

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

BY-LAW #17-2019

Being a by-law to adopt a Tree Canopy and
Natural Vegetation Policy

WHEREAS Section 270 (1) (7) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25 requires a municipality to adopt a plan which describes the manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Armour hereby enacts as follows:

1. The "Township of Armour Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy" is hereby adopted as set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law.
2. The Clerk of the Township of Armour is hereby authorized to make any minor modifications or corrections of an administrative, numeric, grammatic, semantic or descriptive nature or kind to the by-law and schedule(s) as may be deemed necessary after the passage of this by-law, where such modifications or corrections do not alter the intent of the by-law.
3. That this by-law shall come into effect upon its passing.

Read in its entirety, approved,
signed and the seal of the
Corporation affixed thereto and
finally passed in open Council
this 26th day of February, 2019.

Original signed by Bob MacPhail
Robert MacPhail, Reeve

Original signed by John Theriault
John Theriault, Clerk

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ADMINISTRATION

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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. Good forestry practice is encouraged through the cleaning and thinning of trees for the purposes of stimulating tree growth and improving the quality of the woodlot without permanently breaking the canopy.

Who is it For?

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

Applications for subdivisions, Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments, minor variances or site plan control may be supported by a Tree Preservation Plan.

What is an Urban Tree Canopy?

An urban tree canopy is the layer of leaves, branches and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above. It is the same as a forest canopy but in an urban context.

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

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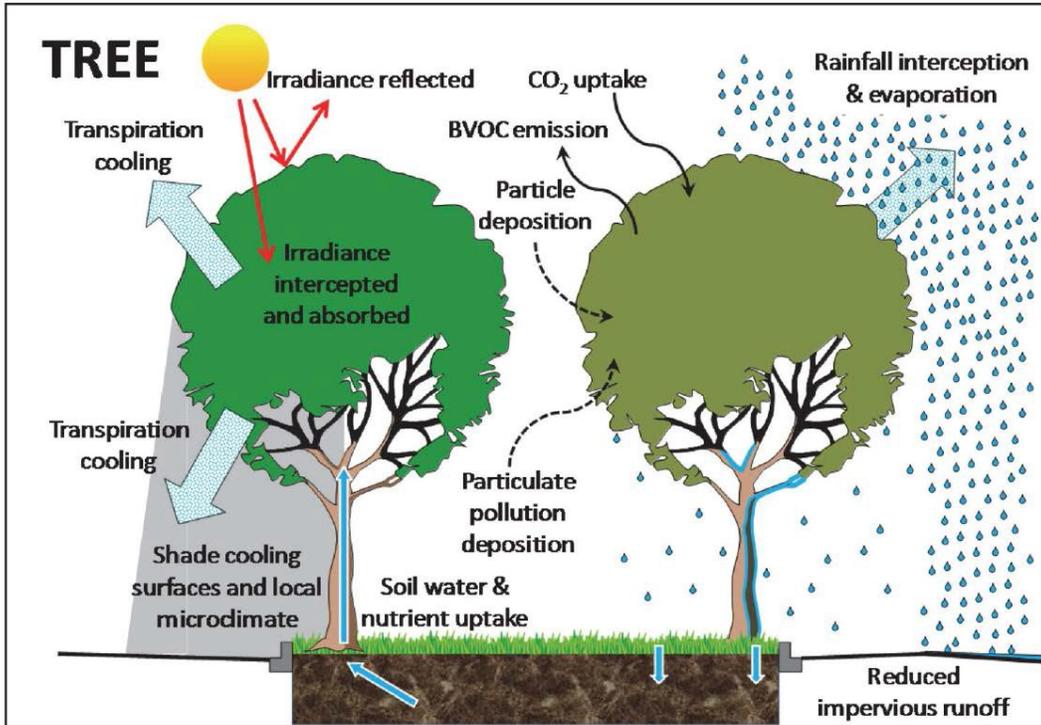


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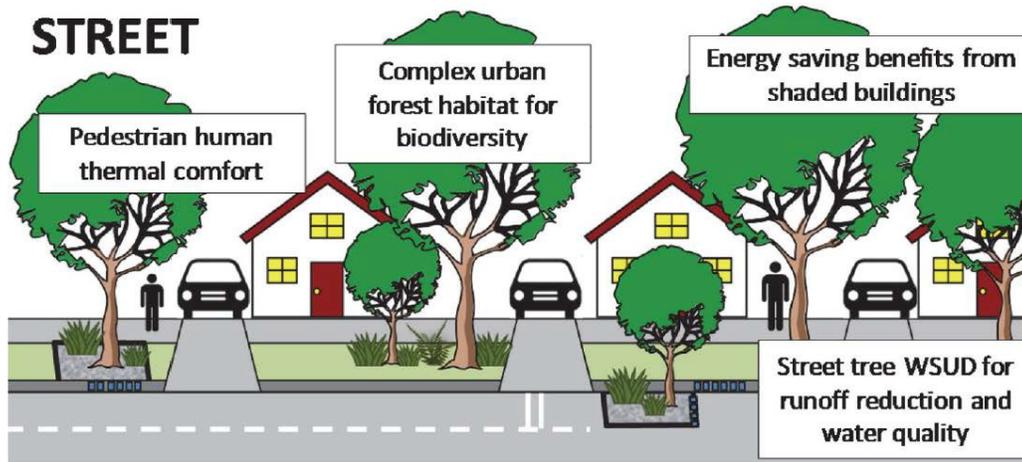
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- Prevents erosion, especially along slopes.

