

**TOWN OF GEORGINA – OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
POLICY NO. OID-01**

<b>Subject:</b>  <b>TREE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION POLICY</b>	<b>Authority, Ref. &amp; Sec.</b>			
<b>Policy Classification:</b>	<b>Pages:</b>  <b>14</b>	<b>Year</b>  <b>2016</b>	<b>Month</b>  <b>07</b>	<b>Day</b>  <b>13</b>
<b>Recommended/Approved by:</b> <b>Director of Operations and Infrastructure</b>	<b>Contact Position for Inf.</b> <b>Landscape Architectural Planner</b>			

**Background**

The Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy detailed herein, establishes the Town of Georgina's policy for the preservation, protection and enhancement of *Significant trees* within Secondary Plans, *Woodlots*, *Hedgerows* or forests which specifically respects the development approval process permitted through the Planning Act. This policy applies to lands subject to applications for official plan amendment, draft plan of subdivision, site plan approval, respective amendments (permitting new construction only) and consent.

It is the intent of this policy to educate and increase awareness within the development industry of the importance of tree preservation and protection for the health of the community by:

- Encouraging the preservation of existing trees in the design of development plans prior to the submission of *Development Applications*;
- Encouraging the ongoing protection of trees during development activities on properties subject to *Development Applications*;
- Encouraging no net loss of trees through the planting of replacement trees; and
- Encouraging the planting of additional trees to enhance development properties and streetscapes beyond the requirements of boulevard trees.

Within the York Region Significant Woodland Study, (November 2005) the Town of Georgina's canopy cover was estimated at 39.3%, the highest of all York Region Municipalities. Of this, 38.4% of the tree canopy cover was identified as significant woodland.

**Strategic Plan Linkages**

The Town of Georgina strives to meet community expectations and has identified the environment as an economic engine within the 2009 Socioeconomic Mission and Strategic Plan.

The Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy will assist in achieving the Community Vision through the protection of land, air and water resources thus promoting the protection of Georgina's environmental character. Tree preservation and retention of single and *Woodlot* trees is considered vital to ensuring the environment can be maintained as an economic engine.

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## Official Plans

The 2010 York Region Official Plan identifies a 25% tree canopy cover target for the entire Region. Further to this, the Town of Georgina Official Plan identifies a Greenlands Systems Context and Components Purpose. The purpose of the Greenlands System is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment and encourage restoration of the quality and integrity of the ecosystems and natural processes, in order to improve the quality of life, maintain healthy communities, and promote environmentally *sustainable* resource use.

In the consideration of *Development Applications* in which there is a net loss of trees, the Town will require this loss to be compensated by the developer with the replacement of trees in a location to be determined by the Town.

### 1.0 General Policy

- 1.0 All *Significant trees*, as identified in Section 2.0 herein, situated in the Town of Georgina and subject to a *Development Application* may not be removed, injured, pruned or destroyed in any way without approval by the Director of Operations and Engineering of the Town of Georgina. Reference made to a tree herein, refers to any part of a tree, including the root system.
- 1.1 Notwithstanding 1.0 above, no tree identified as an endangered species (eg. Butternut) may be removed, injured, pruned or destroyed in any way without the permission of the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- 1.2 Tree pruning or root cutting of any tree located on a municipal boulevard or municipal park may only be done by Town of Georgina staff, qualified *Arborist* or other qualified professional as approved by the Town of Georgina, authorized staff of the Regional Municipality of York, an authorized public utility, including Hydro One, or the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, unless appropriate written authorization has been given by or a legal agreement has been executed with the municipality.
- 1.3 Trees that are identified to be preserved on the lands subject to a draft plan of subdivision or site plan approval or respective amendment(s), or consent application, must be protected by adequate fencing to the satisfaction of the Town. Recommended fencing shall be installed as shown in *Standard Detail 1-G, Temporary Tree Protection* and must adhere to the requirements as noted in *Standard Detail 2-G, Tree Protection Notes*. The Town of Georgina may request in special circumstances that temporary chain link fence and/or other rigid or substantial fencing such as plywood hoarding be used for specimen trees and to the satisfaction of the Director of Operations and Engineering during the course of construction of the project.
- 1.4 Tree protection fencing shall be installed at the outer edge of the *Tree Protection Zone* (TPZ) as identified in *Standard Detail 1-G, Temporary Tree Protection*.

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- Where temporary tree protection cannot be installed to the requirements of Detail 1-G, a minimum *Tree Protection Zone* must be determined by a qualified *Arborist* and will be generally governed by a ratio of 6cm radius per 1cm DBH as measured from the base of the tree and to the satisfaction of the Town *Arborist*.
- 1.5 Any tree to be protected must be identified on a *Survey* and/or a *Tree Inventory* and within a tree preservation and protection plan, prepared by a *Qualified tree professional*, as defined in the Glossary as a certified *Arborist*, registered Professional Forester, a qualified ecological consultant, or a Landscape Architect, qualified in determining the tree species, size, health and preservation requirements. (Refer to Section 3).
- 1.6 Anyone failing to adhere to the following policies and specifications detailed herein, will be financially responsible for any damage to or destruction of any trees, prior to, during and upon request by the owner for release of securities, approximately one year after the completion of the construction stage, and in the case of subdivisions, up to the assumption of the roads by the Corporation of the Town of Georgina. (Refer to Section 5).

## **2.0 Identification of Trees to be Protected and Preserved**

All trees to be preserved and protected must exhibit good biological health and condition for long-term survival. All trees to be preserved and protected shall be: native, some exotic but non-invasive species or identified on the Town's most current Recommended Plant List.

- 2.1 *Significant trees* are defined as a mature, small or large, tree specimen located on or within 6.0 metres of the property line of the lands subject to a *Development Application* described herein. The distance to the property line shall be measured from the trunk of the tree. (Refer to Glossary for definition of small or large trees).
- 2.2 A *Significant tree* may also possess the following additional characteristics:
- *Significant trees* of a rare or heritage/native species
  - Any tree of historical or cultural significance
  - *Celebration Trees* of any size
  - A *Special status tree*
- 2.3 Additional trees to be preserved and protected include:
- Trees located within a woodland area
  - Trees forming a *Cluster of Trees* (consisting of 5 or more trees and containing at least one *Significant tree*)
  - *Significant trees* defining a *Hedgerow* (consisting of 5 or more trees)
  - *Endangered species* as determined by the Ministry of Natural Resources

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### 3.0 Submission Requirements

The *Arborist* Report is a written report on existing vegetation that outlines the present conditions of the site and makes recommendations on the preservation of trees in consideration of the development proposed.

This document will be required and always accompanied by a Tree Preservation Plan. Two (2) copies of each document will be submitted for the review of the Town *Arborist* and the Department of Operations and Engineering - Parks and Facilities Division.

The following information will be required upon submission of a *Development Application* to the Town of Georgina Operations and Engineering Planning Department, as described above:

#### 3.1 **Arborist Report and Plan**

- 3.1.1 A *Survey* serving as a base plan signed and sealed by an Ontario Land Surveyor.
- 3.1.2 A *Tree Inventory* comprised of a *Survey* and shall include information regarding the geo-referenced location, size (measured using *dbh* and height), species, and condition within 6 metres of the outside edge of construction and must be completed by a *qualified tree professional*.
- 3.1.3 The *Arborist* report is required to provide a general site description including:
  - location
  - soil description
  - present land use
  - adjacent land uses
  - drainage
  - zoning
  - topography

In the case of *Woodlots*, groups or stand of trees, it is not necessary to identify, to give a condition description or to give a priority rating for individual trees. These items should be treated as units or blocks and can be covered by general statements.

- 3.1.4 All trees and units shall be given a condition description using the following terms:
  - Dead, poor, fair, good. Any specific notes should also be included with the conditions, Example: split trunk, specimen, girdled trunk, etc.
- 3.1.5 All trees and units shall be given a survivability rating for preservation using the following:

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- High, medium, and low. The rating shall be based on the factors which affect the survivability of the tree: vigor, age, condition, species, site conditions and anticipated modifications.
- 3.1.6 Recommended methods of tree preservation such as hoarding, construction of wells, specialized paving, shall be described and/or explained by the use of drawings in the report.
- 3.1.7 Provide replacement tree obligations and cash-in-lieu calculations in a legend in the Report and Planting Plan. Replacement tree planting and cash-in-lieu calculations are based on Tree Compensation Section 4.0.
- 3.1.7 The *Survey, Tree Inventory* and/or the Tree Preservation, Protection and Replacement Plan may be submitted as one drawing/plan at the discretion of the applicant's *qualified tree professional*.
- 3.1.9 The report shall be submitted in the following format and shall include:
- Sheet size - 21.5 cm x 28 cm (8 1/2" x 11")
  - Bound
- 3.1.10 Title to include:
- *Arborist* Report
  - Subdivision Name
  - Site Plan File Name
  - Date

### 3.2 Tree Preservation, Protection, and Replacement Plan

- 3.2.1 A Tree Preservation, Protection, and Replacement Plan for treed lands within 6 metres of the outside edge of construction shall include information regarding:
- Trees to be preserved and protected including tree protection fencing locations.
  - proposed lot and block layout
  - road patterns
  - zoning limits
  - building envelopes
  - existing and proposed grades
  - catch basins
  - easements
  - individual trees or groupings of trees to be preserved or removed
- 3.2.2 The following information will need to be included:
- Species(common and botanical name)
  - Condition

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- Size
- Health
- Vigor
- Defects: Decay, cavities, wounds, hazards, bark inclusion, cracks etc.
- Insects and disease
- Location (If this has bearing on the size and condition of the tree)
- Maintenance plan for trees to be preserved and protected; the preservation plan will include items that will mitigate any adverse effect of the proposed construction. Items that could be included but are not limited to:
  - Pruning (Cleaning, Thinning, /Reduction etc. to BMP for arboriculture)
  - Fertilization
  - Mulching
  - Aeration
  - Watering
  - Other
- Protection could include the installation of wood or stone mulch over the root zone for protection in addition to the tree protection fencing.
- If trees are to be moved, specific instructions will need to be added to ensure the survival of the transplanted tree(s)

### 3.3 Post-Submission: Tree Preservation, Protection and Replacement Plan

- 3.3.1 The Town shall retain the services of a *qualified tree professional* to undertake a peer review of any tree preservation, protection and replacement plan submitted, as required.
- 3.3.2 The Town shall be reimbursed by the applicant at cost for the services rendered by the Town's consultant.
- 3.3.3 The Town's qualified tree consultant shall, using best efforts, review and provide written comments to the Town's Operations and Engineering Department for consideration within 2 weeks of the date of receipt by the Town's *qualified tree professional*.
- 3.3.4 No tree removal shall take place prior to a decision by the approval authority on applications for official plan, zoning, draft plan, site plan, consent or minor variance.
- 3.3.5 Only emergency tree removal will be considered by the Town's Operation and Engineering Department if an imminently hazardous tree condition exists and must be removed immediately. Approved emergency tree removals must be approved in writing by the Town's *qualified tree professional* and are subject to compensation.

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- 3.3.6 No site works shall take place that may result in the damaging or destroying of trees identified as *Significant trees* on the Tree Preservation, Protection and Replacement Plan, prior to the approval by the Director of Operations and Engineering.
- 3.3.7 The Tree Preservation, Protection and Replacement Plan shall set out and identify the trees to be removed, preserved, protected and replaced. A recommendation of the action to be taken for each specific tree shall be included in table format for all existing tree species inventoried.
- 3.3.8 Replacement trees shall be protected by the implementation of a 2 year Warranty and by the implementation of a 2 year Tree Maintenance Program. Every replacement tree and planted boulevard tree shall be cared for by the applicant/developer as recommended and/or approved by the Town's *Qualified tree professional*, in the case of a plan of subdivision, 2 years after the assumption of the roads by the Town of Georgina.
- 3.3.9 The Town may also require the posting of securities for the purposes of tree preservation based on the value of the trees to be preserved within the Tree Preservation, Protection and Replacement Plan. Securities shall be calculated for trees which are identified to be preserved, protected and replaced as per the "Guide for Plant Appraisal" 9th (or latest) edition, published by the International Society of Arboriculture, or other recognized appraisal guide or method. The amount of the security deposit shall be 100% for individual trees to be protected. In the case of Woodlands to be protected, the value of the security deposit shall be based on the 6m woodland buffer as described in section 3.2.1 and calculated at \$50/ linear meter up to a maximum of \$50,000, to be preserved within the entire Tree Preservation, Protection and Replacement Plan. Generally, the Town shall hold securities for tree protection up to final assumption of all the works, as contemplated by the subdivision/condominium agreement, or in the case of site plans, final inspection for the release of securities by the Operations and Engineering Department. There may be special circumstances where a special clause may be included in a subdivision/condominium or site plan agreement, or as a condition of approval of a consent application to allow for the release of securities three years after the occupancy permit is issued, upon confirmation by the Town that the trees to be protected and preserved exhibit vigorous health and have not sustained any damage as a result of site development activities.
- 3.3.10 The Town will require replacement trees to be planted as agreed to in the appropriate agreement or as required in the decision made by the Director of Operations and Engineering.
- 3.3.11 A *Qualified tree professional* must undertake revisions to the Tree Plan that are required by the Town as a result of the Town's peer review, at the expense of the applicant/owner/developer, and must receive approval by the Director

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of Operations and Engineering Department, prior to approvals respecting the issuance of any municipal permits.

