

Vision

for Saugeen Shores' Urban Forest and its Management

"The Town of Saugeen Shores recognizes and values the environmental, social, cultural, and economic contribution of the urban tree canopy to our community. The Town will, in partnership with its residents, and businesses work to conserve and, where sensible, increase urban tree canopy coverage that is diverse, healthy and a sustained asset for future generations."

Goals

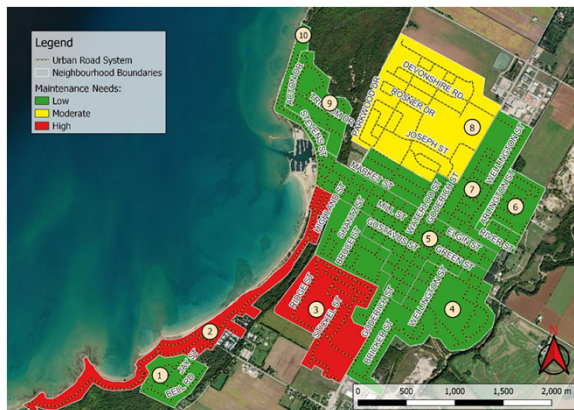
of Saugeen Shores' Urban Forest Management Plan

• Protect existing public trees and encourage the retention of private trees.	
• Increase the canopy cover over 10 years to help mitigate the effects of climate change through tree protection, planting, and maintenance	
• Increase tree planting with native species to enhance biodiversity and connectivity	
• Encourage the creation of beautifully treed places for people to enjoy.	
• Increase awareness and education about the benefits of increasing urban tree canopy coverage.	
• Understand the role tree canopy plays in generating and enhancing economic activity.	
• Explore partnership opportunities that promote stewardship of the tree canopy.	
• Ensure good tree management practices keep municipal trees healthy and safe.	

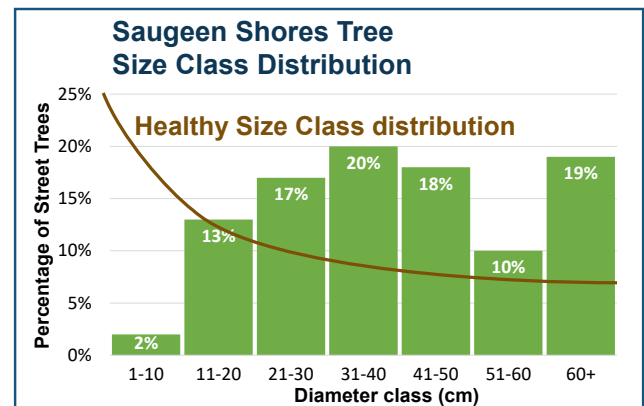
Inventory/Windshield Survey



33 other genres were represented in the municipal tree inventory



Port Elgin Maintenance Needs



Southampton Maintenance Needs

A Windshield Survey is a reconnaissance-level survey that provides insights into Saugeen Shores urban forest and tree management.

It was found that Saugeen Shores municipal trees were maintained well and healthy

The most recommended actions were corrective pruning and tree planting.

The tree canopy in Saugeen Shores has

- A high proportion of woodland cedar trees along Lake Huron
- A small proportion of younger trees
- A robust tree maintenance program
- Opportunities for tree planting in newer neighbourhoods

Saugeen Shores Canopy Cover/Plantable spaces



Ecological services and economic benefits from Saugeen Shores' trees and urban forest within the municipal boundary

Air Pollution	\$/t	\$/yr
CO ₂ , NO ₂ , SO ₂	\$2,500	\$ 2,000
Ozone	\$4,400	\$ 243,000
Particulate Matter	\$197,400	\$519,000
Water	\$/m ³ /yr	\$/yr
Avoided Run-off	\$3	\$720,000
Carbon	\$/t	\$/yr
	\$250	\$589,000
Stored in trees (not annual rate)	\$250	\$20,572,000
	Total \$/yr	\$2,073,000

Note: The above chart does not consider other economic benefits of the urban forest, such as reduced healthcare costs and increased tourism revenue.

Canopy Cover percentage of each Zone separated by canopy type

Zone	Canopy Tree %	Canopy Shrub %	Canopy Woodlot %	Canopy Total %	Plantable %
Port Elgin 1800 ha	8.1	3.1	24.1	35.3	15.8
Southampton 854 ha	12.7	5.1	31.4	49.2	15.3
Combined 2654 ha	9.5	3.7	26.4	39.6	15.5

Plantable Areas Cover Class percentage for each urban Zone

Planting Space Cover Class	Port Elgin 1800 ha	Southampton 854 ha	Combined 2654 ha
Municipal Road Allowance	2%	3.6%	2.5%
Municipal Parks & Facilities	2%	1.1%	1.7%
Private Plantable Space	9%	9.5%	9.1%
Commercial Plantable Space	2.7%	1.1%	2.2%
Total	280 ha	130 ha	410 ha

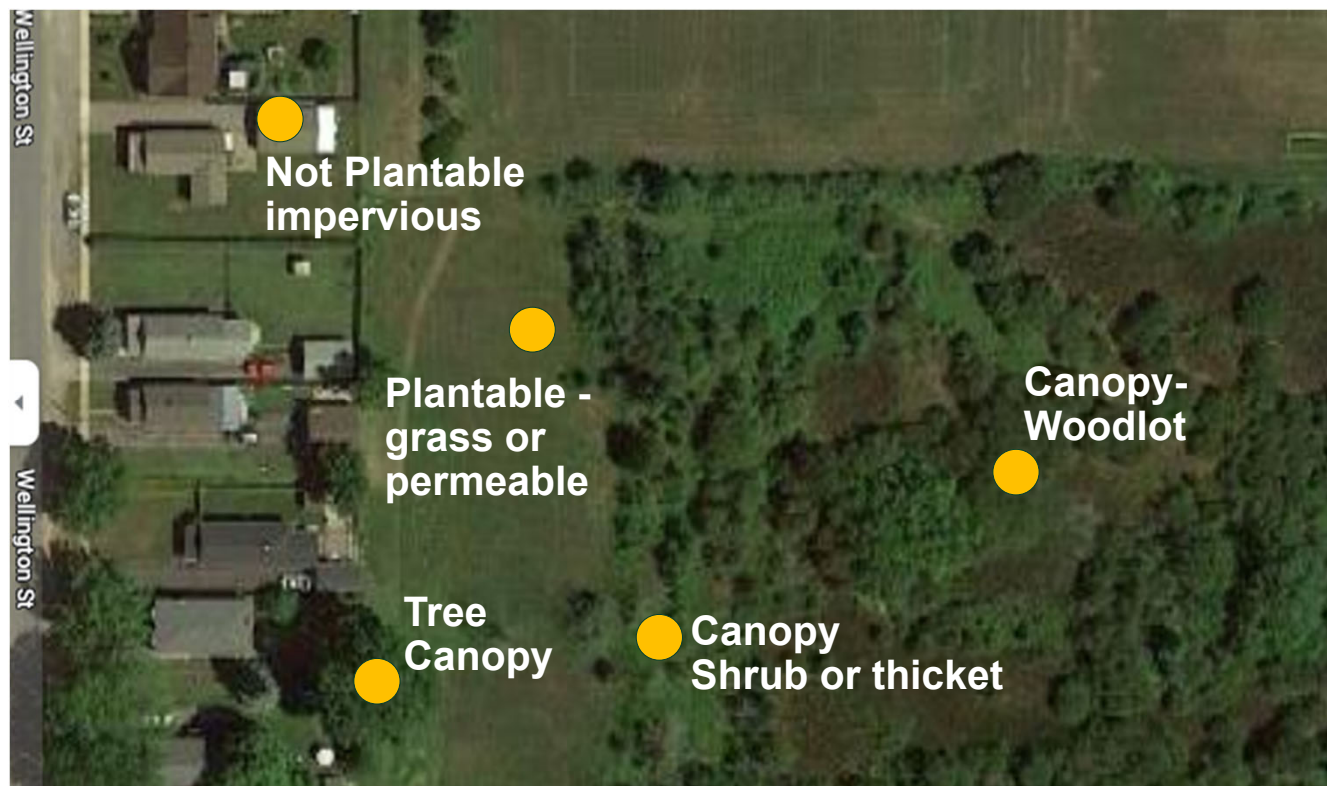
A few of the results from the studies:

- **Saugeen Shores urban canopy-**
 - Exceeds 30% - a threshold where mental and physical health benefits increase substantially.
 - Is bolstered by the patch of woodland along the shores of Lake Huron (would be below 30% without these woodlands).
 - Opportunities to increase canopy are primarily on private land
- **Woodlots make up 67% of Saugeen Shores' canopy cover.**

Saugeen Shores

Canopy Cover/ Plantable spaces Cover Classes

i-Tree Category	Cover Class	Description
Canopy Cover	Canopy – Tree	Single or small group of trees on residential lots, street trees or middle of field
	Canopy – Shrub or Thicket	Shrub, thicket, or early successional forest
	Canopy – Woodlot	Woodlots and forests
Plantable Space	Plantable – Grass/ Herbaceous	Residential lawn, open park, open space, municipal right of ways, schools, hospitals, regenerating meadow, grassy strips in parking lots or gravel boulevards
Non-Plantable	Non-Plantable Permeable Surface	Cultivated agriculture, sports fields, cemetery, golf course fairway, driving range, open water, wetlands, gravel parking, waste management/disposal area, quarry, other areas meant to be devoid of trees
	Impervious Surfaces	Buildings, roads, concrete, structures, sidewalks, driveways



