

Comments on the Draft Urban Forest Management Plan and the Provincial Policy Statement

Provincial Policy Statement 2014: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=10463>

Part I: Preamble (excerpts from page 1)

The Provincial Policy Statement provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. As a key part of Ontario's policy-led planning system, the Provincial Policy Statement sets the policy foundation for regulating the development and use of land. It also supports the provincial goal to **enhance the quality of life** for all Ontarians.

The Provincial Policy Statement provides for appropriate development while protecting resources of provincial interest, public health and safety, and the quality of the natural and built environment. The Provincial Policy Statement supports improved land use planning and management, which contributes to a more effective and efficient land use planning system.

The policies of the Provincial Policy Statement may be complemented by provincial plans or by locally-generated policies regarding matters of municipal interest. Provincial plans and **municipal official plans provide a framework for comprehensive, integrated, place-based and long-term planning that supports and integrates the principles of strong communities, a clean and healthy environment and economic growth, for the long term.**

Land use planning is only one of the tools for implementing provincial interests. A wide range of legislation, regulations, policies and programs may also affect planning matters, and assist in implementing these interests.

Part III: How to Read the Provincial Policy Statement (excerpts from page 1-3)

The provincial policy-led planning system **recognizes and addresses the complex interrelationships among environmental, economic and social factors** in land use planning. The Provincial Policy Statement **supports a comprehensive, integrated and long-term approach to planning, and recognizes linkages among policy areas.**

It is to be read in its entirety and the relevant policies are to be applied to each situation. **When more than one policy is relevant, a decision-maker should consider all of the relevant policies to understand how they work together.**

There is **no implied priority** in the order in which the policies appear.

The **policies** in the Provincial Policy Statement **represent minimum standards.**

Land use planning decisions made by municipalities...**must be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement.**

Ottawa's Urban Forest Management Plan fits into the Vision for Ontario's Land Use Planning System as Defined in the Provincial Policy Statement

Provincial Policy Statement	Urban Forest Management Plan
<p>Part IV: Vision for Ontario's Land Use Planning System</p> <p>The long-term prosperity and social well-being of Ontario depends upon planning for strong, sustainable and resilient communities for people of all ages, a clean and healthy environment, and a strong and competitive economy.</p> <p>Some areas face challenges related to... accommodating and managing the development and population growth which is occurring, while protecting important resources and the quality of the natural environment.</p> <p><u>Efficient development patterns</u> optimize the use of land, resources and public investment in infrastructure and public service facilities. These land use patterns promote a mix of housing, including affordable housing, employment, recreation, parks and open spaces, and transportation choices that increase the use of active transportation and transit before other modes of travel. They also support the financial well-being of the Province and municipalities over the long term, and minimize the undesirable effects of development, including impacts on air, water and other resources. Strong, liveable and healthy communities promote and enhance human health and social well-being, are economically and environmentally sound, and are resilient to climate change.</p> <p>Strong communities, a clean and healthy environment and a strong economy are inextricably linked. Long-term prosperity, human and environmental health and social wellbeing should take precedence over short-term considerations.</p>	<p>Vision (page 12)</p> <p>Ottawa's Urban Forest is healthy, diverse and always growing. It sustains vibrant, livable and unique neighbourhoods and promotes health and well-being for all of the city's residents and visitors.</p> <p>The Nation's Capital is a global leader in urban forest sustainability, and others look to Ottawa as a place where social and economic prosperity and a clean and healthy environment coexist beneath the urban forest canopy.</p> <p>Urban Forest Benefits and Services</p> <p>The urban forest is a vital part of the City's green infrastructure. It provides wide-ranging benefits and services to the city's residents. These make Ottawa a healthy, vibrant, safe and prosperous place to live.</p> <p><i>Heat and air and water pollution travel. A clean, green city with a healthy urban forest canopy will provide significant downwind and downstream benefits to communities both nearby and further afield.</i></p>