- 3.3.12 Should there be any disagreement between the review and assessment made by the Town's consultant and the plans submitted, the applicant may request a decision by the Town of Georgina Council.
- 3.3.13 The Director of Operations and Engineering and/or Council, may request the submission of a Tree Enhancement Plan (which may be made in combination with a Tree Preservation, Protection and Replacement Plan) as part of the Tree Management Strategy to achieve the environmental goals of the Official Plan and/or Strategic Plan.

#### **4.0 Tree Compensation**

Trees that have been identified to be preserved and protected in an approved Tree Preservation, Protection and Replacement Plan which cannot be preserved or protected due to development constraints can be removed. The Town will allow the use of a combination of methods to calculate tree replacement and Cash in Lieu requirements.

Tree compensation shall be required on all trees recommended for removal and greater than 20cm diameter at breast height. (dbh)

**Note:** Invasive trees are to be included in any tree replacement calculations or financial compensation requirements of this policy.

#### **4.1 Replacement Tree Ratio:**

- 4.1.1 The intent and preferred approach of the policy is to plant replacement trees on the subject lands if there is adequate soil volume of minimum 30 cubic metres per tree.
- 4.1.2 If development precludes re-planting then the Town's second most preferred approach of the policy is to provide other locations outside of the proposed development to offset the loss of trees on site.
- 4.1.3 Ratio tree planting replacements shall be as follows:
- **1:1 Ratio Replacement** – 1 New tree planted for every 1 tree removed. Species Description: Invasive or pioneer trees including but not limited to Poplar, Ash, Scots Pine, Elm, Manitoba Maple, Norway Maple, White Cedar, Siberian Elm, Boxelder, Hawthorne and American Beech.



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- 3:1 Ratio Replacement – 3 New trees planted for every 1 tree removed. Species Description: Non-native, desirable ornamental trees including but not limited to Norway Spruce, European Beech, European Larch, Silver Maple, White Fir, Shade Master Honey Locust, Dawn Redwood, White Spruce, Oriental Spruce, Weeping Willow and Scotch Elm.
- 4:1 Ratio Replacement – 4 New trees planted for every 1 tree removed. Species Description: Native, desirable ornamental trees including but not limited to Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Red Oak, White Oak, Bur Oak, White Birch, Yellow Birch, American Beech, Black cherry, Bitternut Hickory, Eastern Hemlock, Basswood, Ironwood, White Pine, Common Elder, White Pine Common Hackberry, American Beech, Black Walnut, Tamarack, Tulip Tree and White Spruce.

## 4.2 Cash-in-Lieu of Tree Planting:

- 4.2.1 If the Developer at the Town's discretion cannot meet the preferred options identified in section 4.1 Replacement Tree Ratio, the Developer shall provide cash-in-lieu of planting.
- 4.2.2 The Town shall utilize funds received in lieu of planting to maintain and grow the existing urban forest, to achieve replacement requirements elsewhere or to acquire lands of Natural Heritage significance within the Town of Georgina.
- 4.2.3 In determining the Cash-in-Lieu applicable, the following tree replacement cost shall apply:
- Cash-in-lieu will be based on the replacement cost of \$450 a tree (Supply, installation, 2 year maintenance and administration fee inclusive)
  - The replacement cost shall be applied to each tree removed and at the Replacement Tree Ratio as described in section 4.1.

Example: 1 Norway Spruce removed = 1 x \$ 450.00 ea.  
= \$ 450.00

3:1 Ratio Replacement = \$ 450 x 3  
TOTAL CASH-IN-LIEU = \$ 1, 350.00

## 4.3 Special Status Tree Replacement:

- 4.3.1 Large trees identified as *Heritage, Cultural, Historic or Celebration trees* or measured at 70 cm dbh or greater shall be valued using the Trunk Formula Method as authored and endorsed by the Council of Tree and Landscape appraisers and updated by the Regional Plant appraisal Committee of ISA Ontario.

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- 4.3.2 Efforts should be made, to the satisfaction of the Director of Operations and Engineering, to maintain native, heritage, culturally significant, historic or Celebration Trees that cannot be preserved or protected and/or trees that have been damaged or destroyed after submission of an approved tree plan with trees of the same species and size or replacement equivalent.

## 5.0 Compliance

It is the intent of this Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy to ensure that adherence to the policy is maintained on all new development sites in the Town of Georgina and to protect and preserve *significant trees* as identified in a tree plan. However, it is recognized that alternate methods of compliance are required in order to balance growth and development within the Town. As such, the Town has identified two alternate methods for calculating replacement value for trees that need to be removed or have sustained damage as a result of construction and/or development.

- 5.1 The owner/applicant shall provide financial compensation to the Town for damaged or destroyed trees that have been identified as trees to be protected or preserved in a tree plan submitted as part of a Development Application. Compensation shall be calculated based on the replacement methods identified in Section 4.0 Compensation.
- 5.2 Trees that have been identified in an approved tree plan as trees to be preserved or protected and have been damaged or destroyed as confirmed by the Department of Operations and Engineering (after receiving Council approval of the official plan amendment, draft plan of subdivision approval, consent approval, or site plan approval and prior to the Town's assumption of a subdivision, receipt of the final and binding notice of a consent application, or request for release of securities in the case of a site plan approval), shall be replaced on public property at the ratio rate identified in Section 4.1 Replacement Tree Ratio and planted at a location satisfactory to the Director of Operations and Engineering in consultation with the Director of Planning and Building. Funding for the purchase and planting of replacement trees shall be derived from drawing upon the letter of credit. Should the letter of credit be insufficient to cover the replacement plantings, the owner/applicant shall be contacted by the Director of Operations and Engineering or his or her designate, to work out an acceptable replacement method to achieve the required replacement plantings.
- 5.3 Trees identified in an approved tree plan to be preserved or protected, that sustain damage or are destroyed after the Town has no obligations for approvals, shall be valued as based in Section 4.2 Cash-in-Lieu of tree Planting and the current owner/applicant shall be responsible for the financial requirements and direct payment to the Town accordingly.
- 5.4 Replacement trees are recommended to be planted a minimum of 4.5 metres from any building, fence, walkways or permanent structure that may interfere

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with the growth of the tree. However, it is understood that site specific consideration is necessary due to planting constraints as approved by the Director of Operations and Engineering.

## 6.0 Effective Date

This policy shall come into effect after approval of the policy by the Town of Georgina Council and shall apply to all new official plan bylaw amendment applications, draft plan and site plan applications and amendments and consent applications, revisions or amendments submitted to existing applications being processed, and shall be applied to all development approvals including extension to draft plan of subdivision conditional approvals.

## Glossary of Terms

Arborist: a person who is a specialist or expert in the area of the care and maintenance of trees and includes an *Arborist* qualified by the Ontario College of Trades, an *Arborist* / BCMA certified qualified by the International Society of Arboriculture, a consulting *Arborist* registered with the American Society of Consulting *Arborists*, a registered professional forester or a person with other similar qualifications as approved by the Commissioner.

Caliper: the diameter of a tree measured 30 cm above ground level.

Celebration Tree: a tree native to Ontario, planted by the Town of Georgina, in a municipal park, representing a living dedication, commemorating the life and in memory of a deceased person(s), also referred to as a memorial tree

Cluster of Trees: a group of 5 or more trees comprising a maximum area of less than 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres)

Condition of Tree: is based on factors identified in the ISA methodology for determining condition. For the purposes of this policy, the condition of a tree shall be described as excellent, good, fair, poor, dead/dying, or maintenance recommended.

dbh: the diameter of a tree at breast height; the diameter of the tree measured 1.4 metre above ground level.

Development Application: an application requiring approval of the Planning Department for which a *Tree Inventory* and Tree Preservation, Protection, and Replacement Plan are required, specifically, applications for draft plan of subdivision and site plan approval and respective amendments, and consent.

Exotic Specimen: a tree specimen introduced from another country that is not native to the place where it was observed/found.

Hedgerow: a fence or defining boundary formed by a row of closely planted shrubs or trees and comprising a minimum of 5 plants

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*Heritage/Cultural tree*: a successional or legacy tree having *Natural Heritage* or cultural significance.

*Historic tree*: a tree associated with a notable local or regional historical event, person, structure, or landscape.

*Invasive specimen*: a tree specimen having the tendency to disrupt and/or invade a *Natural Heritage* area through natural succession as identified by a *qualified tree professional*.

*Landmark tree*: a tree that marks a locality, an event of historical significance and is designated for protection and preservation.

*Mature Tree*: a perennial woody plant having obtained a diameter at breast height (1.4 meters) of at least 30 cm and/or a mature height of 10 metres and over.

*Native tree*: a tree growing naturally in Canada, being indigenous to the area.

*Natural Heritage*: *Natural Heritage* is all living organisms, natural areas and ecological communities which we inherit and leave to future generations (<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/glossary.cfm#P>).

*Qualified tree professional*: a person, including an *Arborist*, a registered professional forester, a qualified ecological consultant, or a landscape architect, who through related training and on-the-job experience, is qualified to determine the size, species and health and *Condition of Trees*, and having at least 5 years of practical tree care experience working as a practitioner.

*Rare tree*: a distinct tree specimen, seldom occurring or found in the local area. A *Rare tree* specimen may be also attributed to clear cutting events that have reduced the population of the species to approaching extinction since the occurrence of human settlement of the area, as identified by the *Natural Heritage* Information Centre of the Ministry of Natural Resources. It may be an endangered species as determined by a Species at Risk (SAR) assessment conducted by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

*Significant tree*: a *Special status tree*, or a mature tree specimen located on or within 6m of the property line of the lands subject to a *Development Application* described herein.

*Special status tree*: regardless of size, a tree that may be described as or have a heritage, historic, landmark, legacy, memorial, celebratory or special interest significance that should be protected and preserved.

*Survey*: a detailed map of an area of land, including its boundaries, area, and elevation, using geometry and trigonometry to measure angles and distances prepared by an Ontario Land Surveyor.

*Tree Enhancement/Management Strategy*: a long term strategy recommending phased tree plantings and *Woodlot* management practices in addition to the minimum requirements of the tree preservation, protection, and replacement plan.

*Tree Inventory*: a list of trees on the property and within 6 meters of the boundary of the property, including information regarding location, species, condition and size.

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Tree Protection Zone (TPZ): a space which includes both the root and canopy area of a tree at the tree crown drip line. Temporary fencing is typically installed at the perimeter of the TPZ to prohibit construction access to prevent damage to trees.

Tree Maintenance Program: a program to ensure the health, safety and vigor of the trees identified to be maintained, either original plantings or existing trees to be cared for, replaced if necessary, pruned, pest and fungus control, removed, storm damage repaired, staked for a period as recommended by the applicants consulting *Arborist* and approved by the Town

Woodlands: any wooded area comprised of a dense growth of trees having a minimum area of 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres), including forest, *Woodlots* and riparian areas.

Woodlot: any wooded area of up to 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres), not having less than: 400 trees of any size per acre; 300 trees measuring more than two inches in diameter per acre; 200 trees measuring more than five inches in diameter per acre; or 100 trees measuring more than eight inches in diameter per acre. (York Region Significant *Woodlands* Study, November 2005).

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**Recommended Plant List for Replacement Plantings**

Deciduous Species	Coniferous Species
American Beech** <sup>1</sup>	White Cedar**
Northern Catalpa <sup>1</sup>	European Larch
Horse Chestnut <sup>1</sup>	Red Pine**
Kentucky Coffee Tree** <sup>1</sup>	White Pine**
Common Hackberry**	Scotts Pine
Hickories**	Blue Spruce
Linden (various specimen)	Norway Spruce
Shademaster Locust**	White Spruce**
Sugar Maple**	Tamarack**
Varieties of Silver Maple**	Fir**
Burr Oak**	Gingko
Red Oak**	
White Oak**	
London Plane	
Tulip Tree**	
Black Walnut**	
Weeping Willow	
Black Willow	
Globe Maple <sup>2</sup>	
Hedge Maple <sup>2</sup>	
Crabapple <sup>2</sup>	
Japanese Tree Lilac <sup>2</sup>	
Hawthorne <sup>2</sup>	
Serviceberry <sup>2</sup>	

**Notes:**

**This list is not exhaustive and serves the purpose of providing examples of recommended replacement trees. You may consult with Operations and Infrastructure Department staff for consideration of additional tree species.**

\*\* - denotes *Native trees*

<sup>1</sup> - examples of large trees

<sup>2</sup> - examples of small trees

**Cross-References**

Georgina Official Plan

Draft Plan of Subdivision Submission Requirements

Site Plan Approval Submission Requirements

Region of York Tree Bylaw #TR-0004-2005-036

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Policy Classification:	Pages:  XX	Year  2024	Month  XX
Approved by Council:	Contact Position: SENIOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT		

## Policy Statement

The purpose of the Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy is to establish standards and a process for the protection, preservation, compensation and maintenance of trees, through the *Development Application* process, as permitted through the Planning Act.

