

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Tree and Forest Related Topics

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June 27, 2018

Shade Policy

- Shade policies are used in many cities around the world (including Toronto) as a way of ensuring that the use of recreational spaces does not lead to excess UV radiation exposure
- Make play safer and recreational spaces more attractive/pleasant to use
 - London already very hot in summer, and with climate change, expected to get a lot hotter

Shade Policy

- Shade policies include not only trees, but also often manmade options such as shade sails
- Often developed in partnership with local Health Unit
- TFAC received a presentation from students from the Environment and Health Promotion Program at Western University in Fall, 2016



Shade Policy

- TFAC submitted the following recommendation to PEC at their Dec. 12, 2016 meeting:
 "That Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to consider a minimum shade standard for parks, especially defined recreational spaces within parks, such as playgrounds and around sports fields, to ensure that upcoming planting efforts maximize the public health benefit of trees and the shade they produce for youth and other park users;"
- This motion was unanimously passed by the councillors
- If no progress has been made yet, we'd propose that the Parks & Recreation Master Plan might be a good "home" for a shade policy

Naturalization Policy

- Consultants working on Parks & Recreation Master Plan have communicated that environmental issues are to be addressed in other policies, such as the Natural Heritage Strategy and ESA policies
 - But those only deal with existing natural heritage where there is generally low need and desire to plant
- Parks Planning & Design had staff working on a naturalization policy prior to 2011 (believed to be 2009 – 2010?), but was never finalized
- A Naturalization Policy could:
 - Help establish and identify suitable spaces for naturalizing
 - Define education and outreach program for naturalization initiatives
 - Provide a process for “what to do” in instances of NIMBYism

- That the Parks & Recreation Master Plan explicitly recognize the importance park spaces play in our local environment, and that park spaces should be designed in such a way as to enhance the environmental benefits they offer
- That the creation of a Shade Policy be included as a task item under the Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- That the creation of a Naturalization Policy be included as a task item under the Parks & Recreation Master Plan



- "The take home message is that highly maintained lawns and trees sequester much less CO₂ than more natural areas with little maintenance "