Provincial Policy Statement	Urban Forest Management Plan
<p>Part V: Policies</p> <p>1.0 Building Strong Healthy Communities</p> <p>.... Efficient land use and development patterns support sustainability by promoting strong, liveable, healthy and resilient communities, protecting the environment and public health and safety, and facilitating economic growth.</p>	<p>Urban Forest Benefits and Services Health and Social Benefits</p> <p>Documented benefits of treed areas and greenspaces include supporting physical health and well-being, improving mental health and cognitive functioning, and increasing social cohesion and strengthening communities.</p>
<p>1.1 Managing and Directing Land Use to Achieve Efficient and Resilient Development and Land Use Patterns</p> <p>1.1.1 Healthy, liveable and safe communities are sustained by:</p> <p>h) promoting development and land use patterns that conserve biodiversity and consider the impacts of a changing climate.</p>	<p>Responding to Climate Change</p> <p>The urban forest helps Ottawa mitigate and adapt to climate change. In addition to sequestering and storing atmospheric carbon (mitigation), trees also reduce demand for energy, remove air pollution, protect against UV radiation, control flooding, mitigate urban heat islands and provide a range of other climate change adaptation services.</p> <p>Environmental Benefits and Services</p> <p>Trees and wooded natural areas reduce air pollution and improve air quality, cool the air and reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce flooding and improve water quality, and provide a range of habitats for plants and wildlife. (conserve biodiversity)</p>
<p>1.1.3 Settlement Areas</p> <p>1.1.3.2 Land use patterns within settlement areas shall be based on:</p> <p>a) densities and a mix of land uses which:</p> <p>3. minimize negative impacts to air quality and climate change, and promote energy efficiency;</p>	<p>Responding to Climate Change</p> <p>...mitigate and adapt to climate change. ...sequestering and storing atmospheric carbon (mitigation), ...reduce demand for energy, remove air pollution, protect against UV radiation, control flooding, mitigate urban heat islands and provide a range of other climate change adaptation services.</p> <p>Economic Benefits</p> <p>...boost local economic activity, reduce</p>

	<p>residential energy use demand and costs, reduce healthcare costs (through prevention and quicker recovery times), and reduce infrastructure maintenance costs.</p> <p>Environmental Benefits and Services</p> <p>...reduce air pollution and improve air quality, cool the air and reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce flooding and improve water quality...</p>
<p>1.1.4 Rural Areas in Municipalities</p> <p>1.1.4.1 Healthy, integrated and viable rural areas should be supported by:</p> <p>h) conserving biodiversity and considering the ecological benefits provided by nature;</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>1.5 Public Spaces, Recreation, Parks, Trails and Open Space</p> <p>1.5.1 Healthy, active communities should be promoted by:</p> <p>a) planning public streets, spaces and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of pedestrians, foster social interaction and facilitate active transportation and community connectivity;</p> <p>b) planning and providing for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly-accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, public spaces, open space areas, trails and linkages, and, where practical, water-based resources;</p> <p>c) providing opportunities for public access to shorelines;</p>	<p>Responding to Climate Change</p> <p>...mitigate and adapt to climate change. ...remove air pollution, protect against UV radiation, control flooding, mitigate urban heat islands...</p> <p>Health and Social Benefits</p> <p>...supporting physical health and well-being, improving mental health and cognitive functioning, and increasing social cohesion and strengthening communities.</p> <p>Economic Benefits</p> <p>...reduce residential energy use demand and costs, reduce healthcare costs (through prevention and quicker recovery times),</p> <p>Environmental Benefits and Services</p> <p>...reduce air pollution and improve air quality, cool the air and reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce flooding and improve water quality, and provide a range of habitats for</p>

	plants and wildlife (enhance biodiversity).
<p>1.6 Infrastructure and Public Service Facilities</p> <p>1.6.2 Planning authorities should promote green infrastructure to complement infrastructure.</p>	<p>Responding to Climate Change</p> <p>...mitigate and adapt to climate change. ...control flooding, mitigate urban heat islands...</p> <p>Economic Benefits</p> <p>...reduce infrastructure maintenance costs...</p>
<p>1.6.6 Sewage, Water and Stormwater</p> <p>1.6.6.1 Planning for sewage and water services shall: d) integrate servicing and land use considerations at all stages of the planning process;</p> <p>1.6.6.7 Planning for stormwater management shall: d) maximize the extent and function of vegetative and pervious surfaces;</p>	<p>Responding to Climate Change</p> <p>...mitigate and adapt to climate change. ...control flooding...</p> <p>Economic Benefits</p> <p>...reduce infrastructure maintenance costs.</p>
<p>1.7 Long-Term Economic Prosperity</p> <p>1.7.1 Long-term economic prosperity should be supported by: c) maintaining and, where possible, enhancing the vitality and viability of downtowns and mainstreets; d) encouraging a sense of place, by promoting well-designed built form and cultural planning, and by conserving features that help define character, including built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes; h) providing opportunities to support local food...; l) promoting energy conservation...; j) minimizing negative impacts from a changing climate and considering the ecological benefits provided by nature;</p>	<p>Economic Benefits</p> <p>Trees in urban areas have also been shown to increase property values, boost local economic activity, reduce residential energy use demand and costs, reduce healthcare costs (through prevention and quicker recovery times), and reduce infrastructure maintenance costs.</p> <p>Health and Social Benefits</p> <p>...supporting physical health and well-being, improving mental health and cognitive functioning, and increasing social cohesion and strengthening communities.</p> <p>Responding to Climate Change</p> <p>...mitigate and adapt to climate change. ...sequestering and storing atmospheric carbon (mitigation), ...reduce demand for energy, remove air pollution, protect against UV</p>