The intent of the policy is to educate and increase awareness on the importance of a healthy *urban forest* and associated *tree canopy* coverage on the health of the community, and to encourage and support the following:

- The preservation of the existing healthy tree canopy in the design of development plans and the submission of *Development Applications*;
- The preservation and enhancement of the Town of Georgina's environmental, economic, and social character of mature landscapes;
- The ongoing protection of trees during development-related activities to promote proper site planning and construction practices, to prevent the removal or destruction of trees and vegetation, and avoid unnecessary disturbance to the Town's *Natural Vegetation*;
- The vision and direction of the Town's Official Plan;
- The goals and objectives in the Town's Corporate Strategic Plan;
- Compliance with the York Region Forest Conservation By-law;
- To achieve a net zero loss of trees through the planting of replacement trees; and,
- The planting of additional trees to enhance developments and streetscapes beyond the requirements of boulevard trees.

## 1 Background

### 1.1 Regional Municipality of York

The York Region State of the Forest, Reporting Progress on Canopy and Woodland Cover, identifies a 44.4 % canopy cover for Georgina, with a recommended target range of 46%-47% by 2051. Of this

44.4%, 9.6 % within settlement areas, the areas in which most *development applications* pertain to. Since settlement areas have ongoing development pressures, continued planting and protection efforts in these areas should be the focus of the replanting objectives.

## 1.2 Town of Georgina Official Plan

The Town of Georgina Official Plan identifies a Greenlands Systems, context and components. The purpose of the Greenlands System is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment, to encourage restoration of the quality and integrity of ecosystems and natural processes, and to improve the quality of life, maintain healthy communities, and promote an environmentally *Sustainable* resource use.

The Official Plan requires the protection and enhancement of *Natural Heritage* features, and ecological offsetting through the development process where the loss of *Natural Heritage* features is unavoidable, an example being *Woodlots*.

## 1.3 Corporate Strategic Plan 2023-2027

The Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy is an initiative that responds to the Strategic Pillar of Advancing Environmental Sustainability and the following goals:

1. Celebrate and respect Georgina's natural environment, including Lake Simcoe.
2. Support Georgina's resilience through environmental sustainability and climate mitigation and adaptation.

## 2 General Policy

1. No person, applicant or representative, indirectly or directly, shall remove, harm, destroy or prune any tree within the Town, without first providing an *Arborist Report* for review and approval by the Town, when undergoing a *Development Application*, unless otherwise exempted, in Section 2.3 Exemptions.
2. Notwithstanding 1 above, no tree identified as an endangered species (e.g. Butternut) may be removed, injured, pruned or destroyed in any way without the permission of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.
3. Tree pruning or root cutting of any tree located on a municipal boulevard or municipal park may only be undertaken by Town of Georgina staff, a qualified *Arborist* or other qualified professional as approved by the Town of Georgina, authorized staff of the Regional Municipality of York, an authorized public utility including Hydro One, or the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, unless appropriate written authorization has been given by or a legal agreement has been executed with the Town.
4. Trees that are identified to be preserved on the lands subject to a *Development Application* must be protected by adequate fencing to the satisfaction of the Town. Fencing shall be installed as shown in the detail 'Town of Georgina Tree Preservation Protection Fence Standard Detail' located within Development Design Criteria, as amended. Temporary Tree Protection must adhere to the requirements as noted in the Standard Detail. The Town of Georgina may require, in special circumstances, that a temporary chain link fence and/or



other rigid or substantial fencing such as plywood hoarding be used and be maintained, during construction of the project.

5. Tree protection fencing shall be installed at the outer edge of the *Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)* as identified in Standard Detail, Temporary Tree Protection. Specifics can be found in Section 6 'Tree Protection During Construction'. This fencing must be in place before any construction works or site alteration works begin. Where temporary tree protection cannot be installed, a minimum *Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)* must be determined by an *Arborist*. *Tree Protection Zone* requirements and specifics in relation to determining the TPZ can be found in Section 6.1 Tree Protection Zone.
6. Any tree to be protected must be identified on a *Survey* and Tree Inventory Report within a Tree Preservation and Compensation Plan.
7. Anyone failing to adhere to the following policies and requirements will be financially responsible for any damage to, or destruction of, any trees prior to, during and after construction.
8. Written consent is required if any part of a tree including *TPZ* is located within 10 meters of a *Development Envelope on Adjacent Lands*.

## 2.1 Applicability

The policy applies to lands subject to the following types of *Development Application(s)*:

- Official Plan Amendment
- Zoning By-Law Amendment
- Draft Plan of Subdivision
- Draft Plan of Condominium
- Site Plan Approval
- Minor Variance
- Consent

No tree removal or tree injury shall take place prior to a decision by the Town on *Development Applications* submitted the aforementioned list.

## 2.2 Arborist Report Criteria

An *Arborist Report* is required and applies to any tree defined as the following:

- A stem size is at or over 10 cm diameter at breast height (*DBH*) or has multiple stems which cumulatively add to or exceed 30 cm (*D30*) stem size.
- Located on or within 10 metres of the *Development Envelope*, including but not limited to the location of *Site Disturbance* on the lands subject to a *Development Application*. In the instance that the entire parcel is being developed, trees 10 metres from the property line must be included in the *Arborist Report*.
- Evaluated by a certified *Arborist* as not presenting a medium to high hazard risk as per the tree risk rating system used and defined by the International Society of Arborists (I.S.A.)

standards for Tree Risk Assessment.

- A tree of any size, *Tree Condition* or risk rating that belongs to a species that is protected by provincial or federal laws as 'At Risk or Endangered'.
- A tree that has been designated as a *Heritage Tree* by the Ontario Urban Forest Council including but not limited to the Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) and Eastern Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*).
- A tree that has been designated by the Town as a *Significant Tree* under its inventory program. A *Significant Tree* is reviewed and approved by Council as having importance within the community for its historical, environmental, or cultural value.

## 2.3 Exemptions

Exemptions to this policy include the following:

### 2.3.1 Commercial Nurseries or Tree farms

Trees that are being grown ornamentally (e.g. Christmas trees) or for landscaping stock.

### 2.3.2 Emergencies/ Hazards/ Diseased

Trees recommended for removal in order to protect public safety or property from imminent danger, as defined by the I.S.A and/ or identified by the Town. Trees that are diseased (i.e. Emerald Ash Borer) or otherwise defined by the I.S.A. Exempt trees include Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), European/black alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), any tree of the genus Ash (*Fraxinus sp.*) not subject to an Emerald Ash Borer treatment program, and any tree of the genus Buckthorn (*Rhamnus sp.*).

### 2.3.3 Municipal, Regional, Provincial and Federal Projects

Any project by or on behalf of the Town, Regional Municipality of York, Province of Ontario or Government of Canada does not require an *Arborist Report*. Although exempt, these projects are expected to uphold the intent of the Policy.

### 2.3.4 By-laws

Any tree that is required for removal as part of an Order under the Property Standards By-law of the Town.

## 3 Submission Requirements

This following information will be required upon the submission of a *Development Application*.

### 3.1 Requirements for the Arborist Report

Any tree that meets the criteria listed in Section 2.2 Arborist Report Criteria, is required to be included in the *Arborist Report*. The following information is required for submission of the *Arborist Report* attached to the application:

1. Title including project name, site plan and date.
2. Contact Information and professional qualification details.
3. A *Survey* serving as a base plan signed and sealed by an Ontario Land Surveyor or aerial photos as defined for *Minor Developments* above to show where the study area is located.
4. A *Tree Inventory* comprised of a tree location plan based on the *Survey* and/or aerial and inventory chart/table. Trees are to be reviewed inside the site and within 10 metres of the property line or outside edge of a *Development Envelope*. Trees can be located individually or in a grouping, *Woodlot* or *Hedgerow*. See Appendix A for sample table.

For Individual Trees:

- Tree number – corresponding to numbered tree location points on the *Tree Protection Plan*.
- Species – including both common name and botanical (scientific) binomial name. If known, cultivar or variety shall be identified.
- Diameter at breast height (DBH) or Diameter at 30cm (D30) for multi-stemmed trees.
- Crown diameter – estimated in metres at the widest point of the *Crown*.
- *Tree Condition Rating* – described as, Good, Satisfactory, Potential Trouble, Declining, Death Imminent, and Dead. See Appendix B table for clarification on ratings.
- *Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)* – the minimum required *Tree Protection Zone*, in metres. The size of the TPZ shall be determined using the formula outlined in Section 6.1 TPZ.
- Ownership – The Town, York Region, Private, etc.
- Proposed Action – Preserve, Transplant, Injure, Remove.
- Notes – information regarding the tree, proposed *Site Disturbance* within the TPZ, boulevard, etc.
  - For all trees proposed for removal, the inventory table shall clearly state the reason for the proposed removal. The tree location should dictate the *Development Envelope*, if known, and include the proposed change to existing grade.
  - For all trees proposed for injury, the inventory table shall clearly state the proposed form of *Encroachment* into the TPZ.
  - For all Street Trees within or adjacent boulevards with enhanced streetscape elements, include a brief description of the location type (e.g., landscape bed, boulevard planter, centre median, tree grate planter, etc.).

For *Tree Groups* (i.e., trees less than 10cm DBH and described as *Natural Vegetation*, or *Tree Groups* of 3 or more trees), the Inventory shall include the following information:

- *Tree Group* number – corresponding to numbered *Tree Group* polygons on the *Tree Protection Plan*.

- Species composition – the approximate distribution, by percentage (%), of the three most commonly-occurring tree species in the *Tree Group*. Any species other than the three most commonly occurring species can be listed in the ‘Notes’ column.
  - Tree Count – the total number of trees in the *Tree Group*.
  - *Tree Condition* rating – the overall *Tree Condition* of the *Tree Group*, as described in *Tree Condition* rating in Appendix B.
  - *Tree Protection Zone* (TPZ) – the minimum required *Tree Protection Zone*, in metres. The size of the TPZ shall be determined using the formula outlined in TPZ rating in Section 6.1 TPZ.
  - Ownership.
  - Proposed Action – Preserve, Injure, Remove
  - Notes – additional pertinent information regarding the *Tree Group*, proposed *Site Disturbance*, etc.
    - For all trees proposed for removal, the inventory table shall clearly state the reason for the proposed removal; if known, include the proposed change to existing grade if construction grading limits are the reason provided.
    - For all *Tree Groups* proposed for injury, the inventory table shall clearly state the proposed form of *Encroachment* into the TPZ.
5. A report is required to accompany the *Inventory* to provide a general site description including:
- Location.
  - Methodology.
  - Description of site.
  - Land uses on site and adjacent.
  - Drainage.
  - Zoning.
  - Topography.
  - Trees of special concern.
  - Specifications and recommendations.
  - Scheduled work plan for tree inspections during and post- construction.
  - Work plan for remediation of trees damaged during construction.
  - Photographs.
6. A *Tree Preservation and Compensation Plan* for all trees identified within the *Inventory* to be preserved and removed/compensated shall include all information needed to assess potential impacts of the proposed development. This will also include the proposed tree protection to help mitigate impacts of disturbance and the following information and specifications:
- Trees to be preserved and protected including the protecting fencing

locations corresponding to the provided inventory;

- Trees to be removed;
- Proposed block and layout, servicing and utilities, roads (if site plan);
- Easements, right of ways, restrictions, floodplain, regulated area, property lines;
- Water features;
- Building envelopes (if known);
- Location of vegetation group or *Tree Groups* and outer edges of the *Dripline* (the *Development Envelope* to be 10 metres off the *Dripline* in vegetation groups to be preserved;
- Proposed action (removals in red, protect in green);
- Solid circle for minimum TPZ for every inventoried tree to be preserved, measured from the trees centre line. TPZ for *Tree Groups* to be determined by the outer most trees within the group;
- Note proposed damage inside *Critical Root Zone* (CRZ) and percent of damage from branch pruning of the trees proposed for retention represented with a hatch;
- Standard drawing of the proposed method of tree protection; and.
- Not exceed 1:500 and all measurements in metric only.

7. A *Tree Compensation Table* is required for the removal of trees. The compensation table will identify calculations for both options. This shall accompany the *Tree Preservation and Compensation Plan* noted above and reference the trees proposed to be removed. Compensation may be provided in the form of replacement plantings, through payment of equivalent compensation value or a combination of both. See Appendix C for a sample of Compensation Table.

#### Tree Planting Ratio

The number of replacement trees is calculated as follows:

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

\*Replacement Tree *Caliper* size is 75mm. *DBH* taken from *Tree Inventory* for trees to be removed. Please refer to the *Inventory Table* for *Tree Condition* ratings and their respective percentages.

#### Compensation Value for Individual Trees

Compensation value is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Compensation Value (\$)} = \text{Number of replacement trees} \times \text{Replacement Cost}$$

The Replacement cost for a given tree is based on the Town's cost for a new tree and maintaining it in good condition, under warranty for 2 years following the year of planting, which typically includes 3 growing seasons. The 2024 replacement value for deciduous trees is \$900 and \$850 for conifers. This replacement value will be re-evaluated every three years to depict current market value. Certain tree species are exempt from compensation. Refer to Section 2.3 Exemptions. The number of replacement trees will be taken from the *Compensation Table* provided by the applicant within the *Arborist Report*.

### Compensation Value Tree Groups

Compensation value is calculated as follows: 2:1 for Wooded and 1:1 *Natural Vegetation*

$$\text{Compensation Value (\$)} = [(\text{wooded area} \times 2) + (\text{NV area} \times 1)] \times \$ 50,013.00/\text{ha}$$

8. A *Maintenance Plan* for trees to be preserved, protected and replanted will include items that will mitigate any adverse effect of the proposed construction. These could include but are not limited to the following:

- Pruning
- Staking
- Fertilization, beginning of second growing period
- Mulching
- Aeration
- Watering (water bags, or water trucks) Once a week for the first 2 years
- Timing of above

## 4 Review

### 4.1 Approvals

The Town will approve the *Arborist Report*, for the development proposal, if it adheres to the Policy.