Preserving Urban Tree Canopy in Saugeen Shores

The Urban Tree Canopy Plan is Proposing that a
Tree By-law and Tree-Planting Program(s) be
Implemented

What the Experts Recommend to Preserve Tree Canopy in Saugeen Shores:

- Identify significant trees that are large in size and of desirable species;
- Require the planting of replacement trees for the removal of significant trees that are healthy;
- Prevent the clear cutting of lots and the removal of large numbers of smaller sized trees; and
- Require the planting of replacement trees for the removal of large numbers of small trees.

Did you know?

Generally, more than 75% of trees within the Towns Urban Settlement Area Boundary are located on private property.

AND

Approximately, 15.5% of the Urban Settlement Area is open plantable space for the planting of trees?

Tree-planting will help Sustain and Grow Tree Canopy in Saugeen Shores:

- Assess types of tree planting programs, their feasibility and that align with the goals and objectives of the Urban Tree Canopy Plan;
- Determine an allocated budget for the planting of trees on public and private lands



Urban Tree Canopy Plan – Municipal Policy Review

The Urban Tree Canopy Plan is Proposing an Update to the Towns Existing Tree Policy as well as to other Town Policies as Recommended

The following Town documents were reviewed:

- Saugeen Shores Official Plan (2012)
- S.S. Subdivision and Site Plan Development Guide (2020)
- S.S. Strategic Plan (2023)
- S.S. Urban Forest Management Plan (2016)
- S.S. Tree Canopy Policy (2019)
- S.S. Env. S. Ad hoc Committee TOR (2022)
- S.S. Asset Management Plan, Core Infrastructure (2020)
- ESAC Report (2022) – Canopy Cover Plan Recommendation, Section 2.2; p 48-54
- S.S. Guide to ordering trees on-line (2022)

Conclusion - Urban Tree Canopy Policy

Trees and Tree Canopy considered well in most policy documents, however, stronger policies and replacement requirements are recommended.

Recommendations - Urban Tree Canopy Policy

- Stronger ratio of replacement trees to trees removed is encouraged as the benefits of trees increase exponentially with size.
- Annual municipal tree-planting program is strongly recommended.
- Tree Protection By-law is strongly recommended.
- Update qualifications for Arborist Reports.

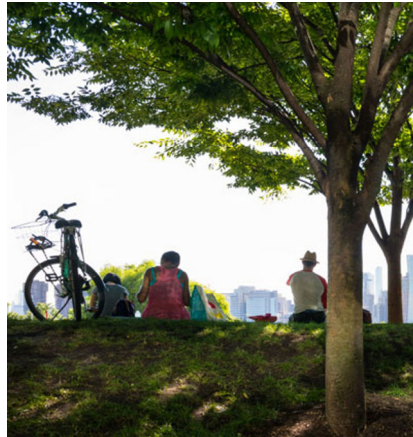


Trees help us live longer, healthier, happier lives

Trees **moderate temperatures** and **protect from uv rays**— it can feel up to **15° cooler** on hot summer days

Trees help **improve water quality** by reducing run-off and filtering water

Living near trees lowers the risk of mortality from common causes of death by up to 12%



Trees help **improve air quality** by filtering air pollution

Adding 10 trees to a Town block offers **mood and health benefits** akin to getting \$10,000 salary raise or **being 7 yrs younger**

Exposure to nature helps **reduce stress, speeds healing and improves mental health**

Trees reduce the effects of climate change

Trees **absorb carbon dioxide** (CO₂), removing and storing the carbon while releasing clean O₂ back into the air

It takes 500 full-sized trees to absorb the CO₂ produced by a typical car driven 20,000 km/yr

Trees intercept rain and **reduce stress on municipal storm-water system**



Trees **reduce runoff and help prevent flooding**- ex. Each mature tree lifts 400 litres of water out of the ground

Trees keep ground temperatures cool, shelter buildings, and **reduce air-conditioning and heating costs** by 20%-30%

Well-positioned trees **slow wind** and act as a windbreak

Trees beautify our communities while providing many other unexpected benefits

Trees help provide **privacy** as a **visual and auditory barrier** to noisy traffic

Trees **increase property value**- ex. Mature trees in a well-landscaped yard can boost a home's value up to 19%



Trees **provide wildlife habitat**: ex. 80+ species of North American rely on them

Trees **help reduce crime**: A 10% increase in tree canopy can lead to 12% decrease in neighbourhood crime

Economic & environmental benefits make canopy cover planting & maintenance a good investment