

Schedule 'A' to By-law #19-11  
Effective Date: March 1, 2019



# Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy

*Municipality of Huron Shores*

**Important Disclaimer:** this policy complies with the relevant provisions of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, SO 2001, c 25 (the “*Act*”). If you have any questions or concerns about this policy or how to implement it, please contact Wishart Law Firm LLP. Wishart Law Firm LLP is not responsible for the results of any edit to this policy other than as expressly authorized or directed by Wishart Law Firm LLP.

© 2019, **Wishart Law Firm LLP & Expertise for Municipalities (E4m)**

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means (graphic, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping or information and retrieval systems) without the written permission of Wishart Law Firm LLP.

A licence is, however, given by Wishart Law Firm LLP to any municipality that has purchased a copy of this work to print, copy, save, or post on its official website for its own use only and such Municipality may not repurpose or resell the work in any way.

**Funding for this policy has been provided by Expertise for Municipalities (E4m)**

## Table of Contents

1. Background .....	1
2. Recognition of resource abundance and commercial use.....	1
3. Application.....	1
4. Definitions .....	1
5. Purposes .....	1
6. Planning .....	2
7. Education and Advice .....	2
8. Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Benefits.....	2
9. Native Plantings.....	3
10. Where to Plant.....	3
11. The Value of Shoreline Vegetation and Buffers .....	4
12. Public Safety and Infrastructure Maintenance .....	5
13. Disclaimer, References and Relevant Legislation .....	5
14. Review .....	5

## 1. Background

Section 270(1)(7) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, SO 2001, c 25 requires the Municipality of Huron Shores (the “Municipality”) to adopt and maintain a policy setting out the manner in which the Municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the Municipality.

## 2. Recognition of resource abundance and commercial use

Being in rural or northern Ontario, the Municipality has an abundance of trees and natural vegetation. These resources play a vital role in supporting and sustaining local commercial uses including, but not limited to, pulp and paper, forestry, wood fibre and wood processing. Whether for individuals harvesting firewood or large scale industrial facilities, the Municipality recognizes the need to protect and enhance its trees and natural vegetation while at the same time ensuring they continue to be available for vital economic development.

## 3. Application

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

## 4. Definitions

“Natural vegetation” means the native plant life that grows naturally without human intervention in a geographic region.

“Shoreline buffer” means a treed or vegetated strip of land that borders a creek, river or lake.

“Tree canopy” means the layer of tree leaves, branches and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above.

## 5. Purposes

- To recognize the benefits to the Municipality from protecting and enhancing its tree canopy and natural vegetation.
- To promote understanding and appreciation of the Municipality’s tree canopy and natural vegetation.
- To support a robust tree canopy and high quality natural vegetation in the Municipality

and their contribution to sustainable development.

- To promote biodiversity in the Municipality.
- To reflect and promote awareness of current and future environmental qualities, issues and benefits.
- To confirm the importance of the wood/fibre industry in the local economy.

## 6. Planning

When development is considered, the Municipality will apply creative approaches to planning to protect and enhance its tree canopy and natural vegetation so as to ensure the Municipality's amenity values and identity is enhanced as it grows.

## 7. Education and Advice

The Municipality will promote understanding of the benefits of protecting and enhancing its tree canopy and natural vegetation by promoting community education programs and working with developers and community organizations.

## 8. Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Benefits

There are many benefits the Municipality stands to gain from protecting and enhancing its tree canopy and natural vegetation, including:

- **Reduced heating/cooling costs:** trees and natural vegetation shield against wind and snow and can also insulate buildings in the winter reducing heating costs. Canopy shade can also reduce cooling costs.
- **Increased aesthetics:** the presence of trees and strategically located natural vegetation enhances the perceived beauty of the landscape.
- **Improved quality of life:** time spent in greenspace improves mental health and well-being across numerous dimensions from stress reduction to physical activity.
- **Provide wildlife habitat:** trees and natural vegetation create an ecosystem to provide habitat and food for birds, mammals and insects.
- **Better air quality:** trees and natural vegetation filter out many common airborne pollutants.
- **Carbon sequestration:** trees can mitigate carbon emissions and help fight climate change.

- **More privacy:** trees and vegetation provide a natural barrier that obstruct views and dampen sound between properties.
- **Stormwater management:** trees and natural vegetation alter and slow the path of rainfall, recharge groundwater, reduce surface water contaminants and can prevent erosion along slopes.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

