

Environmental Connections to Shade Policy

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Overview

- Change is in the Air
- Toronto's Tree Canopy
- Wet weather flow and storm retention
- Heat Island Effect



Air Quality: Under One Umbrella

➤ Mandatory green building standards for new buildings, including businesses and residences, by no later than 2012.

- *Provide financing incentive for green roofs.*

➤ Double the existing tree canopy to 34% by 2020.

- *Planting and maintaining trees slows climate warming and assists with adaptation by providing shade and cooling to counter the urban heat island effect.*

➤ Connection needed with Climate Change Response.



Toronto's Tree Canopy

- Official plan recommends increasing canopy to 30-40%.
- Parks ``Our Common Grounds`` Strategy recommends:
 - Implement an Urban Forestry Management Plan over the next 10 years to create the framework to increase Toronto's current tree canopy coverage of 17 per cent to 30 to 40 per cent.
 - Increase our annual tree planting by 16,000 trees per year.
 - Increase the average lifespan of our sidewalk trees from five to 20 years by improving tree planting conditions.



Wet weather flow and storm retention



- Priority 1: Manage water where it falls.
- Has led to tree planting in parking lots and focus on permeable surfaces.
- More ``source control`` support needed.

Heat Island Effect

- Viewed as symptom of climate change that must be addressed.
- July 2005- City Council passes unanimous motion to develop Heat Island Effect Mitigation strategy to address extreme heat in Toronto:
 - *Recommends trees are strategically planted to shade buildings, parking lots and other dark surfaces;*
- May 2007 – TDRC asks that hot weather response plan be linked to the City of Toronto's broader environmental and climate change agenda

Key Dates

- June 18, 2007 - Parks and Environment Committee considers “Change is in the Air”
- June 25, 2007 – Executive Committee considers “Change is in the Air”

Fall 2007

- Staff report on playground shade audit to Parks and Environment Committee.