


South Glengarry				POLICY
Policy Number:	03-2019	Review Frequency:	Every 4 Years	
Approved By:	Council of the Township of South Glengarry	Date Approved:	May 16, 2022	
		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.

What is Development *?

Development means the creation of a new lot, a change in land use, or the construction of buildings or structures requiring approval under the *Planning Act*, but does not include:

- a) Activities that create or maintain infrastructure authorized under an environmental assessment process:
- b) Works subject to the *Drainage Act*.

*Definition of Development from the Provincial Policy Statement 2020

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
- Assists in mitigating the effects of climate change and extreme weather events

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 *Farming and Food Production Protection Act (FFPPA)*, 1998, S.O. 1998. c.1.

Priority Actions (*In no particular order*)

1. Protect healthy tree cover where possible within Township open and unopened road allowances.
2. Enhance tree cover and natural vegetation on Township owned land; tree removal shall be limited to unhealthy or hazardous trees but should be permitted to accommodate infrastructure that is in the public interest.
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 Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG) and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) 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. Continue to implement the Natural Heritage policies within the Official Plan.
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.
15. Explore the creation and implementation of other tax incentive programs to encourage the protection of existing forested properties and to encourage the creation of forested properties.
16. Support property owners in their efforts to implement best management practices including naturalized buffer strips adjacent to watercourses and the protection of riparian zones

Monitoring

The General Manager of Planning, Building and Enforcement shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy.