



Town of Penetanguishene Policy/Procedure

Policy Name: Tree Compensation Reserve		
Policy Division: P&D	Department: PLAN	Policy Number: 004-2023
Effective Date: December 13, 2023		Revision Date: November 1, 2023
Supersedes:		Date Approved by Council: December 13, 2023
Corporate Policy (Approved by Council)		[x]
Administrative Policy (Approved by CAO)		[]
Related Documents/Legislation:		
Town of Penetanguishene Official Plan (2020)		
Town of Penetanguishene Tree Protection By-law 2023-XX		

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Town of Penetanguishene recognizes the economic, social, and environmental benefits of trees. It is a policy of the Town Official Plan (2020) that, wherever possible and appropriate, trees or natural vegetation be replanted at a 2:1 ratio to replace tree or natural vegetation removal that have been approved by the Town through the development approvals process. Where replanting cannot be achieved, tree compensation may be substituted by a payment of cash-in-lieu in accordance with Tree Protection By-law 2023-XX or its successor.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to guide the efficient use of the Tree Compensation Reserve.

SCOPE:

Council may approve expenditures from the Tree Compensation Reserve fund either through the budget process or staff reports brought forward by staff for consideration. Expenditures shall occur in accordance with the Town of Penetanguishene Procurement By-law 2022-49 or its successor.

DEFINITIONS:

Tree Compensation Reserve means the funds collected through cash-in-lieu of tree compensation.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

This policy is considered in Council decisions with respect to expenditures from the Tree Compensation Reserve. This policy is administered by the Planning and Community Development department.

PROCEDURES:

1. Funds collected through the Tree Compensation Reserve are not intended to be spent specifically on the development at hand through which the funds have been collected.
2. The Town will utilize its natural heritage mapping to determine areas that lack tree canopy coverage. Such areas will be targeted for tree planting projects, with a goal to increase connectivity between woodlands.
3. Funds collected may be allocated to a variety of environmental initiatives, including but not limited to:
 - Planting trees in areas that lack tree cover.
 - Planting trees within existing public parks.
 - Planting “street trees” within the Town boulevard, where they can be accommodated.
 - Planting trees along land boundaries in open areas to create natural corridors and shelter from wind and snow drift.
 - Planting trees along shorelines and watercourses to enhance habitat, stabilize soils, and reduce erosion.
 - Replacement of trees damaged during extreme weather events.
 - Create and administer a tree planting program for residents or enhance existing tree planting partnerships.
 - Land acquisition for the purpose of habitat or tree protection.
 - Habitat restoration projects.
 - Tree pruning and maintenance of existing trees.
4. The Tree Compensation Reserve cannot be utilized to offset deficits of existing projects outlined in the Town’s annual capital or operating budgets. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the funds may be utilized to enhance an existing project through additional funding that exceeds capital or operating budgets (e.g. funding additional tree planting in a community park, replacement of trees damaged from weather events, or growing existing tree planting programs and partnerships).
5. The location of tree planting projects will be distributed equitably throughout the Town.
6. The Town may use land use planning tools, such as natural heritage mapping, or develop other comprehensive tree planting strategies to prioritize the location and scope of tree planting projects.