



ATTN: Matthew Green
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cc. Cllrs McKelvie, Lin, Colle, Morley, Pasternak, Perruzza, and Saxe

February 25, 2025

RE: Infrastructure & Environment Committee Item IE19.9 Strengthening Toronto's Tree Canopy

As a pedestrian advocacy group that works to improve walking conditions and safety in Toronto, Walk Toronto supports the City of Toronto's report "Strengthening Toronto's Tree Canopy".

Our urban forests provide natural solutions to many of the issues facing Toronto today - including improvements to mental & physical health, decreased risk of floods and improvements to air quality. For those using active transportation trees also decrease exposure to sun, wind and heat. When used as part of the City's Green Infrastructure or Complete Streets, trees also provide an increased level of safety to road users by creating a physical barrier between motor vehicles and cyclists & pedestrians.

As noted in the report, urban forests offer millions of dollars in savings from decreased energy use, carbon sequestration, pollution removal and runoff avoidance. Additionally, Toronto residents may experience savings in decreased heating & cooling demands in their buildings & homes, and, decreased risk of flood damage.

Walk Toronto appreciates the efforts the City is making towards the maintenance of the Toronto tree canopy mentioned in the report. We would like to highlight the need for more equitable planting of trees in areas that are lacking, and to encourage Toronto residents to understand and care for our urban forests - including those in the heavily used ravine system, High Park and Sherwood Forest through greater education and by-law enforcement.

Walk Toronto fully supports the City of Toronto in their efforts to enhance and maintain a healthy and robust urban tree canopy..

Respectfully yours,

Susan Bakshi
For WalkToronto
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