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



BVOC = Biological volatile organic compounds



WSUD = Water Sensitive Urban Design

Native Plantings

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When planting any vegetation, local species/native vegetation should be utilized. Some examples 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, septic, water wells 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. In terms of vegetative cover, this Plan recognizes that preserving vegetation along waterways, on sites subject to development and along roadways contributes to the overall health of the area and helps lessen the environmental impact of development and improve the visual appeal of newly developed areas. Development proposals shall be required to preserve vegetative cover or replace vegetative cover when removal cannot be avoided.

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:

- A natural vegetative buffer of not less than 15 m (49.2 ft.) in depth along the designated shoreline or watercourse with a landscaped corridor not greater than 9 m (29.5 ft.) in width for access between any proposed development and the shoreline.
- Council may require that a professional competent in shoreline landscaping be engaged to prepare a shoreline vegetation management plan suitable for conserving and sustaining the natural environment.
- 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.

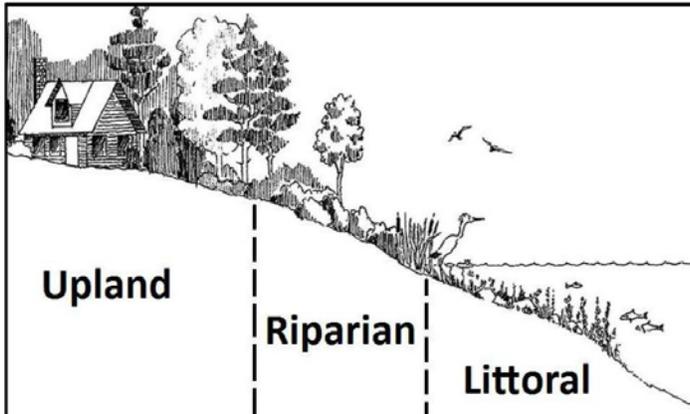
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Courtesy of the Muskoka Watershed Council 2013

This Plan supports the retention or restoration of the natural vegetative buffer adjacent to all watercourses as the means of protecting water resources and its related ecological function from the negative impacts of development. The Plan also recognizes that woodlands and forests have great ecological significance. Property owners may benefit from the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program which is a voluntary program that provides lower property taxes to participating landowners who agree to conserve and actively manage their forests.

Forests are a renewable resource if harvested in a sustainable manner. Forestry management is sustainable when it maintains and enhances the long-term health of forest ecosystems to the benefit of all living things, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations. Sustainable forest management refers to management regimes applied to forest lands which maintain the productive and renewal capacities as well as the genetic, species and ecological diversity of forest ecosystems.

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

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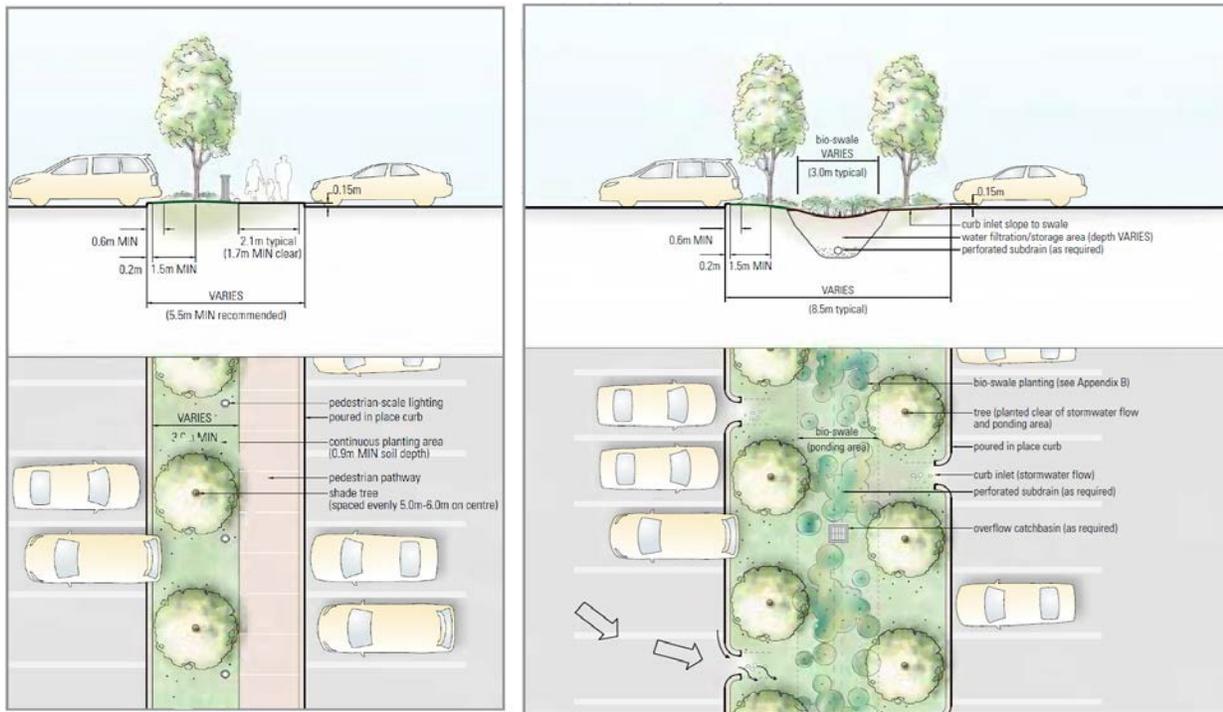
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commercial properties and match the natural beauty of the Almaguin area. Other benefits that can be considered:

- 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 Township of Armour.

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Schedule "A"

Trees	Shrubs	Partial Shade	Full Sun	Shoreline
Riparian Zone Balsam Fir red Maple Tamarack Blue Spruce White Spruce Colorado Spruce Red/White Pine Eastern Hemlock Medium Sized Chokecherry Pin Cherry Serviceberry Striped/Hard Maple Ironwood Eastern White Cedar Large Size 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 Rosa Swamp Rose Sweet Gala 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

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