### 4.2 Refusals

The Town will reject/refuse a proposal for tree removal or injury including but not limited to the following situations where:

- Environmentally sensitive areas, ecological systems, *natural heritage*, or contours will not be adequately protected and preserved;
- Erosion or flood control will be negatively impacted; and,
- Trees proposed for removal are in the following categories:

- a. Belongs to a species that is protected by provincial or federal laws as 'At Risk or Endangered' including but not limited to the Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) and Eastern Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- b. Designated as a *Heritage Tree* by the Ontario Urban Forest Council.
- c. Designated by the Town as a *Significant* tree.
- d. A municipally owned tree located within Parklands or a Town road allowance.

## 5 Post-Acceptance

- The Applicant shall retain the services of a certified *Arborist* to undertake the requirements for acceptance to the satisfaction of the Town.
- The requirements of the approved *Arborist Report* shall be incorporated into the appropriate Development Agreement. Where a Development Agreement is not applicable, *Arborist Report* requirements shall be implemented by a Letter of Undertaking to the satisfaction of the Town.
- Replacement trees shall be planted after all construction activities have been completed, unless otherwise approved by the Town.
- Replacement trees shall be subject to a 2-year warranty period and a maintenance program which is equal to 3 growing seasons. Every replacement tree shall be cared for by the applicant/owner as recommended and/or approved by the Town's *Qualified Tree Professional*,
- The Town will require the posting of securities for the purposes of tree preservation based on the value of the trees. Securities shall be calculated from the *Compensation Table* provided. The amount of the security deposit shall be 100% of the total value of compensation as per compensation table provided within the *Arborist Report*. The Town shall hold securities for tree protection up to final assumption of all the works, as contemplated by the subdivision/condominium agreement, or in the case of site plans, final inspection for the release of securities by the Town's *Qualified Tree Professional*. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, debit, or letter of credit.
- Should there be any disagreement between the review and assessment made by the Town and/ or consultant of the plans submitted, the applicant may request a decision by Town of Georgina Council.
- The Town may require the submission of a *Tree Enhancement Plan* (which may be made in combination with a Tree Preservation and Compensation Plan) if the proposed tree removals are an *encroachment* to a buffer area.
- Should the property, subject to the *Development Application* be sold before the tree replacement planting occurs, or before the end of the warranty period has concluded and/or before the tree security period has finished. It is the responsibility of the original owner or applicant of the property to pay out, and/or fulfill the conditions of the letter of undertaking. In the event that the conditions can not be fulfilled the Town reserves the right to withhold the release of securities.

## 5.1 Compliance

The owner/applicant shall provide financial compensation to the Town for damaged or destroyed trees that have been identified as trees to be protected or preserved in an *Arborist Report* submitted as part of a *Development Application*. Compensation shall be calculated based on the replacement methods identified in Section 3.2 Compensation.

Trees that have been identified in an approve *Arborist Report* as trees to be preserved or protected and which have been damaged or destroyed shall be replaced at a compensation rate using the methods outlined within Section 3.2 Compensation to the satisfaction of the Town.

## 5.2 Cash in Lieu of Tree Replacement

Should appropriate locations not be available for replacement trees, the applicant can provide cash in lieu which is to be used towards the Town's replanting program in maintaining and growing the existing canopy. The Town will determine through the replanting program, the locations in which trees shall be planted to enhance and achieve canopy targets. The cash in lieu amount is the compensation value equated in the *Compensation Table*.

# 6 Tree Protection Requirements During Construction

The following are requirements during construction for a list of potential construction impacts during construction. See Appendix D.

- Upon receiving the necessary approvals and prior to the commencement of tree removals, all areas designated for preservation must be flagged in the field. All designated preservation areas must be left standing and undamaged during the removal work. All removals must be felled into the development area. The removals are to be completed outside of the *Migratory Bird Nesting Season*. Removals may take place during this restricted time only if the requirements of the Migratory Birds Convention Act are met and nesting activity is routinely monitored by a qualified individual(s) to the satisfaction of the Town.
- Upon completion of tree removal, all felled trees are to be removed from the site, and all brush chipped and removed, unless otherwise directed. No lumber or brush from the clearing is to be stored on the site, and all brush, roots, and wood debris must be shredded.
- Tree Protection Fencing will be installed along retained tree areas adjacent to areas where construction will encroach into the adjacent tree edge. Refer to the detail in Section 6.1.
- Areas within the drip line of the trees designated for preservation are not to be used for any type of storage (e.g. storage of debris, construction material, surplus soils, and construction equipment). No trenching or tunneling for underground services shall be located within the *Tree Protection Zone* or *Dripline* of trees designated for preservation within or adjacent to the construction zone.
- Rigging cables or hardware shall not be attached to protected trees, nor shall any



contaminants be dumped within the protected areas. Further, no contaminants shall be dumped or flushed where they may encounter the feeder roots of the trees.

- If it is necessary to remove additional limbs or portions of trees, after construction has commenced, the *Arborist* or project administrator is to be informed and the removal is to be executed in accordance with arboricultural techniques, by a certified and licensed *Arborist*.
- Any roots greater than 2.5cm in diameter that will be impacted by development outside the TPZ shall be cut cleanly across the perpendicular axis of the root. Pruned root ends shall point obliquely downwards. The exposed roots should not be allowed to dry out. The contractor shall discuss watering of the roots with the owner/applicant and contract administrator prior to pruning to ensure that optimum soil moisture is maintained during construction and backfilling operations. Backfilling should be completed with clean, uncontaminated *Native Topsoil* as a preference, and only an imported growing medium when *Native Topsoil* will not be achieved.
- Where required, silt barrier other fencing shall conform to and be located outside all TPZ zones.

## 6.1 Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)

The intent of tree protection measures at the limit of the TPZ is to prevent *Adverse Impacts*. Unless otherwise approved by the Town the following activities are prohibited within the TPZ:

- Storage of equipment or machinery
- Stockpiles
- Placement of temporary structures
- Digging, trenching, excavating
- Changes in grading
- Operating machinery or equipment
- Attachments of any kind to the tree

The size of the TPZ is represented as a radius measurement expressed in metres from the base of the tree outwards and is determined by the *DBH* of the trees main stem. For multi-stemmed trees, the *D30* is used to determine TPZ radius.

### 6.1.1 Size of Tree Protection Zone

The size of the TPZ is calculated by the Truck Diameter Method which is the *DBH* multiplied by factors ranging from 6-18 depending on the species and its tolerance to disruption and in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture (I.S.A.) "Managing Trees During Construction Best Practices Manual". The tree protection fencing shall be installed in accordance with the Town of Georgina's Standard Tree Protection Detail.

- a) Tree Protection Zones (TPZ) will include a 1.37 m high hoarding around the complete *Tree* where possible;
- b) Hoarding will surround the *Tree* to a minimum radius of 2.5 m for the first 30 cm *DBH*;
- c) Hoarding will be constructed with a minimum framing supported with corner ties and filled

with high visibility manufactured fencing. The hoarding will be staked into the ground, to ensure that construction activities will not intrude into the TPZ;

- d) If lateral branches are extended outside the TPZ, then construction activities shall not come into contact with those branches, any pruning is to be done by an *Arborist* and shall commence prior to any construction activities. Any roots greater than 2.5 cm in diameter that will be impacted by development outside the TPZ shall be cut cleanly; and,
- e) Hoarding radiuses increase 0.5 metres beyond the 2.5 metres for every 10cm *DBH* increase, examples below
  - 30cm *DBH* = 2.5 m
  - 40cm *DBH* = 3.0 m
  - 50cm *DBH* = 3.5 m

The tree protection fencing shall bear signage that includes the following:

- Clearly identify the TPZ area.
- Contact information.
- State that the barrier shall not be damaged or removed.

The signage shall be constructed of durable material measuring no less than 400mm x 600 mm.

## 7 Procedures

### 7.1 Replanting

- Street trees will not be counted towards replacement planting requirements.
- The Compensation ratio shall be upheld regardless of tree species except for identified exceptions.
- The intent of the policy is for deciduous trees to be replaced by deciduous trees and conifers to be replaced by conifers if final habitats are conducive.
- Hedging cedars or other large shrubs are not considered adequate replacement value for the removal of trees. Species must be defined as *Trees* under the Canadian Nursery Standards and a list of suggested trees can be found in Appendix E.
- Tree replacement shall include *Native Species*; utilize insect and disease resistant trees unless determined by the Town.
- Adequate soil volume levels for new tree planting with a minimum of 30 cubic metres of planting soil per tree.
- Replacement trees are to be planted on the same property as the *Arborist Report* was prepared for, unless otherwise specified by the Town Replacement trees shall be planted in accordance with the Town's standards and specifications for tree planting.
- Replacement trees are recommended to be planted a minimum of 4.5 metres from any building, fence, walkways, or permanent structure that may interfere with the new root system.
- All replanting plans must be approved by the Director of Development Services or delegate.

## 7.2 Maintenance

Tree maintenance is important for ensuring the health of a tree. Adequate maintenance can reduce the stresses placed on newly planted trees. The greatest stress on newly planted trees is water stress. Watering is one of the most important parts of tree maintenance. Mulching trees acts to conserve water on site, to minimize the compaction of the soil and root systems, and keep machinery and equipment off TPZ zones of newly planted trees. Fertilizing and mulching of trees is a widespread practice to ensure that proper nutrients are available to the tree in nutrient-poor soils.

The recommendations included within the submitted *Maintenance Plan* must be upheld and reports showing the dates in which work(s) took place, as well as proof of the fulfilment of the recommendations will need to be provided to the Town at the time of the completion of the maintenance period.

## 7.3 Release of Securities

Once the owner/applicant has finalized their replanting plan and completed the maintenance period, the Inspector, Landscape Architect, or other *Qualified Tree Professional* will confirm compliance with *Arborist Report* and provide associated maintenance reports to the Town. Once it has been determined that all required works have been completed to the satisfaction of the Town, all securities will be released. No interest will be accumulated, the security will come back as it was given.

## 8 Standards

The Town of Georgina has planting and tree protection standard drawing details in which all Tree Protection and Compensation Plans, reports and Replanting Plans must adhere to. All drawings must be clearly legible. The Town's most recent Design Standards Details are available at the following link: [Design Standards Details](#) and may be amended from time to time.

## 9 Enforcement

### 9.1 Authority as Planning Official

The Town shall have the authority to administer the details in this policy and impose any conditions and/or requirements, establish procedures, issue permits, enter into agreements, conduct inspections, and prepare any other necessary administration in order to implement this Policy.

### 9.2 Restoration

Any owner/applicant who is in violation of the Policy shall be responsible to restore the unlawfully affected areas, in accordance with the approved *Arborist Report*.

### 9.3 Duration

The expiry date of the *Arborist Report* is 5 years.

### 9.4 Effective date

This policy shall come into effect after approval by the Town of Georgina Council.

## Glossary of Terms

***Adjacent Lands:*** means the area subject to the *Arborist Report* attached to the *Development Application*.

***Adverse Impacts:*** means any activities that result in decline in health, *tree condition*, stability of the tree or vegetation being protected.

***Arborist:*** means a person who is a specialist or expert in the area of the care and maintenance of trees and includes an Arborist qualified by the Ontario College of Trades, an Arborist / BCMA certified qualified by the International Society of Arboriculture, a consulting Arborist registered with the American Society of Consulting Arborists, a registered professional forester or a person with other similar qualifications as approved by the Commissioner.

***Arborist Report:*** means the document submitted, attached to the *Development Applications*, described within this Policy that is required when 2.2 Arborist Criteria is met.

***Caliper:*** means the diameter of a tree measured 30 cm above ground level.

***Critical Root Zone (CRZ):*** means the area of soil extending from trunk where roots required for the future health of the tree are located.

***Crown:*** means the most top mass of the tree inclusive of the foliage and branches growing outwards.

***D30:*** means the measurement above ground, on main stem when assessing multi-stemmed trees.

***Development Application:*** means an application pursuant to the Planning Act requiring approval of the Town for which an *Arborist Report* is required, specifically to the applications outlined in Section 2.1.

***Development Envelope:*** means the geographic limits of the outer extent of the area and or site to be altered or impacted by development, including but not limited to buildings, access roads/driveways, wells, and septic systems.

***Diameter at Breast Height (DBH):*** means the diameter of a tree at breast height; the diameter of the tree measured 1.4 metre above ground level.

***Dripline:*** means the outermost edge of the widest branches of the tree canopy.

***Encroachments:*** means an entry of any kind to the trees' TPZ zones, whether it is protected by a barrier or not.

***Hedgerow:*** means a row of shrubs or trees forming a boundary, growing closely together.

***Heritage Tree:*** means a tree that has been designated as a *Heritage Tree* by the Ontario Urban Forest Council under the Ontario *Heritage Act*.

***Migratory Bird Nesting Season:*** Means the season in which birds are nesting and the legal protection of birds, nests, and eggs during this period which is zone C3 for Georgina Mid (April 8<sup>th</sup>- August 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Native Topsoil:** means the topsoil from the site/location it was excavated from also referred to as on-site topsoil. Topsoil for trees is a minimum of 900mm for poorly draining clay soil.

