

Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy

Department:	Parks and Recreation	Policy Number:	E04-0400-19
Section:	All Departments	Effective Date:	February 12, 2019
Subject:	Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation	Revised Date:	
Authority:	By-Law 2019-XXX		

1. Purpose

Section 270(1) Subsection 7 of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O.2001, c. 25* requires that a municipality adopt and maintain a policy regarding the manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality.

This policy applies to all municipal public properties, development, and road allowances within the borders of the Municipality of Brockton. This policy can be used as a resource of guiding principles for residential, commercial and public purposes.

2. Definitions

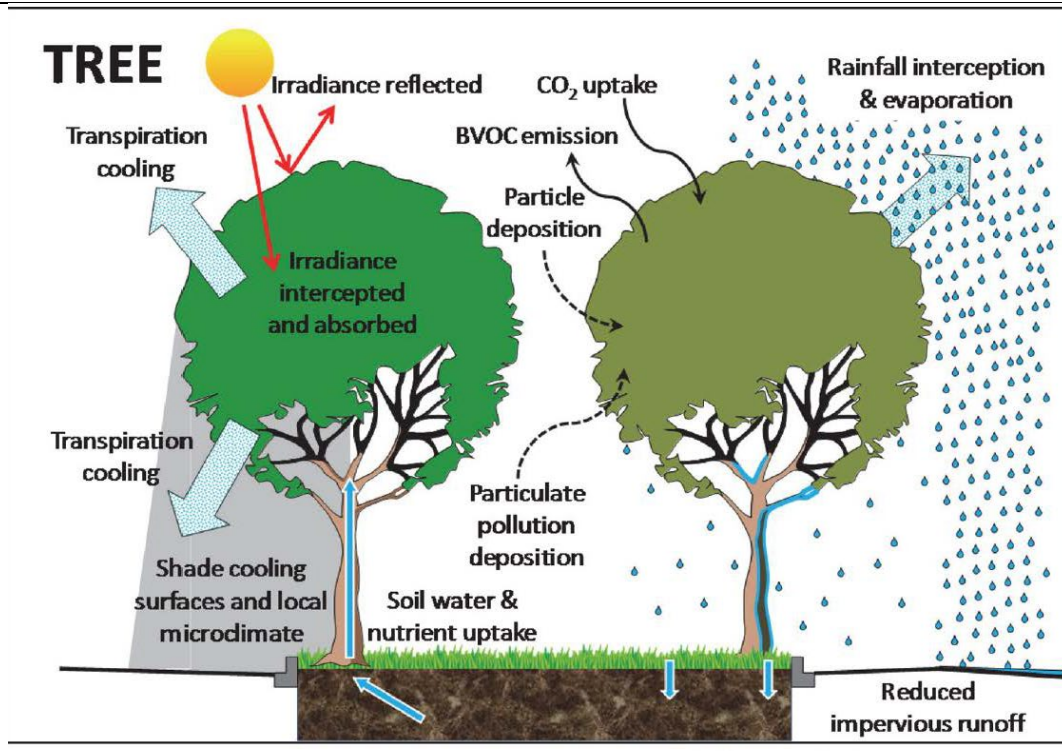
“**Urban Tree Canopy**” is defined by the Centre for Watershed Protection, as the layer of leaves, branches and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above.

3. Benefits to a Tree Canopy Policy

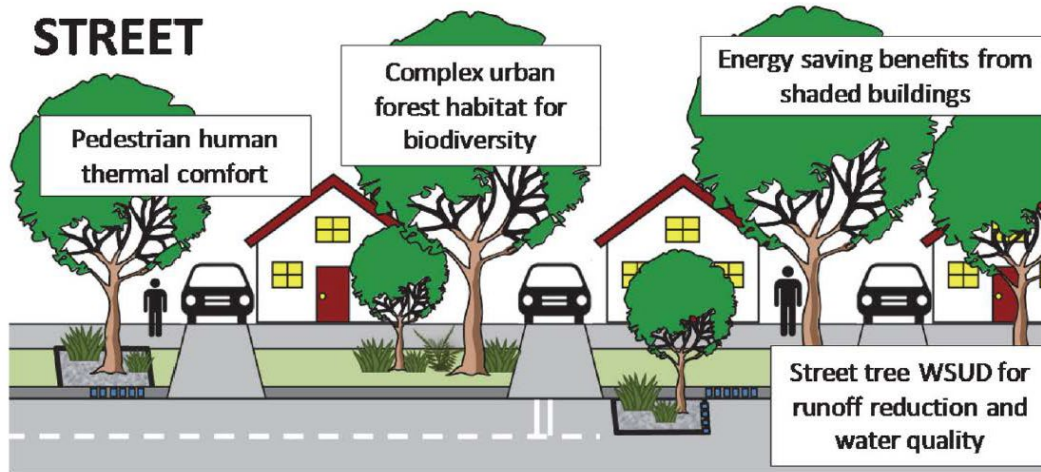
Benefits to a Tree Canopy Policy include:

