

Tree Protection and Tree Canopy Preservation

Policy number:	EN-TRE-001
Section:	Environment
Sub-section:	Trees
Author:	Parks and Open Space Development Engineering
Authority:	Council
Effective date:	2009-05-04
Review by date:	2024
Last modified:	2019-02-25

Policy statement

The Corporation of the Town of Oakville (town) is committed to preserve and enhance its tree canopy and natural vegetation. The town shall protect trees on both public and private lands pursuant to applicable by-laws, recognizing their importance to the ecology, aesthetics, culture, and heritage of the Town.

Trees on public lands shall be removed only to safeguard public safety. Trees with significant structural and/or health problems and dying trees may also be removed with confirmation from the town forester or designate. Trees cannot be removed solely for reasons of aesthetics or nuisance, including shade, the shedding of tree leaves, nuts, or fruits, or damage caused by tree roots.

The compensation for leaf area loss will be determined as set out in the Tree Protection During Construction procedure.

Purpose

This policy recognizes the importance of tree canopy and many environmental, economic and social benefits of urban forests to communities. This policy enables the establishment of procedures to preserve tree canopy by minimizing tree removal, preventing damage or destruction of trees, establishing mandatory conditions for replacement of trees and optimize planting provisions and tree health within the town.

Scope

This policy applies to trees within the Town of Oakville, both on public and private lands.

Definitions

Tree canopy: refers to the layer of tree leaves, branches, and stems that provide tree coverage of the ground when viewed from above.

References and related documents

The Liveable Oakville Plan (Town of Oakville Official Plan)
Tree Protection During Construction Procedure
Private Tree Protection Procedure
Town Tree Protection By-law
Private Tree Protection By-law
Site Alteration By-law
Parks By-law
Environmental Sustainability policy
Halton Region's Tree By-Law
Halton Region's Healthy Communities Guidelines
Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan
North Oakville Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan
Growing Livability Report
Oakville Strategy for Biodiversity