THE TOWNSHIP OF JOLY

BY-LAW # 2019 – 008

Being a by-law to adopt and maintain a Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy

WHEREAS Section 270(1)(7) of the Municipal Act, 2001, SO 2001, c.25 requires a municipality to adopt and maintain a policy setting the manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Joly enacts as follows:

1. THAT Council endorses and approves the Policy attached to this by-law as Schedule "A".

2. This by-law shall come into force and effect on the date of its final passing.

Read a first, second and third time,
signed and the Seal of the Corporation
affixed thereto and finally passed in Council
this 12th day of March, 2019.

Mayor

Clerk

Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy

Township of Joly

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.

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1. Background

Section 270(1)(7) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, SO 2001, c 25 requires the Township of Joly (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 resouces 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 havesting 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 property value**: studies have shown general increases of up to 37% in residential property values associated with the presence of trees and natural vegetation on a property.

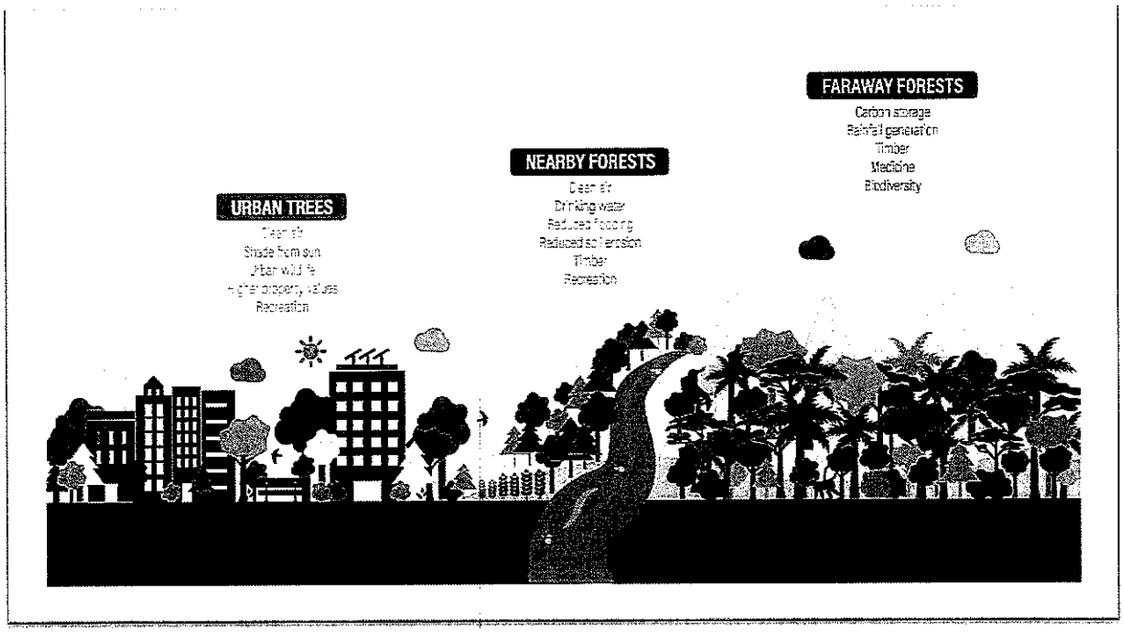
- **Improved quality of life**: time spent in greenspace improves mental health and well-being across numerous dimensions from stress reduction to physical activity.

- **Better economy**: trees and natural vegetation are a key driver of the local economy and play an important role in economic development.

- **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.

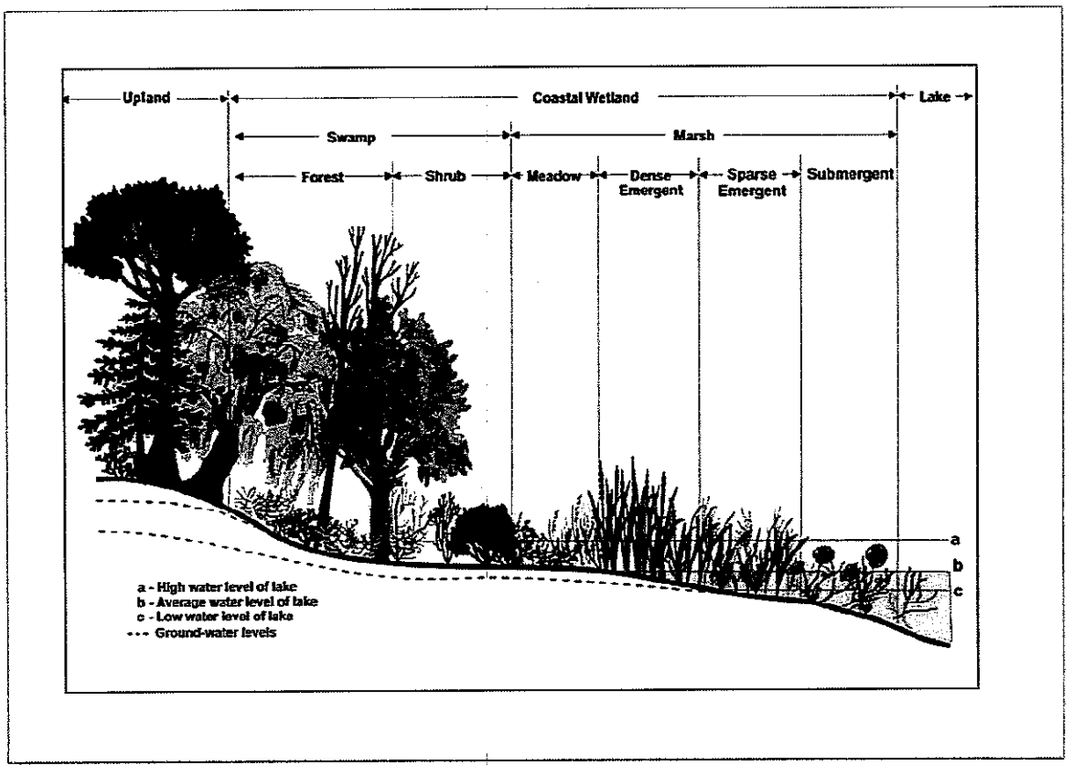
- **Carbon sequestration**: trees can mitigate carbon emissions and help fight climate change.
- **More privacy**: trees and vegetation provide a natural barrier that obstruct views and dampen sound between properties.
- **Stormwater management**: trees and natural vegetation alter and slow the path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



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9. 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.



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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.

Studies have shown that a range of buffer widths can be effective in promoting buffer functions such as removing sediments, nutrients and metals. Generally speaking the consensus in these studies is that under most conditions, buffer widths should be a minimum of 15 to 30 metres and variable width buffers may be more effective at addressing site-specific conditions. Variable width buffers can, however, be more costly to implement.

10. 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

11. Review

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