**Native Tree:** means a tree growing naturally in Canada, being indigenous to the area.

**Natural Heritage:** means all living organisms, natural areas, and ecological communities which we inherit and leave to future generations (<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/glossary.cfm#P>).

**Natural Vegetation:** means any tree or group of trees which have grown from natural process.

**Qualified Tree Professional:** means a person, including an *Arborist*, a registered professional forester, a qualified ecological consultant, or a landscape architect, who through related training and on-the-job experience, is qualified to determine the size, species and health and *tree condition*, and having at least 5 years of practical tree care experience working as a practitioner.

**Significant Tree:** means a *Special Status Tree*, or a mature tree specimen located on or within 10m of the property line of the lands subject to a *Development Application* described herein. A Significant Tree is evaluated and approved by Council as having importance within the community for its historical, environmental, or cultural value.

**Site Disturbance:** means any alteration to any physical aspects of the site from the conditions prior to the undertaking.

**Special Status Tree:** means a tree, regardless of size, that may be described as or have a *Heritage*, historic, landmark, legacy, memorial, celebratory or special interest significance that should be protected and preserved.

**Survey:** means a detailed map of an area of land, including its boundaries, area, and elevation, using geometry and trigonometry to measure angles and distances prepared by an Ontario Land Surveyor.

**Sustainable:** means the ability to maintain an ecological balance in our planet's natural environment and conserve natural resources to support the wellbeing of current and future generations.

**Tree:** means any part of the tree, including soil and root system and TPZ.

**Tree Canopy:** means the above ground portion of a plant cropping or crop, formed by the collection of individual plant crowns. In forest ecology, canopy refers to the upper layer or habitat zone, formed by mature tree crowns and including other biological organisms.

**Tree Condition:** means factors identified in the ISA methodology for determining condition. For the purposes of this policy, the condition of a tree shall be described as Good, Satisfactory, Potential trouble, Declining, Death imminent, Dead, or maintenance recommended.

**Tree Enhancement:** means the long-term strategy, recommending phased tree plantings and *Woodlot* management practices in addition to the minimum requirements of the tree preservation, protection, and replacement plan.

**Tree Group:** means a group of 5 or more trees comprising a maximum area of less than 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres)

**Tree Inventory:** means a list of trees on the property and within 6 metres of the boundary of the property, including information regarding location, species, tree condition, and size.

**Tree Maintenance Program:** means a program to ensure the health, safety and vigour of the trees identified to be maintained, either original plantings or existing trees to be cared for, replaced if necessary, pruned, pest and fungus

control, removed, storm damage repaired, staked for a period as recommended by the applicant's consulting *Arborist* and approved by the Town.

***Tree Protection Zone (TPZ):*** means the minimum surrounding area of a tree required to maintain and protect the structural integrity of the tree, usually the *critical root zone*.

***Urban Forest:*** means a forest, or a collection of trees, that grow within a city, town, or a suburb. In a wider sense, it may include any kind of woody plant vegetation growing in and around human settlements.

***Woodlands:*** means any wooded area comprised of a dense growth of trees having a minimum area of 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres), including forest, *Woodlots*, and riparian areas.

***Woodlot:*** means any wooded area of up to 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres), not having less than: 400 trees of any size per acre; 300 trees measuring more than two inches in diameter per acre; 200 trees measuring more than five inches in diameter per acre; or 100 trees measuring more than eight inches in diameter per acre as defined in the York Region Forest Conservation By-law 2013-68, as amended.

DRAFT

## Appendix A- Tree Inventory Template

[illegible]

## Appendix B – Tree Condition Ratings

Tree Condition Rating	Percentage	Criteria
Good	100%	Growth is primarily as extensions from terminal bud with little branching, shoot growth exceeds 10 cm. Full, symmetrical <i>crown</i> . No sign of decay, open wounds, die back, leaning, falling, chronic or acute disease or insect infestation and not going to be uprooted.
Satisfactory	80%	Growth is primarily as extensions from terminal bud. Branching indicates that the growth is healthy. May have disfigured crown or be partial leaved (>74% <i>crown</i> density). Combined with a few dead branches or limbs. Small open wounds or truck damage. Health of this tree will not decline in the next 5 years' time.
Potential Trouble	60%	Growth is mostly branching and sprouts. No growth from terminal buds, new growth thin with small buds and lack of hardiness, may be partially leaved or disfigured (50-74% <i>crown</i> density). Several health problems such as poor form, acute insect attack could improve or decline over the next 5 years.
Declining	40%	Declining in health with significant twig die back and branches. Heavy truck scars, <i>crown</i> , and top dieback (<50% <i>crown</i> density, insect infestation is present or fungal infection disease, trees may need corrective pruning.
Death Imminent	20%	Same symptoms as above in declining but more severe. Will require removal or replacement as it will die within the next 5 years.
Dead	0%	No leaves, brittle twigs, no buds



## Appendix C- Sample Tree Removal Compensation Table

Notes: Replacement Tree Size is 75mm. The cost of deciduous is \$900 and coniferous is \$850. This replacement value will be re-evaluated every three years to depict current market value

Tree #	Species	Common Name	DBH (CM)	Tree Condition Rating %	Number Replacement (Calculated ) of Trees	Number Replacement Trees (Rounded)	Compensation Value (\$)
1	Acer rubrum	Red Maple	20	Potential Trouble 0.6	1.6	2	\$1800
2	Syringa reticulata	Ivory Silk	18	Good 1.0	2.4	2	\$1800
3	Acer saccharinum	Silver Maple	30	Satisfactory 0.8	3.2	3	\$2700
4	Acer saccharinum	Silver Maple	0	Dead 0	0	0	\$0.00
5	Picea glauca	White Spruce	40	Declining 0.4	2.2	2	\$1700
					Required Replacement Trees	9	\$8000
					Proposed Deciduous	7	(-\$6300)
					Proposed Conifers	1	(-\$850)
					Required Compensation after proposed replanting		\$850

## Appendix D – POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS TO TREES

Trees can be damaged during construction without showing signs of damage until some years later. Many of the problems relate to the roots and result in slow death of the tree through its inability to absorb sufficient water and nutrients.

### SOIL COMPACTION

The leading cause of construction damage to trees is compaction of the soil around the roots. Equipment entering a preservation zone compresses the air pockets around the roots, inhibiting the tree from absorbing nutrients and water. This damage reduces the health of the tree. Accordingly, during the removal stage, equipment used within the preservation zones should be restricted to ensure that the tree roots are not disturbed, assisting in maintaining their continued health.

### MECHANICAL DAMAGE

Equipment can also physically damage the trees through striking the trunk, limbs and/or roots. Felled trees can also cause damage during the tree removal stage of development. Some damage is unavoidable due to the tree density, but through proper equipment and best management practices the damage can be minimized. The contractor will be held responsible for all avoidable damage to the trees during all stages of development.

### ROOT DAMAGE












Tree preservation is dependent not only on protecting the root zone from compaction and damage, but it is also critical to ensure that the structural roots within the root plate are not disturbed. Impacts to this area may result in the failure of the trees. During construction, there are situations where work must be completed within a protection zone that will have an impact to the root of the preservation trees. The most common root injury is cutting typically caused by trenching for utilities. The feeder roots of a tree are typically situated within the upper 30 cm of the soil profile. Any trenching or excavation within this zone will damage roots. Roots play a critical role in anchoring a tree. If major support roots are severed, the tree is more susceptible to wind throw damage and could pose a hazard.





### SMOTHERING ROOTS WITHIN *THE TREE PROTECTION ZONE*

Tree roots require space and air to absorb water and minerals. When grades are increased the feeder roots are no longer able to effectively function. Grade changes of only ten centimetres can kill the fine roots of some trees.

## Appendix E –Sample Tree List

Below is a suggested plant list within the Town of Georgina. In the past, the overuse of any one species has resulted in a devastating loss to the tree canopy example (Dutch Elm Disease). When selecting trees for replacement, ensure adequate diversity, and proper species selection for site specific conditions for a better survival rate and a healthy tree canopy in the Town of Georgina.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Native	Classification
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>		Gold
Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>		Gold
Ruby Red Horsechestnut	<i>Aesculus x Carnea 'Briotii'</i>		Silver
Autumn Blaze Maple	<i>Acer Freemanii</i>		Gold
Armstrong Maple	<i>Acer x Freemanii 'Armstrong'</i>		Silver
Japanese Zelkova	<i>Zelcova Serrata</i>		Silver
Black Maple	<i>Acer nigrum</i>		Silver
Sycamore Maple	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>		Silver
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>		Gold
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>		Gold
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>		Gold
Ivory Silk Lilac	<i>Siringa Reticulata</i>		Gold
Pacific Sunset Maple	<i>Acer trun. X Plat. 'Warrenred'</i>		Silver
Turkish Hazel	<i>Corylus colurna</i>		Silver
Ginko 'Maidenhair'	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>		Gold
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsis triacanthos</i>		Gold
Shademaster Honey Locust	<i>Gleditia t. 'Shademaster'</i>		Gold
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>		Gold
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>		Silver
Saucer Magnolia	<i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i>		Silver
London Plane Tree	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>		Silver
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier Canadensis</i>		Gold
Chanticleer Ornamental Pear	<i>Pyrus Calleryana 'Chanticleer'</i>		Silver
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>		Silver
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>		Gold
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>		Gold
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>		Silver
Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>		Gold
English Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Silver
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>		Gold
Littleleaf Linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i>		Gold
Glenleven Linden	<i>Tila cordata 'Glenleven'</i>		Gold
Hackberry	<i>Celtis Occidentalis</i>		Gold
Basswood, American Linden	<i>Tilia americana</i>		Gold

Balsam Fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>		Coniferous
Silver Fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>		Coniferous
White Pine	<i>Pinus Strobus</i>		Coniferous
Tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i>		Coniferous
Norway Spruce	<i>Peciea abies</i>		Coniferous
White Spruce	<i>Peciea glauca</i>		Coniferous
Colorado Blue Spruce	<i>Peciea pungens</i>		Coniferous
Austrian Pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>		Coniferous
Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>		Coniferous

**Notes:**

This list is not exhaustive and serves the purpose of providing examples of recommended replacement trees. You may consult with the Town staff for consideration of additional tree species.

**Cross-References**

Georgina Official Plan

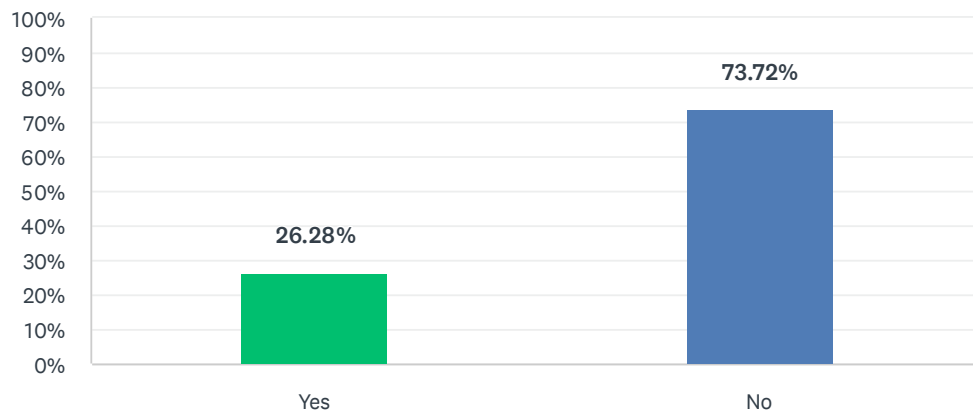
Draft Plan of Subdivision Submission Requirements

Site Plan Approval Submission Requirements

Regional Municipality of York, Forest Conservation Bylaw #2013-68

## Q1 Are you aware the Town of Georgina has a Tree Compensation Policy?

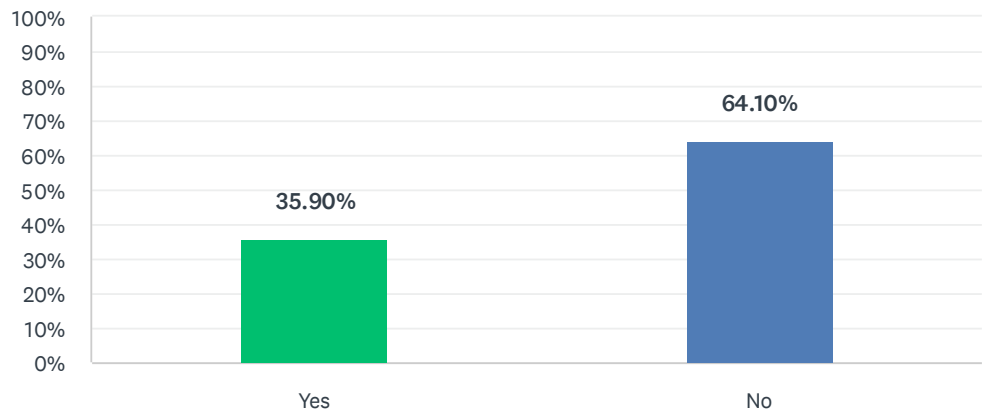
Answered: 156 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	26.28%	41
No	73.72%	115
TOTAL		156

Q2 Do you know Georgina has the largest amount of canopy (the layer of tree leaves, branches and stems from all publicly and privately owned deciduous and coniferous trees, forests and understory within areas which provide measurable coverage of the ground) compared to all other municipalities within York Region?