	<p>radiation, control flooding, mitigate urban heat islands and provide a range of other climate change adaptation services.</p> <p>Note: In mature neighbourhoods, mature trees help define community character. The new <i>Infill Tree Conservation Program</i> potentially will save many of these trees. Additionally, Ottawa needs to be able to designate and provide a higher level of protection to Heritage Trees, which provide all of the above-noted benefits, as well as being a source of important genetic material.</p>
<p>1.8 Energy Conservation, Air Quality and Climate Change</p> <p>1.8.1 Planning authorities shall support energy conservation and efficiency, improved air quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and climate change adaptation through land use and development patterns which:</p> <p>f) promote design and orientation which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. maximizes energy efficiency and conservation, and considers the mitigating effects of vegetation; and <p>g) maximize vegetation within settlement areas, where feasible.</p>	<p>Environmental Benefits and Services</p> <p>Trees and wooded natural areas reduce air pollution and improve air quality, cool the air and reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce flooding and improve water quality....</p> <p>Economic Benefits</p> <p>Trees in urban areas have also been shown to...reduce residential energy use demand and costs...and reduce infrastructure maintenance costs.</p>
<p>2.0 Wise Use and Management of Resources</p> <p>Ontario's long-term prosperity, environmental health, and social well-being depend on conserving biodiversity, protecting the health of the Great Lakes, and protecting natural heritage, water, agricultural, mineral and cultural heritage and archaeological resources for their economic, environmental and social benefits.</p> <p>2.1 Natural Heritage</p> <p>2.1.2 The diversity and connectivity of natural features in an area, and the long-term ecological function and biodiversity of natural heritage systems, should be maintained, restored or, where possible, improved, recognizing linkages between and among natural</p>	<p>Responding to Climate Change</p> <p>The urban forest helps Ottawa mitigate and adapt to climate change. In addition to sequestering and storing atmospheric carbon (mitigation), trees also reduce demand for energy, remove air pollution, protect against UV radiation, control flooding, mitigate urban heat islands and provide a range of other climate change adaptation services.</p> <p>Environmental Benefits and Services</p> <p>Trees and wooded natural areas reduce air pollution and improve air quality, cool the air and reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce flooding and improve water quality, and provide</p>

<p>heritage features and areas, surface water features and ground water features.</p>	<p>a range of habitats for plants and wildlife. (conserve biodiversity)</p>
<p>2.2 Water</p> <p>2.2.1 Planning authorities shall protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by:</p> <p>h) ensuring stormwater management practices minimize stormwater volumes and contaminant loads, and maintain or increase the extent of vegetative and pervious surfaces.</p>	<p>Environmental Benefits and Services</p> <p>Trees and wooded natural areas ...reduce flooding and improve water quality....</p>
<p>4.0 Implementation and Interpretation</p>	<p>Implementing the UFMP</p>
<p>4.2 In accordance with section 3 of the Planning Act, a decision of the council of a municipality, a local board, a planning board, a minister of the Crown and a ministry, board, commission or agency of the government, including the Municipal Board, in respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter, "shall be consistent with" this Provincial Policy Statement.</p> <p>Comments, submissions or advice that affect a planning matter that are provided by the council of a municipality, a local board, a planning board, a minister or ministry, board, commission or agency of the government "shall be consistent with" this Provincial Policy Statement.</p> <p>4.4 This Provincial Policy Statement shall be read in its entirety and all relevant policies are to be applied to each situation.</p> <p>4.5 In implementing the Provincial Policy Statement, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing may take into account other considerations when making decisions to support strong communities, a clean and healthy environment and the economic vitality of the Province.</p>	<p><i>Comment: Land use planning includes protecting and growing the urban forest. It includes protecting and preserving trees at all stages of their life cycle, and planting and nurturing trees for the future.</i></p> <p>"The Provincial Policy Statement provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development." PPS policies refer to sustainability, human health, preservation of vegetation, climate change, etc. all of which are inextricably linked to a thriving urban forest. <i>Yet, Ottawa's urban forest is in serious decline.</i></p> <p>This must change, if the City is to be consistent with the policy direction in the PPS.</p> <p>Committee of Adjustment Decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. These must be consistent with the Policies in the PPS. 2. Mature trees and greenspace have long been recognised in CofA and OMB Decisions as significant contributors to community character. 3. Currently, the CofA is not receiving all of the information that it needs to make its Decisions; the May 9, 2012 requirement for tree disclosure