- A mature urban tree canopy creates shade, which in turn lowers energy consumption for a community. This is accomplished by shading households, and commercial property by lowering impact of heat through direct sunlight.
- Increases property value
- Provides shelter for wildlife
- Reduces air pollution
- Improves public parks and its usability
- Improves aesthetics of properties and streets lines
- Assists in storm water management
- Prevents erosion

The following Image from the Water the Journal of Environmental Quality, illustrates the listed benefits of a Tree Canopy Policy:



BVOC = Biological volatile organic compounds



WSUD = Water Sensitive Urban Design

4. Planting Processes

4.1 Native Plantings

When planting any vegetation, local species/native vegetation should be utilized.

4.2 Where to Plant

Consideration should be given to where trees and vegetation are planted. Prior to planting a tree, property line, utilities should be considered. The location of a tree should take into context its future size as it relates to potential future issues with building’s foundations and rooflines, street sightlines, and potential interference with municipal infrastructure through root damage.

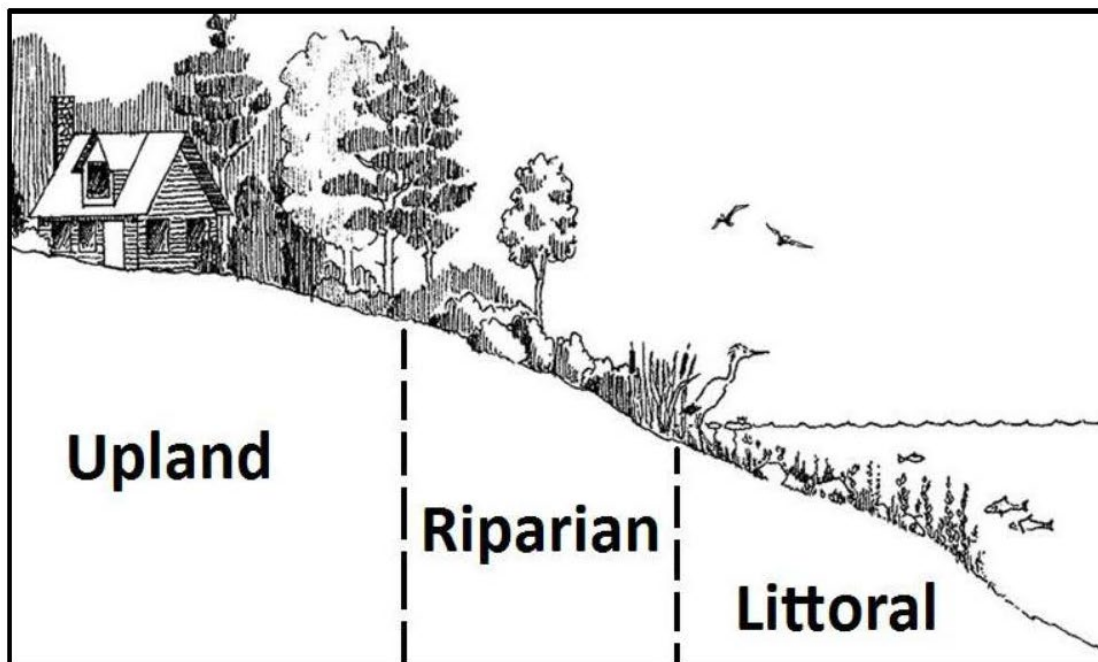
5. Shoreline Vegetation

Vegetated areas adjacent to watercourses, lakes, rivers and wetlands are known as shoreline buffers. Shoreline buffers protect water from pollutants by filtering contaminants, providing habitat for native species and preventing shoreline erosion.

Shoreline buffers should be:

- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry recommends a distance of 15 to 30 metres upland from the shore;
- Comprised of natural vegetation with a broad corridor of undisturbed vegetation;
- Not be comprised of grass;
- Avoid shoreline hardening (i.e. retaining walls).

The types of vegetation by zone are illustrated in the image provided below (Courtesy of the Muskoka Watershed Council).



Further information on these vegetative zones can be obtained from the Municipality of Brockton or Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

6. Maintenance and Preservation

Trees and vegetation require special care and treatment. If it appears the vegetation is struggling, it is recommended that you speak to a professional or consult the Municipality of Brockton's Horticulturalist.