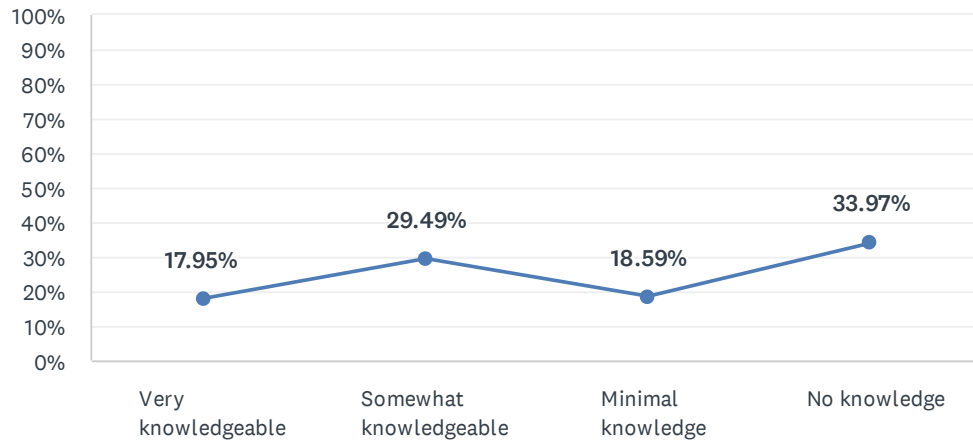
Answered: 156    Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		35.90%	56
No		64.10%	100
TOTAL			156

### Q3 How familiar are you with the Urban Heat Island Effect and how trees can influence this?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 1

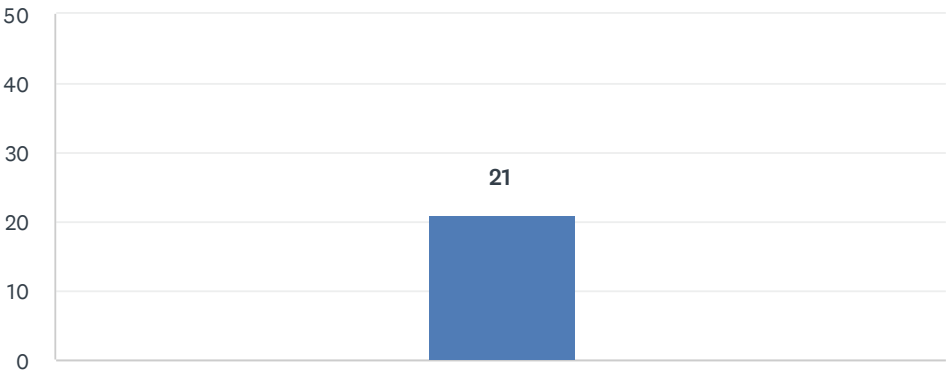


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very knowledgeable	17.95%	28
Somewhat knowledgeable	29.49%	46
Minimal knowledge	18.59%	29
No knowledge	33.97%	53
TOTAL		156

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Q4 Trees are an important aspect of the community.

Answered: 152    Skipped: 5

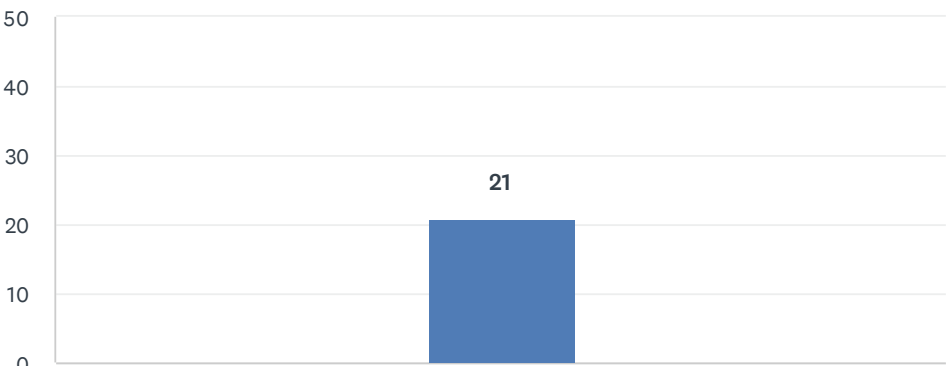


ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	21	3,210	152
Total Respondents: 152			



Q5 A more robust tree canopy within your local community can help protect the water quality and sustainability of Lake Simcoe?

Answered: 140    Skipped: 17

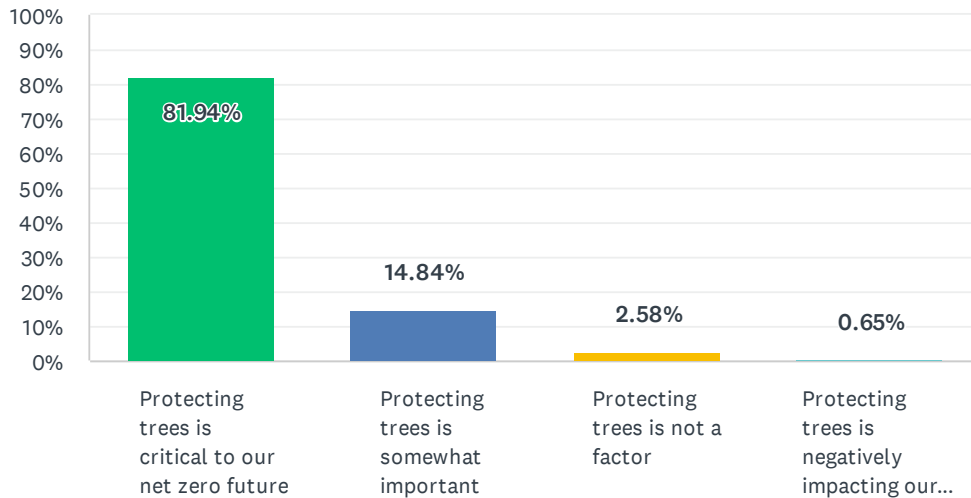


ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	21	2,916	140
Total Respondents: 140			

BASIC STATISTICS					
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MEDIAN	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
	0.00	100.00	1.00	20.83	34.57

## Q6 To what extent do you think trees can contribute to Canada's goal of net zero carbon by 2050?

Answered: 155 Skipped: 2

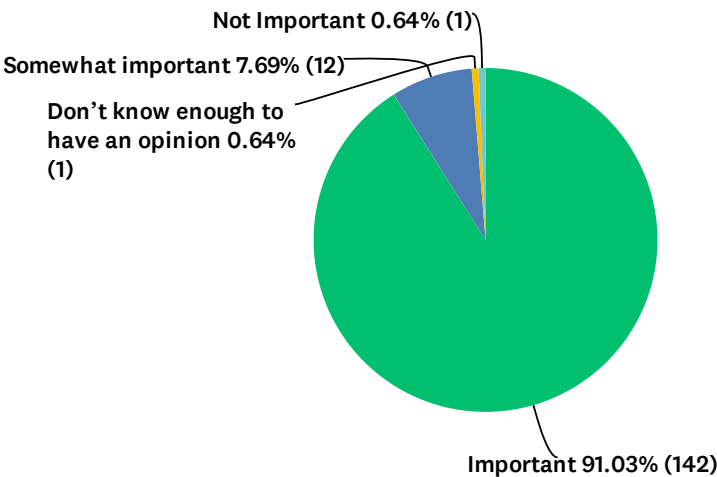


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Protecting trees is critical to our net zero future	81.94%	127
Protecting trees is somewhat important	14.84%	23
Protecting trees is not a factor	2.58%	4
Protecting trees is negatively impacting our net zero carbon future	0.65%	1
TOTAL		155

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Q7 Would you say it is important to protect trees within the development process

Answered: 156 Skipped: 1

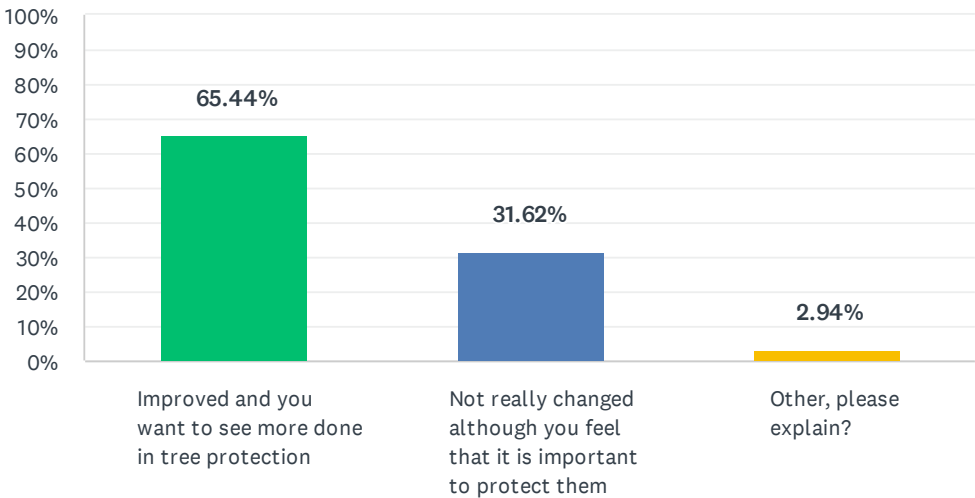


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Important (1)		91.03%	142
Somewhat important (2)		7.69%	12
Don't know enough to have an opinion (3)		0.64%	1
Not Important (4)		0.64%	1
TOTAL			156

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	4.00	1.00	1.11	0.39

Q8 Overall, would you say that your opinion of trees as it relates to protecting them has...

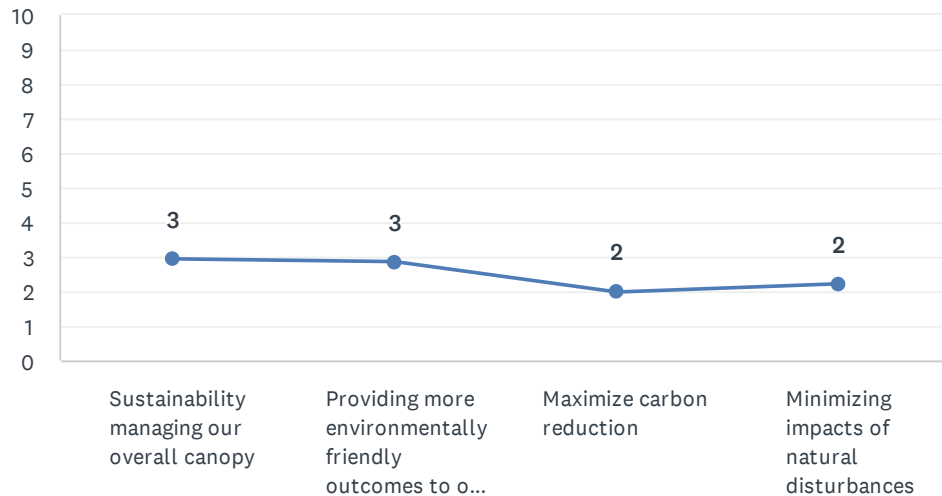
Answered: 136   Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improved and you want to see more done in tree protection	65.44%	89
Not really changed although you feel that it is important to protect them	31.62%	43
Other, please explain?	2.94%	4
TOTAL		136

## Q9 When thinking about what matters most to you in relation to trees, tree protection and increased canopy, how would you rank the following?

Answered: 135 Skipped: 22

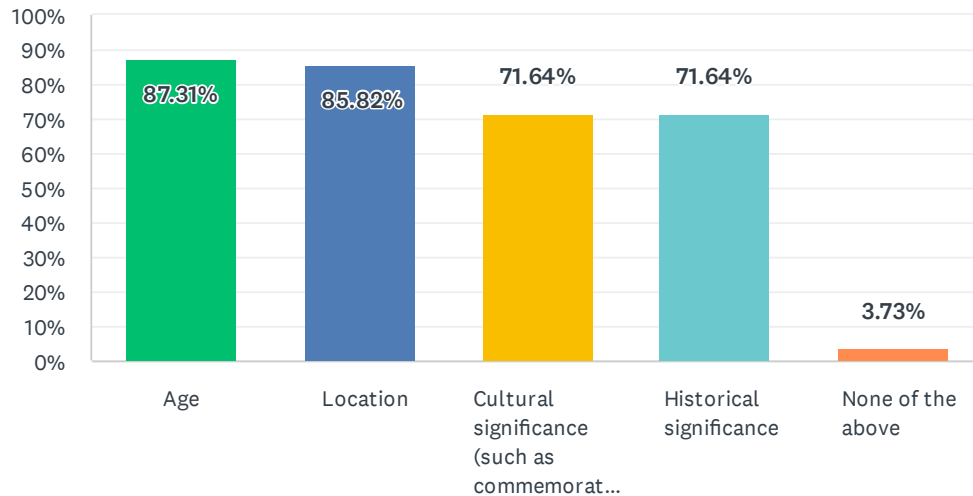


	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Sustainability managing our overall canopy	36.30% 49	33.33% 45	18.52% 25	11.85% 16	135	2.94
Providing more environmentally friendly outcomes to our community	29.63% 40	34.81% 47	27.41% 37	8.15% 11	135	2.86
Maximize carbon reduction	12.59% 17	16.30% 22	27.41% 37	43.70% 59	135	1.98
Minimizing impacts of natural disturbances	21.48% 29	15.56% 21	26.67% 36	36.30% 49	135	2.22

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Q10 Should specific trees be protected due to the following reasons?  
Please check all that apply.