<p>4.9 The policies of this Provincial Policy Statement represent minimum standards. This Provincial Policy Statement does not prevent planning authorities and decision-makers from going beyond the minimum standards established in specific policies, unless doing so would conflict with any policy of this Provincial Policy Statement.</p>	<p>information on the subject and adjacent lots, and submission of a Forestry report (when warranted) has not been implemented.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Tree disclosure information now is a prerequisite for obtaining a building permit, however, under the <i>Urban Tree Conservation By-law</i> CofA approval of a development application is one of the reasons for allowing removal of a distinctive tree on the subject property. 5. This will not change when the By-law is reviewed. 6. <i>Therefore, the CofA must be provided the tree disclosure information and a Forestry report.</i>
<p>4.10 A wide range of legislation, regulations, policies, and plans may apply to decisions with respect to Planning Act applications. In some cases, a Planning Act proposal may also require approval under other legislation or regulation, and policies and plans issued under other legislation may also apply.</p> <p>4.11 In addition to land use approvals under the Planning Act, infrastructure may also require approval under other legislation and regulations. An environmental assessment process may be applied to new infrastructure and modifications to existing infrastructure under applicable legislation.</p> <p>There may be circumstances where land use approvals under the Planning Act may be integrated with approvals under other legislation, for example, integrating the planning processes and approvals under the Environmental Assessment Act and the Planning Act, provided the intent and requirements of both Acts are met.</p>	<p>Example: Ontario's <i>Forestry Act</i> provisions on Boundary Trees.</p> <p><i>Propose that Boundary Trees be disclosed <u>as such</u> on Site Plans and Grading and Drainage Plans.</i></p>
<p>4.8 Zoning and development permit by-laws are important for implementation of this Provincial Policy Statement. Planning authorities shall keep their zoning and development permit by-laws up-to-date</p>	<p>The Infill I and Infill II projects resulted in passage of the Mature Neighbourhoods Overlay (June 10, 2015, OMB Decision PL120666) and Infill II Zoning Bylaw 2015-228 (July 25, 2016, OMB Decision PL150797). These Bylaws introduced zoning requirements</p>

with their official plans and this Provincial Policy Statement. (Infill 1 & 2)

that enhance the compatibility of infill development. The Intent and the Provisions are consistent with the PPS. *These By-laws explicitly make room for greenspace and thus should be consistent with and supportive of the Draft UFMP:*

Infill I: Streetscape Analysis "Your street sets the rules."

For the purposes of Sections 139 and 140, the following definitions apply:

(i) *Attribute* means a land use quality or feature, regarded as a characteristic of, and an inherent part of, the streetscape character, inclusive of the use, incidental use of lands, buildings and associated uses, ...with respect to the street; **treatment of yards** abutting a street;

(iii) *Character* means the recurrence or prevalence of patterns of established building setbacks, site layouts, orientation of the principal entranceway to the street, incidental use of lands, and **landscapes that constitute a streetscape**, based on identified and confirmed land use attributes.

xii) *Incidental use* of land means how the land is treated or used, including land within front, interior side and corner side yards, **for purposes such as landscaping**,....

Infill II: Report to Planning Committee, June 24, 2016

The fundamental principles that underpin the Infill II zoning recommendations are:
To ensure that individual buildings fit into a city block in a way that **leaves a sufficient amount of open space in the middle of the block for air and sun-light penetration, preservation of permeable surfaces and existing vegetation**, do not create privacy intrusion or overlook issues and provides for the opportunity for at-grade amenity area;