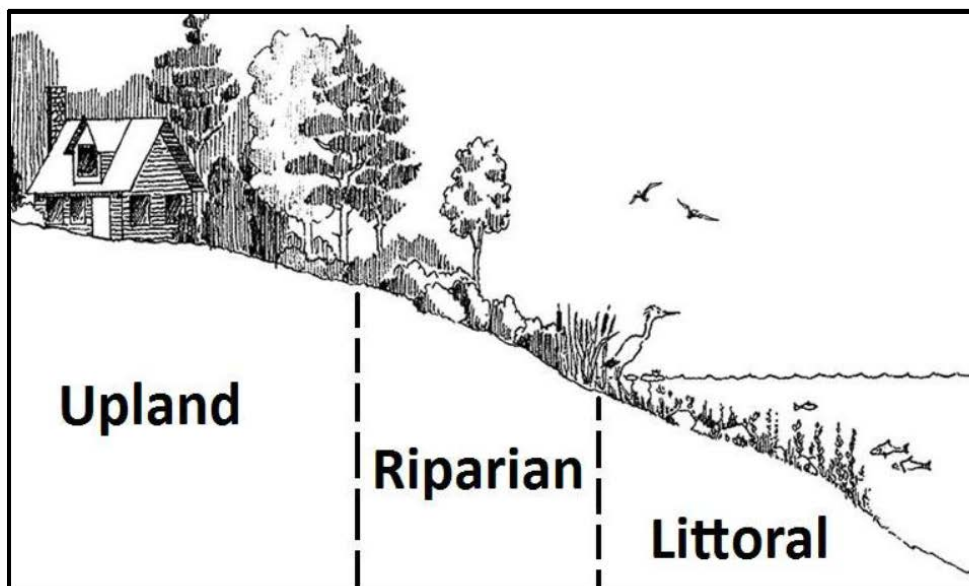
Shoreline Vegetation

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.

Shoreline buffers should be:

- At least 15-30 metres upland from the shore as recommended by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry;
- Composed of natural vegetation with a broad corridor of undisturbed vegetation;
- Not be grassed.
- Avoid shoreline hardening.

The types of vegetation by zone are illustrated below. Further information on these vegetative zones can be obtained from the Town of Parry Sound.



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

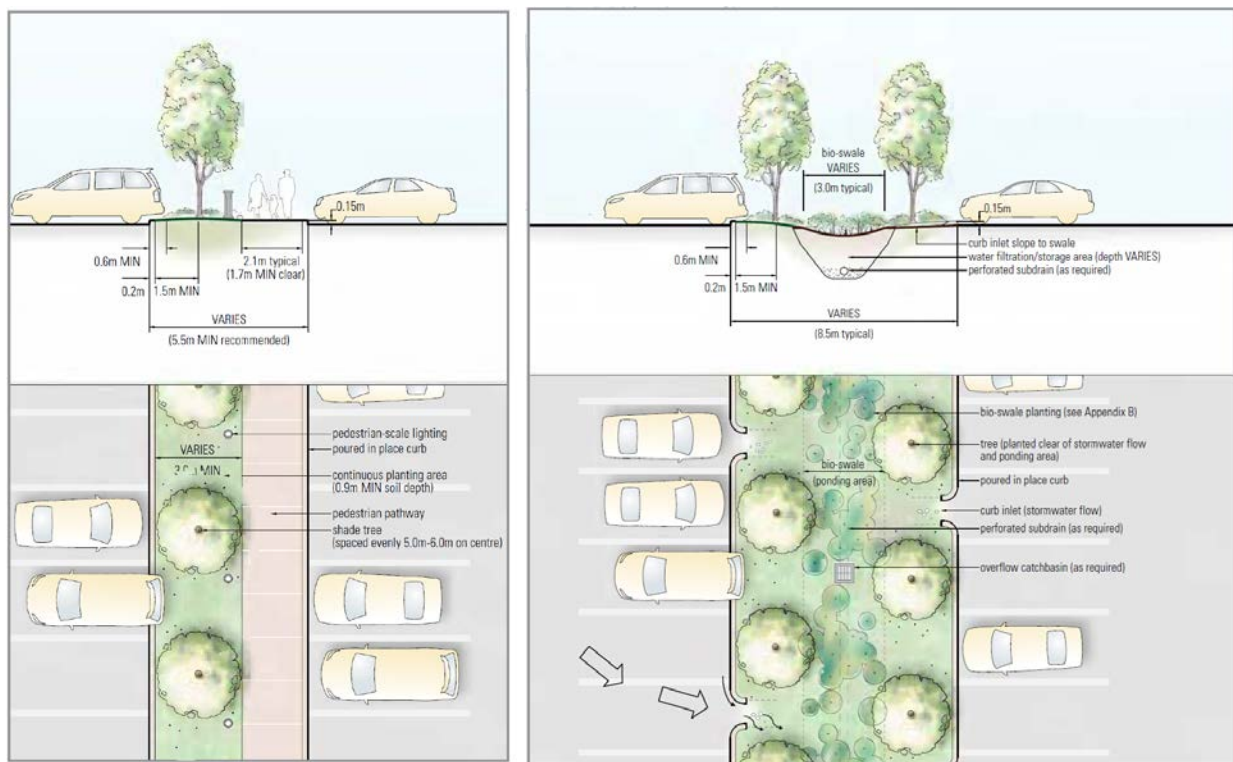
In addition to this policy applying to single detached homes and smaller residential uses, it can also provide guidance to larger commercial/multiple residential developments.

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

Other benefits that can be considered:

- 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.

Illustrations from the City of Toronto Design Guidelines for “Greening” Surface Parking lots are included below.



Disclaimer

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

- Resolution 2000-136 - Tree Maintenance/Removal Policy;
- By-law 2007-5109 - Regulate Placing or Dumping of Fill or Altering Land Grade
- Any agreement made under the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13



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Schedule "A"

Trees	Shrubs	Partial Shade	Full Sun	Shoreline
Riparian Zone Balsam Fir Red Maple Tamarack Black Spruce Eastern Hemlock Medium Sized Chokecherry Pin Cherry Serviceberry Striped Maple Ironwood Eastern White Cedar Large Sized Bur Oak Red Oak Silver Maple Trembling Aspen White Birch Red Spruce Eastern White Pine Butternut Sugar Maple	Black Chokeberry Nannyberry Northern Bush Honeysuckle Pagoda Dogwood Red Osier Dogwood Smooth Wild Rose Swamp Rose Sweet Gale Winterberry Holly Common Elderberry Highbush Cranberry Lowbush Blueberry Meadowsweet Serviceberry Steeplebush	Bearberry Bloodroot Bunchberry False Solomons Seal Jack-in-the-pulpit Wild Columbine Foamflower Ostrich Fern	Black-eyed Susan Big Bluestem Grass Canada Goldenrod Common Milkweed Flat-topped Aster New England Aster Pearly Everlasting	Blue Flag Iris Blue Vervain Boneset Cardinal Flower Swamp Milkweed Joe Pye Weed White Turtlehead