7. Commercial and Higher Density Usage

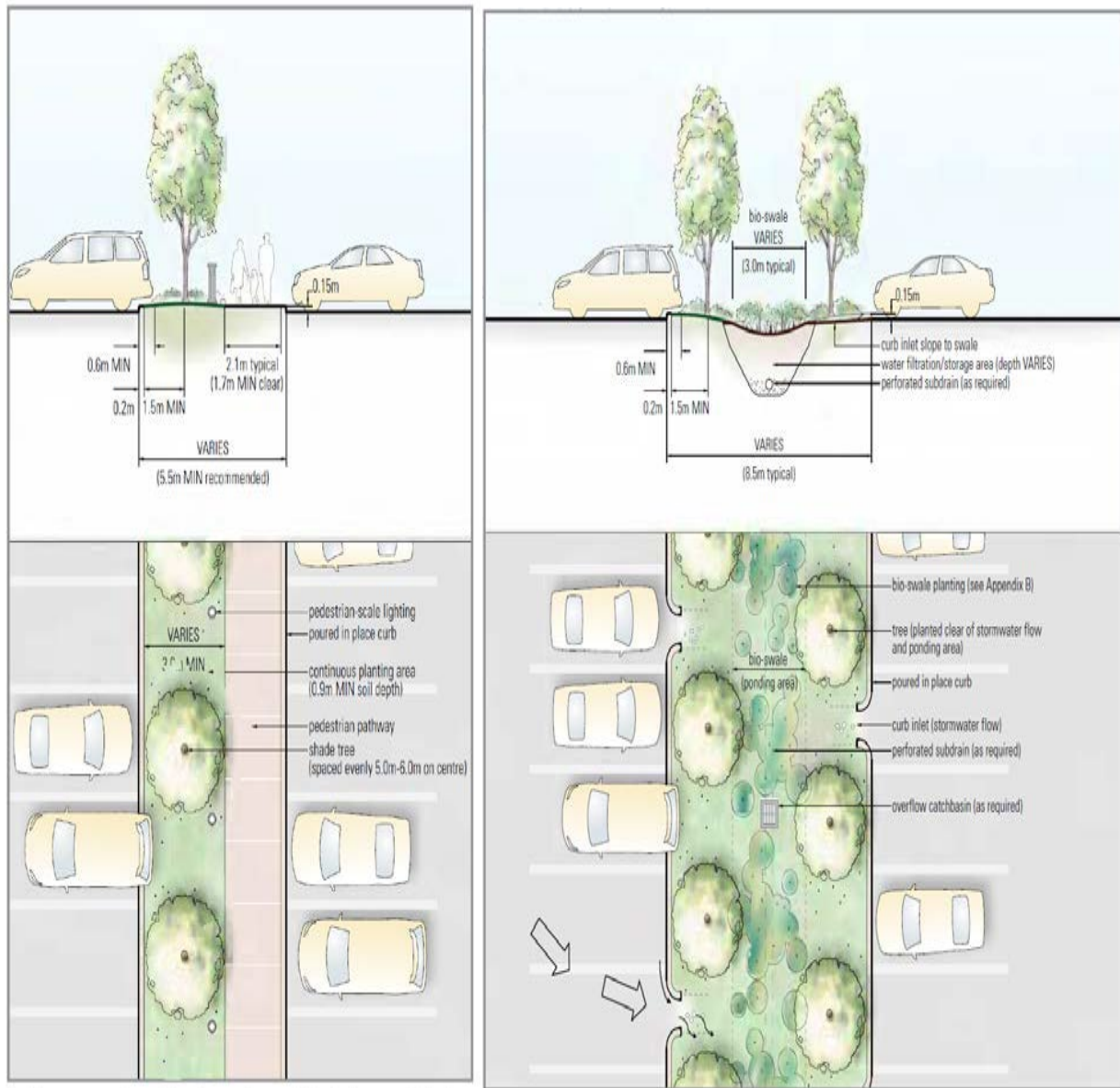
Increased vegetative buffers help beautify commercial properties and match the natural beauty of the Municipality of Brockton's landscape.

Other benefits include:

- Green parking lots reduce storm water flows and the costs of storm water maintenance;
- Vegetated aisles and parking islands increases shaded areas; reducing micro climates;
- Green roofs to reduce total storm water runoff and enhance the urban tree canopy.

The illustrations below have been provided by the City of Toronto's Design Guidelines for "Greening"

Surface Parking areas.



8. Disclaimer

This policy does not take priority over any of the Municipality of Brockton’s By-Laws, Resolutions or Agreements which are currently in effect. These include but are not limited to:

- Municipality of Brockton Tree Planting Policy E04-99-03
- Municipality of Brockton’s Community Shade Tree Program