

Tree Canopy Sustainability and Maintenance

The Town of Orangeville presently has:

- Street tree maintenance and replacement program, including an annual budget
- Municipal tree canopy target (40% by 2040)
- Municipal tree policy, written in broad strokes.

We propose several actions to move forward on the issue of tree canopy sustainability and maintenance. Specifically, we put forth the following:

- Update and extending our tree canopy survey.
- Update the Canopy Management plan for the Town, including:
 - o Incentives for the sustainability and maintenance of private tree canopies.
 - o Considering a tree preservation bylaw, including incentives.
 - o Incentives for the sustainability and maintenance of tree canopies on industrial and commercial properties in Town.
 - o Updating the Tree Canopy rules for new developments, which significantly contribute to the future improvements in our urban canopy.
 - o Developing Tree Canopy sustainability and maintenance updates for the existing Town documents, i.e., Climate Change, SNAP, Official Plan, etc.)
- Assign a Natural Capital value to the tree canopy.

More specifically, we put forth the following:

- 1. Update and extend the tree canopy survey to include private trees, as well as the canopy in forested valleys through the Town.**
 - o This will give us an updated and more detailed understanding of where the gaps in our progress towards 40% tree cover across the whole Town.
 - o This update would include an extended species list, as well as a breakdown by species beyond the major four species.
 - o Identification of species and of areas of trees at risk.
- 2. Update the Town's Canopy Management Plan:**
 - o Create intermediate milestones for the sustainability and maintenance for the Town's boulevard trees, as well as for Parks and for the public valley lands.

- o Update the rules for new developments, which significantly contribute to the future improvements in our urban canopy.
- o Increase citizen education and outreach: tree maintenance suggestions and support for citizens to build on the sustainability of their private trees. This would include education on the benefits of trees, how to maintain them, and how to replace them. (The evidence from other jurisdictions is that over half of urban tree canopies are on private property.)
- o Develop potential roles for volunteerism within the Town, starting with Sustainability Orangeville — which continues to play an important part in stimulating action in canopy sustainability and maintenance within the Town.

3. Implement annual funding for increasing canopy and executing the management plan for Town trees:

- o Increase the tree budget to extend beyond replacement and maintenance.
- o Create incentives/partnerships for the sustainability and maintenance of tree canopies on industrial and commercial properties in Town. There is considerable possibility for appropriate high-diversity planting of trees on a large proportion of industrial properties in Town — that could perhaps be encouraged with tax reductions (along the lines of the taxation encouragement of rural tree plantings).
- o Create incentives/partnerships for the sustainability and maintenance of private (residential) tree canopies.

4. Create a tree preservation bylaw (for private lands).

5. Develop Tree Canopy sustainability and maintenance updates for existing Town documents (i.e., Climate Change, SNAP, Official Plan, etc.).

6. Update the budget process to assign a Natural Capital value to the tree canopy in terms of climate change, heat island reduction, biodiversity, stormwater management, air pollution, energy consumption, all relating to the Town's existing Climate Change guidelines.

Other items:

- Consider establishing a heritage tree project (trees of note that should be preserved at all reasonable costs).
- Consider the ratio between coniferous and deciduous trees, noting that our Town landscapes have far more deciduous than coniferous, other than in the valley lands.