


South Glengarry				POLICY	
Policy Number:	03-2019	Review Frequency:	Every 5 Years		
Approved By:	Council	Date Approved:			
		Revision Date:			
Subject:	Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy				

Background and Purpose

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

The purpose is to establish a tree canopy and natural vegetation policy and to reduce the loss of tree coverage in South Glengarry and to protect and increase tree coverage.

What is a Tree Canopy?

Tree Canopy includes all areas of coverage by plant material which includes the layer of leaves, branches and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above.

What is Natural Vegetation?

Natural vegetation refers to the plant life that grows naturally in a geographical region. The plants that make up natural vegetation are valuable resources as they provide timber, fruits, medicinal plants, shelter to animals, oxygen and protect soil and store water.

Benefits

There are many benefits to a tree canopy and natural vegetation policy; they include but are not limited to:

- Reduces air pollution
- Provides shelter for wildlife
- Improves the usability of public parks and spaces
- Improves the aesthetics of properties
- Improves water quality

- Assists in stormwater management
- Prevents erosion

Applicability

The policy applies to all properties and development, on public and private lands within the Township of South Glengarry.

Nothing in this policy is intended to conflict with existing standards or policies of the Township and this policy does not take priority over any by-laws, plans, resolutions or agreements passed by Council pursuant to the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001 c. 25* or *Planning Act, R.S.O, 1990, c. P 13*.

Nothing in this policy is intended to restrict normal farm practices as defined by the *Farm Practices Protection Act, R.S.O, 1990 c. F6*

Priority Actions (*In no particular order*)

1. Prevent tree removal within Township open and unopened road allowances.
2. Prevent tree removal on Township-owned land.
3. Increase tree planting on Township-owned land, especially within public parks where possible.
4. Acquire forested land when offered through land donations.
5. Support the United Counties of SDG in forested land acquisitions within the Township of South Glengarry.
6. Support and promote the Raisin Region Conservation Authority Tree Seedling Program.
7. Support residents and others in developing tree planting plans that ensure the long term survival of the tree plantings.
8. Support and participate where possible in tree planting efforts by the Raisin Region Conservation Authority.
9. Develop a municipal commemorative tree program where people can buy and plant trees in municipal parks in honour of their loved ones who have passed or organizations.

10. Require a tree planting schedule as a condition of draft plan approval for new subdivisions that will require one native tree in front of each lot within the front yard.
11. Support the replacement of native trees that are proposed to be removed as part of a development; either in a new location on the subject property or in a mutually agreed upon location elsewhere in the Township.
12. Encourage tree planting as part of the Landscaping Program within the Township's Community Improvement Plan.
13. Implement the existing Official Plan policies related to Significant Woodlands, Provincially Significant Wetlands and Natural Heritage Systems.
14. Encourage residents to obtain an approved managed forest plan and to have their properties classified as a Managed Forest to take advantage of the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program where you pay 25% of the municipal tax rate set for residential properties.

Monitoring

The General Manager of Community Services shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy.