

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH DUNDAS

BY-LAW NO. 2019-48

A BY-LAW to adopt Policy No. 10-2 – Tree Canopy Policy.

WHEREAS *the Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, provides that the powers of the Council shall be exercised by By-law;

AND WHEREAS *the Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, states that a Municipality and a local board shall adopt policies with respect to certain matters;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of South Dundas wish to adopt a Tree Canopy Policy.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of South Dundas hereby enacts as follows:

1. THAT Policy No. 10-2 be adopted in accordance with Schedule "A" as attached to this By-law.
2. AND THAT this By-law shall come into effect on the date of passing.

READ and passed in open Council, signed and sealed this 21st day of May 2019.

Original Signed by Mayor, Steven Byvelds

MAYOR

Original Signed by Clerk, Brenda Brunt

CLERK

Schedule "A" of
By-law No. 2019-48

POLICY MANUAL	Policy No. 10-2
Municipality of South Dundas	Effective Date: May 7, 2019
Subject: Tree Canopy & Natural Vegetation Policy	Department: Recreation

Introduction

The *Municipal Act*, 2001, as amended, 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 within the Municipality. In addition to fulfilling its legislative requirements, South Dundas recognizes the benefits that a healthy tree canopy and natural vegetation can have including:

- Reducing air pollution;
- Improving water quality;
- Providing habitat for flora and fauna;
- Mitigation against of erosion and subsidence; and,
- Providing public amenity and increasing property values

To that end, South Dundas has developed the following statement of policy regarding the protection and enhancement of South Dundas's tree canopy and natural vegetation.

Applicability

This policy applies to all lands in South Dundas.

It is the intent that this policy statement shall constitute the tree canopy and natural vegetation policy for South Dundas. Notwithstanding this, it is recognized that local Councils are required to develop an independent policy for their own Municipality. Nothing in this Policy is intended to conflict with the standards or policies of a local Municipality and this Policy shall not take priority over the policy of the individual Municipality.

This Policy does not take priority over any By-laws, plans, resolutions, or Agreements passed by Council pursuant to the *Municipal Act* or *Planning Act*.

Nothing in this Policy is intended to restrict normal farm practices as defined by the Normal Farm Practices Protection Act, including agroforestry.

Goals

The goals of this Policy are to:

1. Reduce the unwarranted loss of tree coverage in South Dundas and seek opportunities to increase tree coverage, where possible;
2. Improve data collection on tree canopy and natural vegetation, and implement regular monitoring of tree coverage;
3. Encourage the conservation of trees and vegetation through Planning Act approvals; and,
4. Encourage the implementation of best practices as it relates to managing, conserving, and enhancing the tree canopy and natural

vegetation in South Dundas.

Policies

Based on the above-noted goals, the following policies shall apply to tree canopy and natural vegetation within South Dundas.

Goal 1: Reduce the unwarranted loss of tree coverage in South Dundas and seek opportunities to increase tree coverage, where possible.

- a. Support, and participate where possible, in tree planting efforts by conservation authorities and other organizations or private enterprise.
- b. Where appropriate, and within financial capability, continue to acquire, through land dedications, conservation easements, and donations, woodlands, wetlands, and other natural heritage areas and features, and employ best practices in their maintenance.
- c. Maintain departmental, individual and associated roles and responsibilities for the management of Municipally owned areas of woodlands and other natural areas.

Goal 2: Improve data collection on tree canopy and natural vegetation and implement regular monitoring of tree coverage.

- d. Monitor, and report on, tree coverage throughout South Dundas on a regular basis.
- e. Develop and implement a region-wide natural heritage study, including mapping and land use policies.
- f. Partner with local conservation authorities, local municipalities, and the Province to share and improve data on tree canopy and natural vegetation.

Goal 3: Encourage the conservation of trees and vegetation through Planning Act approvals.

- g. Ensure that the Official Plan has current and appropriate policies addressing tree canopy and natural vegetation.
- h. Encourage the retention of mature trees and vegetation, and the planting of native tree species, when reviewing applications under the Planning Act.
- i. Explore opportunities to develop design guidelines, Municipal standards, and other guidance documents that address the maintenance and enhancement of tree canopy and natural vegetation.

Goal 4: Encourage the implementation of best practices as it relates to managing, conserving, and enhancing the tree canopy and natural vegetation in South Dundas.

- j. Encourage best practices in the maintenance of tree canopy and natural vegetation through resource and information-sharing on the Municipality's website, pamphlets, newsletters, and other publications.
- k. Participate in professional associations and / or develop professional relationships with other Municipalities to share forest management practices.
- l. Explore the development and implementation of Municipal Staff training to enhance awareness of tree health and of proper tree protection practices during construction and maintenance activities.