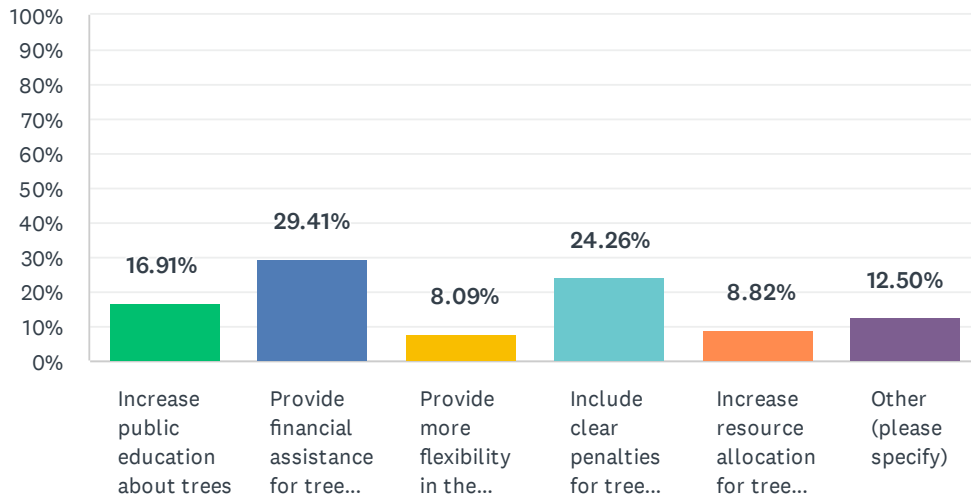
Answered: 134 Skipped: 23



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Age	87.31%	117
Location	85.82%	115
Cultural significance (such as commemorative or celebration trees)	71.64%	96
Historical significance	71.64%	96
None of the above	3.73%	5
Total Respondents: 134		

## Q11 What changes could the Town of Georgina undertake to be more effective at protecting the existing tree canopy and enhancing it?

Answered: 136 Skipped: 21

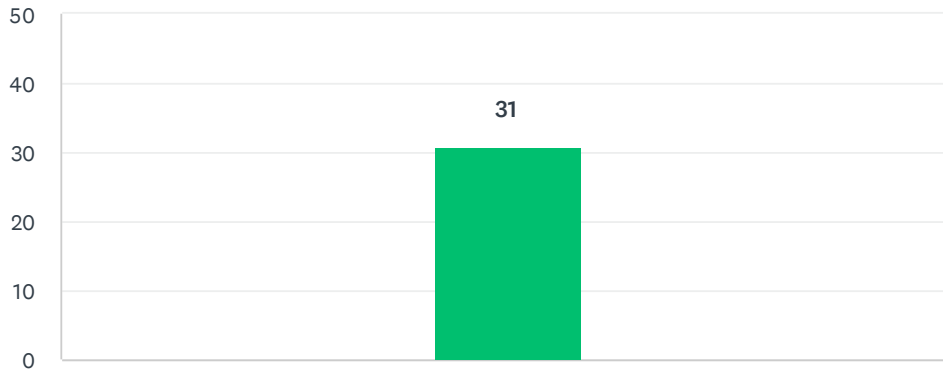


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increase public education about trees	16.91%	23
Provide financial assistance for tree planting on private property	29.41%	40
Provide more flexibility in the existing Policy for replacement tree species, sizes	8.09%	11
Include clear penalties for tree damage and removals without approvals in the policy	24.26%	33
Increase resource allocation for tree protection including staff and budget increases	8.82%	12
Other (please specify)	12.50%	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>136</b>

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## Q12 Should the Town of Georgina be compensated through the Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy for the loss of private and public trees when development occurs throughout the Town?

Answered: 125 Skipped: 32



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	31	3,849	125
Total Respondents: 125			

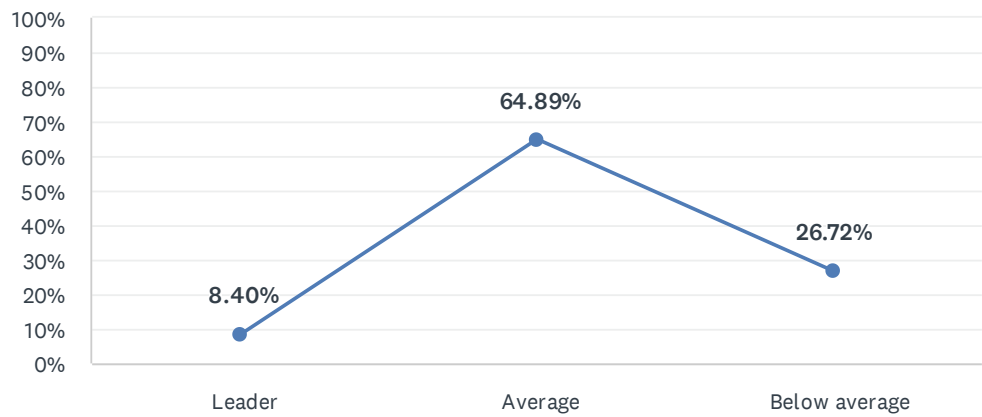
BASIC STATISTICS					
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MEDIAN	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
	0.00	100.00	10.00	30.79	36.53

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Q13 Compared to other municipalities that have Tree Protection and Compensation Policies in place, would you say Georgina is a leader, average or below average when it comes to protecting our canopy?

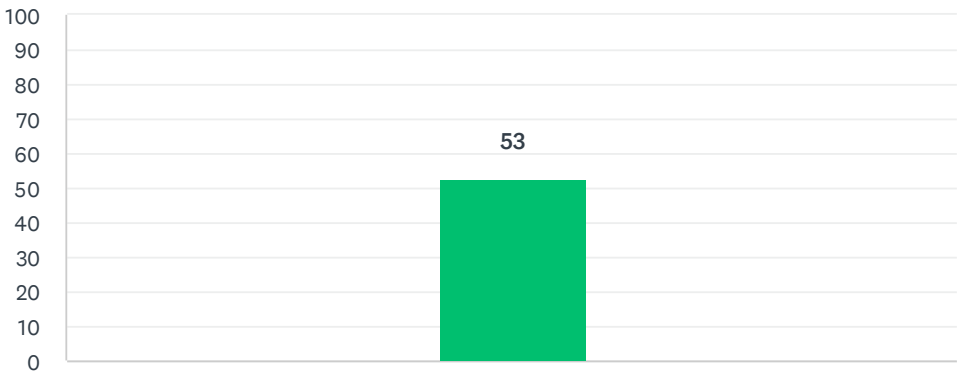
Answered: 131    Skipped: 26



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Leader	8.40%	11
Average	64.89%	85
Below average	26.72%	35
TOTAL		131

Q14 The Town of Georgina has a sufficient amount of trees within the urban areas found throughout the Town?

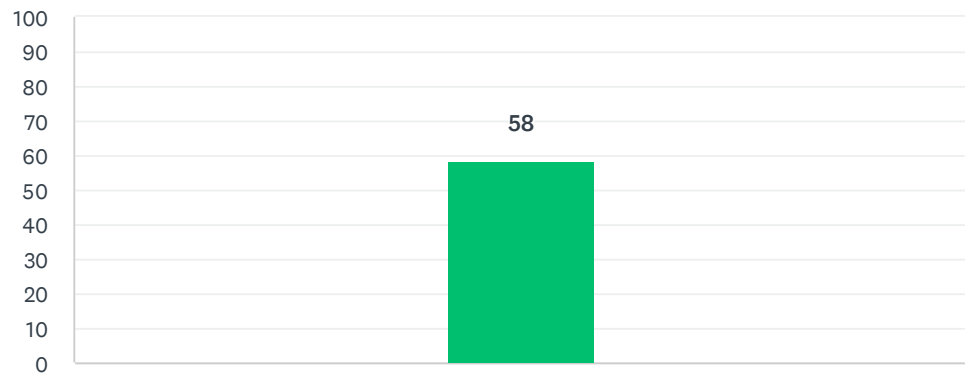
Answered: 133    Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	53	7,006	133
Total Respondents: 133			

Q15 The Town of Georgina does enough to preserve the existing trees and the environment in the urban areas of the Town?

Answered: 132    Skipped: 25



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	58	7,716	132
Total Respondents: 132			

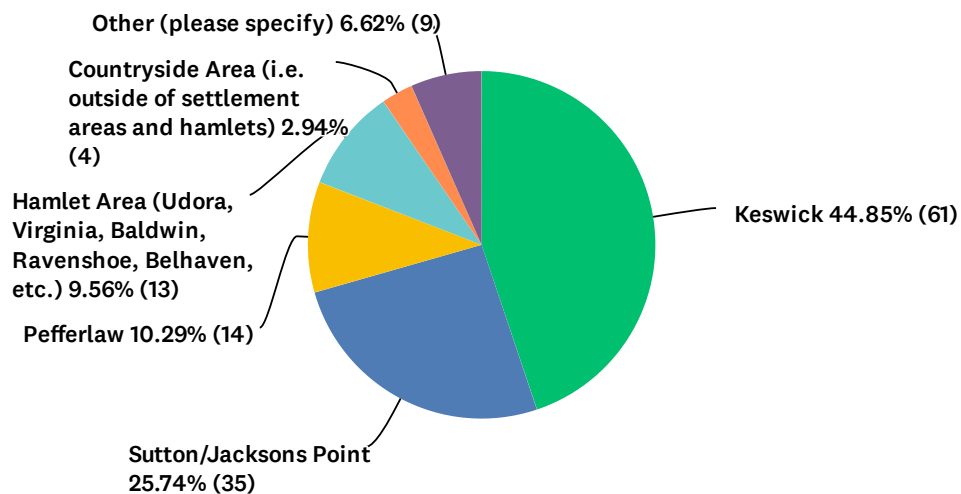
Q16 Please provide your contact information if you want to get involved with Tree planting and other environmental awareness concerns initiated by the Town.

Answered: 56    Skipped: 101

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	100.00%	56
Email	100.00%	56

## Q17 Where did you complete this survey from?

Answered: 136 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keswick	44.85%	61
Sutton/Jacksons Point	25.74%	35
Pefferlaw	10.29%	14
Hamlet Area (Udora, Virginia, Baldwin, Ravenshoe, Belhaven, etc.)	9.56%	13
Countryside Area (i.e. outside of settlement areas and hamlets)	2.94%	4
Other (please specify)	6.62%	9
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>136</b>

Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy Update Consultation Phase				
#	Association/ Organization/ Department	Contact;	Summary of Comments	Staff Comment/Response
1	January 10 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Georgina Developers Association Meeting	Melinda Bessey from Ballymore Homes	When discussing size of trees for automatic refusal, what do you mean woodlot sizes or overall area size?	Staff are talking about size of the individual trees. Appendices within the updated policy as references and examples will make it clearer.
			Does the Official Plan indicate the Towns current canopy targets?	There are no canopy targets in the Official Plan, but York Region has indicated through their studies targets for Georgina. An estimated canopy cover from aerial mapping identifies a 44.4% tree canopy cover for Georgina with a recommended target of 46-47%% by 2051. Of this 44.4%, 9.6% is within settlement areas.
			Past practise of the LSRCA would prefer that the developer went forward took the initiative to do the compensation replanting on their own rather than to make cash payments	Received for information.
2	January 10 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Georgina Developers Association Meeting	Michael Smith of Michael Smith Planning Consultants	Does the existing Policy only require compensation for trees 20mm DBH?.	Correct, the current compensation is taken for 20mm DBH trees, but all trees on the property in question are to be catalogued within the arborist report and tree inventory.
			If most of the development, is falling within a woodlot, would it be zoned as such, so detailed analysis would not necessarily need to be done for individual tree within the respective zones.	Yes, An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) captures the ecological value of tree zones which helps aid in review and where a more detailed tagging should occur using the Tree Preservation and Compensation Plan.
			In terms of the Official Plan and the relation with York Region and what their roll is going to be moving forwards since the new bill, I understand that they will not be able to comment on planning, that this will fall more on the municipality. Right now they have authority over regionally significant woodlands, will we be seeing Town mapped significant woodlands in the changes place?	Under Bill 23, the Region's Official Plan is to be devolved into the Town Official Plan. There is no specific timetable or regulations in place for this. The matter is under review.
			Last time they were involved they hired their own arborist and they will be again, does the Town know if they will be issuing a draft or when they hope to be completed with the update?	A draft policy is anticipated for release and review in spring 2024 after it is presented to Council.