## 9. Native Plantings

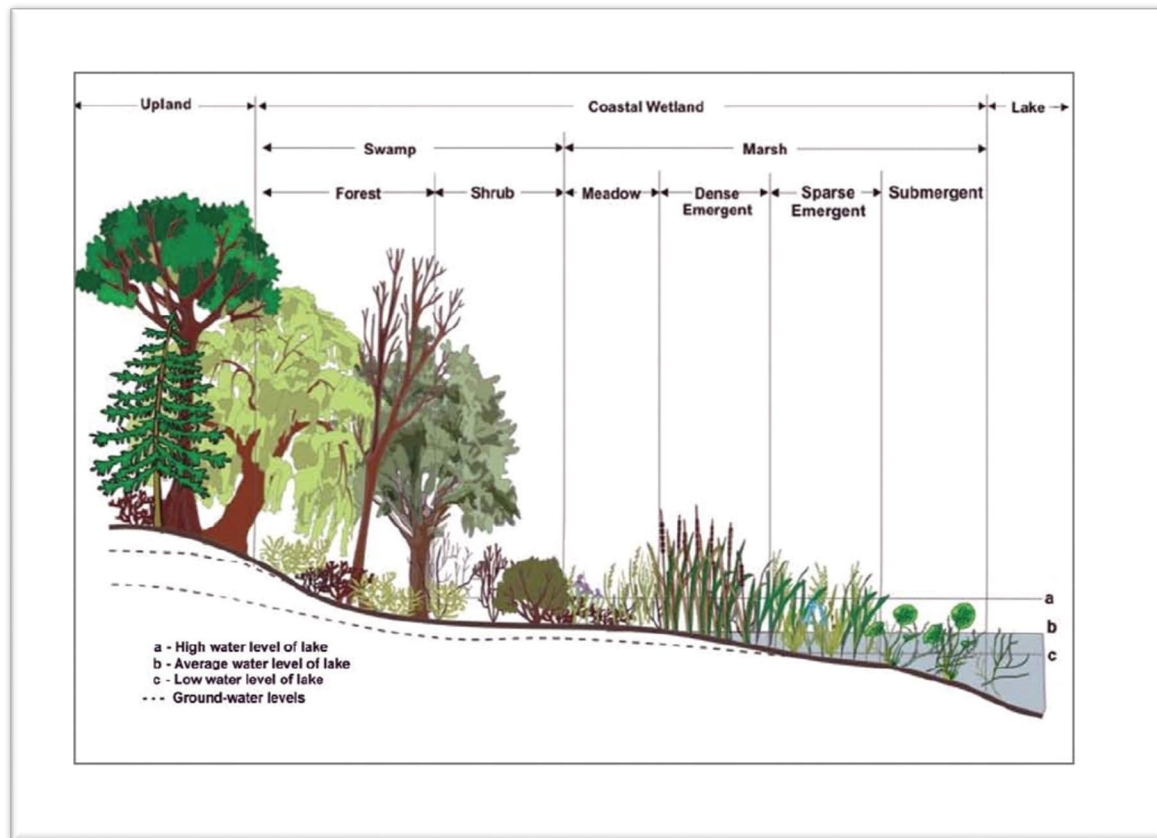
When planting any vegetation, local species/native vegetation should be utilized. Some examples of local species/native vegetation are included in Schedule “A”.

## 10. Where to Plant

Before planting a tree, property lines, utilities (power lines, buried water/sewer laterals or other ‘hard’ infrastructure) should be considered. The location of a tree should take into context its future size as it relates to a building’s foundation and roof. Consideration should also be given to ensuring a “fire free” buffer around structures.

## 11. The Value of Shoreline Vegetation and Buffers

Trees and natural vegetation along or adjacent to a shoreline help to stabilize shorelines and protect water quality. For instance, the roots of trees prevent erosion by keeping soil in place, while natural vegetation slows the velocity of rainfall resulting in reduced off-site movement of soil particles. Further, shoreline vegetation traps sediments and pollution, which helps to keep water clean and prevent algal blooms, excessive weed growth and loss of fish habitat.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

Where the land use adjacent to a waterbody is residential, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry recommends a minimum shoreline buffer width of 15 metres for water quality protection around lakes and rivers supporting warm water aquatic species and a minimum shoreline buffer width of 30 metres where the waterbody supports cold water aquatic species.

## 12. Public Safety and Infrastructure Maintenance

Though protecting the tree canopy will always be a consideration, public safety and infrastructure maintenance will be a priority. There are occasions when, because of these two factors, vegetation needs to be removed.

## 13. Disclaimer, References and Relevant Legislation

This policy does not take precedence over any by-laws, resolutions, plans or agreements of the Municipality.

When reviewing this policy reference may be made to:

- *Municipal Act, 2001*
- *Planning Act*
- Official Plan
- Provincial Policy Statement
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Natural Heritage Reference Manual

## 14. Review

This policy shall be reviewed each term of Council or as required to legislative changes.



**Schedule "A"**

(Courtesy of the Township of Jocelyn; note that this is meant a general guideline as is not intended as an exhaustive listing)

<b>Trees</b>	<b>Shrubs</b>	<b>Partial Shade</b>	<b>Full Sun</b>	<b>Shoreline</b>
<b>Riparian Zone</b> Balsam Fir Red Maple Tamarack Black Spruce Eastern Hemlock  <b>Medium Sized</b> Chokecherry Pin Cherry Serviceberry Striped Maple Ironwood Eastern White Cedar  <b>Large Sized Bur</b> Oak Red Oak Silver Maple Trembling Aspen White Birch Red Spruce Eastern White Pine Butternut Sugar Maple Elm Ash (white and Black) Balsam Willow	Black Chokeberry Northern Bush Honeysuckle Pagoda Dogwood Red Osier Dogwood Smooth Wild Rose Swamp Rose Sweet Gale Winterberry Holly Common Elderberry Highbush Cranberry Lowbush Cranberry Lowbush Blueberry Meadowsweet Serviceberry Steeplebush Speckled Alder Labrador Tea Swamp Currant Ground Juniper	Bearberry Bloodroot Bunchberry False Solomon's Seal Jack-in-the-pulpit Wild Columbine Foamflower Ostrich Fern Other ferns	Black-eyed Susan Big Bluestem Grass Goldenrod Common Milkweed Aster Pearly Everlasting	Blue Flag Iris Blue Vervain Boneset Cardinal Flower Swamp Milkweed Joe Pye Weed White Turtlehead Grasses Rushes Sedges Tufted loosestrife Wild Raspberry Dwarf Raspberry Jewel weed Marsh Marigold Marsh St. John's wort Mosses  <b>Aquatics</b> Cat tails Arrowhead Yellow pond lily White water lily