



Tree Preservation and Enhancement Questionnaire

Smiths Falls Council has identified the enhancement of the urban forest as a strategic priority for the current term. The Town of Smiths Falls recognizes the importance of the Town’s urban forest and greenspaces and are looking to adopt a Tree Preservation and Enhancement Policy. Our draft policy is intended to focus on educating residents, promoting best practices and provide opportunities for municipal leadership in its operations to establish an enhanced and diverse tree canopy coverage within the Town in the coming years. Highlights of the strategy are:

- Requiring the replacement of street trees and park trees that have been removed (for any reason) at a 2:1 ratio or greater, depending on location;
- Identifying “Weak Tree Canopy Areas” on Town-owned property to determine areas that must be prioritized for enhancement;
- Guidelines to assist in preparation and review of Landscape Plans for site plan control and subdivision applications under the *Planning Act*;
- Establishing best practices for general maintenance and location of street trees and park trees;
- The development of tree enhancement programs and partnerships with local organizations;
- Commitment to completing an initial assessment and monitoring of the Town’s tree canopy and, as resources permit, conducting a tree inventory;
- Recommending a new Urban Forest Advisory Committee to assist with policy implementation, review of municipal projects and operations, and the pursuit of partnerships with other organizations.

Staff presented a draft *Tree Canopy and Vegetation Preservation and Enhancement Policy* to Council on May 4, 2020. A copy of the draft policy is available at the following link:

<https://www.smithsfalls.ca/events/event/special-committee-of-the-whole-meeting-virtual-2/>

We want to hear from you:

Council would like to hear your thoughts on several key strategic questions to assist us in preparing the final draft. We welcome your feedback!

1. In your opinion, where should the Town focus its efforts on enhancing the tree canopy? (Check all that apply)

- Parks
 Streets
 Private Property
 Commercial/Industrial Areas

2. In your opinion, what neighbourhood(s) or streets should be prioritized for tree planting and why?

3. If one of the following programs/public spaces were established, which are you likely to use/visit?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Adopt-a-tree Program | <input type="radio"/> Celebration of “Legacy/Heritage Trees” |
| <input type="radio"/> Botanical Garden | <input type="radio"/> Edible Tree Grove |
| <input type="radio"/> Educational Programs | <input type="radio"/> Public Participation in Street Tree Locations |
| <input type="radio"/> Tree Sales/Tree Giveaways | <input type="radio"/> Tree Planting Events |

4. Is it important to you to have input on a species of tree being planted in close proximity of your property?

- Yes
 No
 Depends on Location

5. Do you generally support the need to preserve or enhance tree coverage for new development in the Town?

- Yes
 No
 Depends on development

6. Other comments?



SMITHS FALLS
