



# TREE PRESERVATION AND COMPENSATION POLICY UPDATE



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## Policy Background

- The York Region State of the Forest Report identifies a 44.4 % tree canopy cover for the Town of Georgina
- The Town of Georgina Official Plan identifies a Greenlands System and related policies, the purpose of which is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment, to encourage restoration of the quality and integrity of the ecosystems
- The current Policy was approved in 2016
- Council requested a review of the Policy in 2021





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## Existing Policy



The Existing Policy establishes the Town's practices for the preservation, protection and replacement of trees over 20cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)

Applicable planning applications are required to be supported by an Arborist Report that includes an assessment of all trees located on site.

The Existing Policy applies to private lands subject to Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, Draft Plan of Subdivision, Site Plan Approval and/or Consent applications where new construction is proposed through the planning act.



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## Work Plan



- In 2021, Council requested a review of the Existing Policy
- The Senior Landscape Architect position moved to the Development Services Department in 2022, a revised work plan and report was presented to Council on July 13, 2022.

In October 2023, through a Quick Bid Request for Acquisition (QBRFA), Tree Effects, a firm of arborists, were retained.



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## Surrounding Tree Protection

In 2023, York Region retained an external consultant to complete an environmental scan of public tree compensation practices in Ontario and Canada to determine best practices in relation to tree protection

Some highlights included are as follows,

1. City of Toronto Tree Protection Policy and Specifications
2. City of Hamilton Tree Protection Guidelines
3. Town of Aurora Tree Cutting By-laws





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# Policy Issues

A number of issues with the current Policy have arisen concerning scope and interpretation of the policy from external users and Town staff.

- Significant/Heritage Preservation*
  - COORDINATION WITH OTHER APPROVAL AUTHORITIES**
    - Circumstances for triggering an Arborist report*
    - Clarification on tree condition requirements for protection*
  - Exemptions**
    - Sizes for replacement tree*
    - Clarification on Post-approval process**
  - CIRCUMSTANCES FOR REFUSAL**
    - Tree Policy applicability Compensation values**
  - EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ASSISTANCE**
    - Effectiveness of the Policy on maintaining tree canopy*



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## Updating the Policy

- Addressing the Issues
- Layout
- Compensation
- Tree Preservation and Compensation Account
  1. Funding Sources
  2. Expenditures

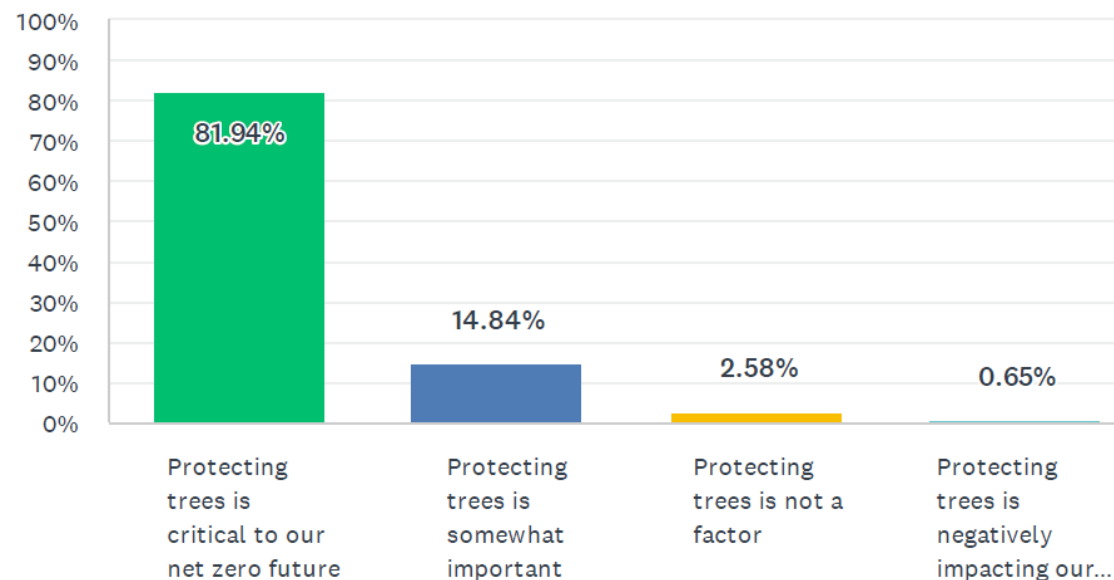
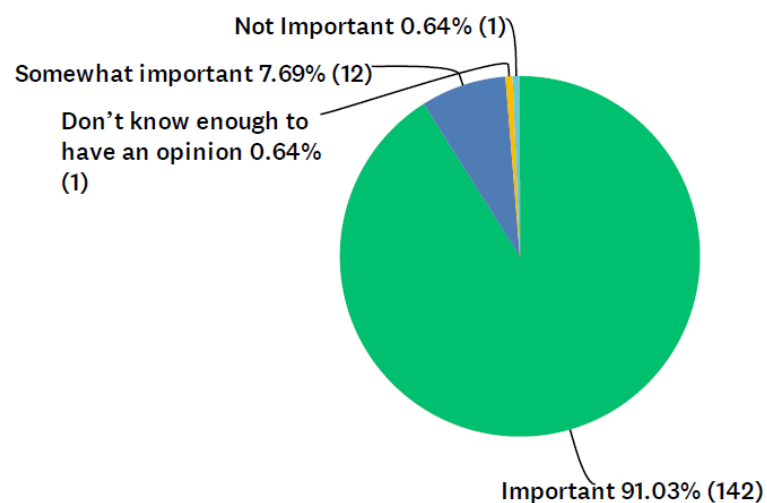
$$\text{Number of replacement trees} = \left( \left( \frac{\text{DBH of tree to be removed}}{\text{Replacement Tree Caliper Size}} \right) * \text{Condition rating} \right)$$



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# Public Comments

Through public open house, Online surveys and posting to social media, the Town has collected the following from our residents.







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## Stakeholder Comments

- Georgina Developers Association
- Development Engineering
- Community Services and Operations Division
- Legal Services, Municipal Law Enforcement Division
- Environmental Groups within Georgina
- Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee (GEAC)
- York Region Forestry Conservation and Urban Forestry Renewal  
Departments



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## Recomendations

1. That Council receive Report No. DS-2024-0015 prepared by the Planning Policy Division, Development Services Department dated May 29, 2024 respecting an update to the Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy;
2. That the Draft Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy attached as Appendix 2 to Report No. DS-2024-0015 be endorsed as the basis for further consultation with the public and stakeholders; and,
3. That Staff be directed to report back to Council on the results of further consultation and a recommended update to the Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy.



Questions?