3	January 10 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Georgina Developers Association Meeting	David Murphy from Brand Group	Do you currently count boulevard trees as credit towards replanting? Maybe you could give extra credit for one per house and if the development goes above and beyond that minimum?	The policy does not give credit for boulevard trees., This can be received in the context of the objective of expanding the tree canopy.
			If a development is proposed on 40 acres of farmer field that is devoid of trees, there is no credit for all the increase to canopy we do provide, through parks and street trees and the like, although we have enhanced the space from the previous state.	Received for information. This can be received in the context of the objective of expanding the tree canopy.
			It would be difficult to have an expiry as with the current atmosphere from the time of Pre-consultation meetings to the point in which the land is actually developed is sometimes 5 years. If an arborist report has to be re done and reveals something in which plan need to be redone, could potential impact lot yields.	Received for information.
			There is a large lag between approvals and when we have to implement it, when you get to the point of breaking ground and we all of a sudden cannot touch a tree, this has been a difficulty we have faced.	
			Certain municipalities have maintenance periods associated with the replanting 2 years or so sometimes 5 in the case of Butternuts, it would be incredibly helpful if municipalities could tell us where they need replanting provides and have parameters around maintenance all in the front end.	
4	January 10 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Georgina Developers Association Meeting	Warren Melbourne from DG Group	New Tecumseh is one municipality we have worked with over the years that when we added to the boulevards more than one tree per unit we received extra credits.	Received for information.
			Also back tracking to one of your previous statements within the presentation, 'Why a tree is happy and healthy, why disturb it?' This is largely due to the engineering requirements and standards, storm water drainage requirements that is normally why we have to rip everything out and start fresh and replant. So maybe you should work closer with your engineering departments in this regard.	Received for information.

			When discussing heritage trees, a word of caution it has been in our experience that heritage trees sterilize 30 x 30 around the trees not allowing us to build anything and then the tree ends up dying in the years to follow from the disturbance regardless of the offsetting, what is the value in it?	If a tree has been designated heritage status the Town will have catalogue of these trees and an associated monitoring program.
			How are hedgerows currently dealt within your policy?	Hedgerows are not currently defined in the Policy the Town have been tagging individual trees based on DBH not groupings of trees. Under review.
5	January 10 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Georgina Developers Association Meeting	Matt Creador from Treasure Hill	LSRCA and the Region have policy in place requiring compensation for the removal of natural features. There is other precedent examples throughout the industry and region which we have had to provide compensation for, it is not uncommon it is just the cost of doing business.	Received for information.
			Is there a possibility of critical areas that have been flagged within the natural environment that need to be built up, perhaps it would be better to focus on compensation or replanting in those areas, rather than the applicable property, where it could be better value add.	Received for information.
			It does not matter how much planning you do, whether or not you get the appropriate approvals, whether or not you have gone above and beyond with the replanting initiatives, you are always going to get homeowner complaints. We see this often when the development backs onto existing residents.	Received for information. Perhaps some of the compensation money could be spent on public education to encourage people to appreciate the trees and what benefits they provide the over all community.
6	January 11 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Development Services Meeting	Matt De Luca from Engineering	LSRCA has lists of applicable trees when dealing with various different setting such as stabilization planting and the like. Maybe we could use those lists to lean on when dealing with the same application.	Received for comment.
7	January 11 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Development Services Meeting	Saleem Sial from Engineering	My suggestion would be to include when ever there is a new lot created, two trees be planted. Kitchener is doing that and then if the developer puts in 60 lots they require 120 trees just to offset the c02 associated with development. Trees help with LID.	Received for information.



8	February 15 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Meeting (LSRCA)	Dave Ruggle, Manager of Planning at LSRCA	Indicated that Policy formulation is still within their scope of works, and they will have more specific comments when reviewing a draft of the updated Policy.	Received for information.
9	January 18 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Community Services and Operations Meeting	Danny Hie, Supervisor of Forestry.	There is a tool called 'itree' that helps calculate the benefits of trees that the forestry department intends to look into. It also has capacity of evaluating what benefit trees will have in coming years based on species and replanting.	Received for information.
			With the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) maintenance and monitoring we have included a 3 year period, there is 5 years associated with heritage trees.	Currently the maintenance period for developers is 2 years before the Town assumes the land, which is equal to 3 growing seasons.
10	January 18 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Community Services and Operations Meeting	Niall Stocking, Manager of Operations	The Town currently does not have a tree cutting by-law to address on public or private lands. Is this something you are looking into, because we should have one at least for public trees in parks and town right of ways for to protect the tree and surrounding habitat.	This process is to review and update and report back to Council on the Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy. Council direction was to report back on a tree cutting by-law which is a separate item and will be on a Town staff work program at a later date.
			When the developers pay a security, it is released back to them after the maintenance period is over and we have checked off the trees after the 2 years, is there a way to not pay back the security until 5 years after the replanting takes place. We seem to be losing our trees all in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> year, but the maintenance period is over and the security has already been released back to them.	If a maintenance program is 5 years, it will be unlike all the surrounding municipalities. It seems that industry standards at the moment is 2 years equivalent to 3 growing seasons. Received for information.
			We are working with the Region on a replanting plan and mapping could some of the money collected from cash in lieu be used for the operation department for monitoring and maintenance and a replanting program.	Part of the policy update is to investigate where the funds be allocated and for what and which department, Town staff will review the recommendation.
			Does the current policy talk to any specifics around carbon sequestering stats?	The policy seeks to enhance the tree canopy which increases carbon sequestering but there are no specific metrics or targets identified for the Policy.

11	January 18 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Community Services and Operations Meeting	Bob Ferguson , Manager of Park Development and Operations	Newly planted trees in parks are so brittle and weak the first few years, people try and climb them so even if they make it through the maintenance period they don't make it through the first 5 years in the assumed park lands, keep all replanting out of the parks.	Received for information.
12	January 25 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Legislative Services and Strategic initiatives.	Michael Bigioni, Director of Legislative Services.	<p>Suggested that we include something within the subdivision agreement that required the developers to incorporate within their purchase and sale agreement not to alter the Town R.O.W.s in lieu of having a tree cutting by-law</p> <p>Any policy should be developed in harmony with a respective by-law in order for the two to dovetail each other. Currently there is nothing legally enforcing the Policy and we have to lean on making provisions to the subdivision agreement or generate conditions that need to be fulfilled.</p> <p>When you are at the stage of looking into a by-law be sure to understand the Regions by-law and not tread on their toes. Be sure to only capture that of .2 hectares and 0.5 acres and under.</p>	Received for information and acknowledged.
13	January 25 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Legislative Services and Strategic initiatives.	Mike Hutchinson, Manager of Municipal Law Enforcement	<p>A public tree cutting by-law would protect the trees planted within the boulevards and parks, being enforceable by our department. Currently people can cut down trees within the right of ways which is Town property and there is nothing we can do legally to charge them. This comes up a couple times year where people are outraged.</p> <p>There is 2 options for investigating a by-law. 1. Protecting public property 2. Private.</p> <p>Clear cutting might be covered within the zoning by-law</p>	<p>The issue is identified and will be addressed in the future report to Council on a Tree Cutting By-law.</p> <p>Received for information</p> <p>Received for information</p>
14	February 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2024 Meeting with Friends of the Maskinonge River and The	Mary Jane Hanley of Friends of the	<p>The Town is using data from 2018 for canopy targets these are too old, use new updated ones.</p> <p>The Policy needs teeth so to speak, without a by-law there is nothing to enforce this policy. People can do what they want and there is no legal authority to stop them.</p>	<p>Received for information. Currently the only accurate information on the tree canopy from in Georgina comes from the Region of York Forestry Department</p> <p>Received for information.</p>

	South Lake Simcoe Naturalists Club	Maskinonge River	The hierarchy of the Policy is a bit off and should be revisited there should also be a statement right in the beginning that says the main focus is to preserve the canopy and that cash in lieu should be a last resort.	Received for information.
			The new Policy should have appendices, tables and photographs and be more visually appealing to look through, and easier to use.	Received for information
			Also suggested that prohibited activities should be outlined right in the beginning of the document to show the reader you take it seriously.	
15	February 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2024 Meeting with Friends of the Maskinonge River and The South Lake Simcoe Naturalists Club	Paul Harpley from The South Lake Simcoe Naturalists Club	He would be really interested in the new Policy talking to more of the ecology of trees and over all habitat, rather than DBH and species. The current recommended plant lists are outdated, and I would like to see more restoration planting recommendations on the plant lists.	Received for information. Note that there are other instances where trees as part of the larger Natural Heritage System are examined as part of Environmental Impact Studies submitted in support of development applications. In many instances, the Tree Preservation and Compensation Policy applies at the scale of an individual site and is not necessarily connected to the Natural Heritage System.
16	February 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2024 Meeting with Friends of the Maskinonge River and The South Lake Simcoe Naturalists Club	Bill Shore from The South Lake Simcoe Naturalists Club	You should send out a letter to all residents telling them what you are doing. The website and social media will not reach everyone.	Received for information. Town wide mail-out is not considered practical or necessary for the current exercise.
17	February 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2024 Meeting with Friends of the Maskinonge River and The South Lake	Christina Legree Friends of the Maskinonge River	Suggested that there is lots of people locally that have expertise why does the Town always sources consultants. Many of us have extensive local expertise with local plant knowledge especially natives. The Town should use us.	Received for information.

	Simcoe Naturalists Club			
18	February 27 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting	Mark Setter	What direction does the Town think it is going to go in for compensation methods?	The Trunk Method is being examined as an approach to ensure no net loss of trees. This method calculates the current size of the tree and takes into consideration the condition as well, and the proposed tree caliper size.
			The Existing Town Policy uses ratios and that is so outdated and does not fly anymore its only species specific and does not ensure no net loss. How did you land on the value of proposed cost of replacement trees.	Received for information. Staff have investigated current industry costs with the addition of what it would cost the Town to plant and maintenance that tree for 3 full growing seasons.
			How does the Town anticipate that the securities will work in the future?	Once the total compensation cost is calculated securities would be released at the end of the warrantee period and when the replanting has been satisfactorily inspected.
			A lot of time fragmented forests get lost in Tree Preservation Plans as they only catalogue the individual trees and assess them as stand-alone items, where as if trees are in groupings they provide a ecological benefit together, how will the Town address this in the new Policy update.	Staff propose to add a section on how tree groupings are assessed and addressed in the Draft Policy. This may be one way to capture the fragmented forest of 5 or more trees together in groups.
			Street Trees are never going to count towards replanting numbers are they? That is a separate item that the developer should be responsible for, am I correct?	Correct. Street trees required as part of a subdivision approval / agreement do not count towards compensation.
19	February 27 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting	Austin Rooney	How is the Town addressing Heritage Trees in the updated Policy could we link this to a tree cutting by-law?	Heritage trees defined as such in the Ontario Heritage Act are subject to a set of rules and guidelines which will be addressed in the DRAFT policy.
			The Town really needs to consider a Tree-Cutting By-Law as there is currently no legal enforcement to hold anyone accountable for cutting trees down especially in the case of the Heritage Trees. Developers just pay the fees and don't care about saving the trees. There is no enforcement I want to put emphasis on this point.	Received for information.
			Long term residual effect of development on critical root zones and compaction on trees as a hole currently there is no Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) in the Policy which really does protect the feeder roots, are you going to include TPZ in the Policy update.	Town staff hope to include TPZ in the Policy update and at least at a minimum definition on impacts of construction on Trees for educational purposes.

20	February 27 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting	Councillor Neeson	I have been pretty vocal about the removals and having a formula in which reflects carbon offsetting. As an example, if you remove one large tree that is removing x amount of carbon from the air that we are only replace with 1 or 2 trees that will take 20 years to equate to the same amount of carbon offsetting that the large tree was doing. Is that something we are focused on with the Policy update?	It is difficult to precisely calculate carbon offsetting / sequestering from individual trees. The vision the Policy is to avoid and mitigate the destruction of the canopy and protect those trees that are generally sequestering more carbon.  Replanting larger mature trees has mixed success. Planting a greater number of faster growing trees at a caliper size of 75 mm will potentially equate to a net gain of carbon offsetting over time.
			You mentioned Aurora with respect to their compensation equating equal to or greater to the net loss of appraised trees. Do we know how they equate that?	Received for information.
21	February 29 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Meeting with York Region	Colin Macdonald	Woodlots with an area of .2 hectares and larger are protected by the Region as well as Woodlands so the sizes determine whether or not York Region gets involved. Anything smaller than this size we expect that the municipalities would pick up in a local level by-law.	Received for information.
			Has the Town considered an assets management plan for the trees to capture the trees coming onboard though the development?	Yes, Staff plans to capture trees as assets and is currently GIS tagging trees on Town rights of way.
			In talking about a by-law again what is good for surrounding municipalities may not necessarily be good for Georgina as Georgina is primarily rural.	Received for information
			The more exception species you put in your Policy the more that species show up within the reports. A tree is a tree regardless of the species. Notwithstanding the extremely troublesome ones.	
			The Town really needs to do two things here 1. Update the Policy 2. Single tree cutting by-law. And they are different things with different functions.	
22	February 29 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Meeting with York Region	Alexandra Ferri	Due to our guidelines being directly associated with street trees we intend to give credit towards more desirable species in our compensation rates. This is not applicable to park applications which is assessed as 'a tree is a tree'.	Received for information
			The Town really should be investigating an enforceable by-law.	Received for information.

			<p>Approval is like a permit. If you are not happy you do not approve it. Developers need something from you so you can make the conditions as you see fit within reason. Force them to replant cash in lieu should be the last option.</p> <p>The Region did a comprehensive study with an external consultant where we examine best practices in terms of tree preservation in the surround area, Ontario and Canada. We will send that to you after the meeting. It appears you have done your own but ours is an extensive 76-page document and will greatly help.</p>	Received for information
23	February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 Meeting with York Region	Pamela Martin	The Town really needs a tree cutting by-law because the Region really can not enforce anything at development application stage.	Received for information. Under review.