

**BY-LAW NUMBER 23-2023**  
**OF**  
**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BRANTFORD**

By-law to amend By-law 70-2010, being a By-law to adopt various City of Brantford Policies, by adopting Public Works Policy - 025 Native Species Planting

WHEREAS Section 8(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O., 2001, c.25, as amended, (the “Act”) the powers of a municipality shall be interpreted broadly so as to enable the municipality to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate and to enhance the municipality’s ability to respond to municipal issues; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting of June 7, 2010, City Council passed By-law 70-2010, being a By-law to adopt various policies of the City of Brantford and to create a Corporate Policy Manual, which policies are attached as Appendix “A” to By-law 70-2010; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting held on February 28, 2023, City Council adopted the recommendations set out in item 3.0 of Committee of the Whole – Operations and Administration Report No. 2023-16 to adopt Corporate Policy – PUBLIC WORKS-025 to establish a Native Species Planting Policy within the City of Brantford;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BRANTFORD HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT By-law 70-2010 is hereby amended by amending Appendix “A” attached thereto by adopting Corporate Policy PUBLIC WORKS-025 (Native Species Planting Policy), attached hereto as Schedule “A”; and
2. THAT the Clerk be directed to update the Corporate Policy manual to reflect the amendment to said Policy approved herein; and
3. THAT this By-law shall come into force effective immediately.

READ A FIRST TIME: February 28, 2023

READ A SECOND TIME: February 28, 2023

PASSED: February 28, 2023

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MAYOR

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ACTING CLERK



## Policy Manual

**Policy Number: PUBLIC WORKS-025**

**Subject: NATIVE SPECIES PLANTING**

### Policy Statement:

#### Purpose / Objective

To provide a guideline for the City of Brantford to determine if the predominant planting of native species is both appropriate and feasible for City parks, boulevards, medians, landscaped buffers and features, trails, and walkways.

#### Policy Statement Details

Native species of trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers, and other plants should be considered first when planting, maintaining, and managing the landscape features of all City parks, boulevards, medians, landscaped buffers, trails, and walkways. The goal of this policy is to develop a set of procedures to screen and assess whether subject parks, boulevards, medians, landscaped buffers, trails, and walkways should prioritize the planting of native species:

- Define native species in comparison to other non-native and invasive species.
- Outline factors for consideration to help determine when it is feasible and appropriate to plant native species vs non-native species.
- Outline review and approval process for confirming if native or non-native species will be planted.

### Related Policy Guidelines

#### 1.0 Definitions:

- **Native Species:** Plants that grow in the area naturally and are uniquely adapted to local environmental conditions.
- **Non-Native Species:** Plants that do not grow in the area naturally and have been introduced by humans, wildlife, weather patterns, etc.

- **Invasive Species:** Plants that have been accidentally or deliberately introduced into areas beyond their native range.

## **2.0 Guidelines:**

- a) Plant materials native to the area will always be considered first when planting, maintaining, and managing the landscape features of all City parks, boulevards, medians, landscaped buffers and features, trails, and walkways.
- b) Plans and specifications for any City of Brantford contract involving landscaping and/or plantings shall, where feasible and appropriate, will require the consideration of native plants.
- c) Any plant species listed as a Noxious Weed in the *Weed Control Act* shall be prohibited, and eradicated where possible, in all City of Brantford parks, boulevards, medians, landscaped buffers, trails, and walkways.
- d) Plant selection shall incorporate the following operational considerations:
  - Plant Survival: Plant species must be selected that have the greatest likelihood of surviving and thriving at the intended planting site (especially if the site is vulnerable to drought, floods, and other extreme weather conditions).
  - Maintenance Needs: Plant species must be selected based on the availability and cost-effectiveness of the resources required for their ongoing maintenance (including time and supplies).
  - Site Specific Needs: Plant species must be selected that meet the unique needs of each planting site, including the needs of surrounding infrastructure and neighbourhoods.
  - Invasive Species and Pests: Plant species must be selected that are resilient to invasive species and pests.
  - Visibility: Plant species must be selected that can be maintained in a way to ensure they do not hinder visibility and safety of the intended planting site.

## **3.0 Scope of Application:**

The Policy shall apply to all projects involving City parks, boulevards, medians, landscaped buffers and features, trails, and walkways unless staffs determine

that no native plant meets the variability and survivability needs of the intended planting site, in which case non-invasive non-native plants may be permitted.

#### 4.0 Responsibilities:

- **Parks and Facilities Services:** Staff will utilize the criteria outlined in section 2.0 of this Policy to determine if it is feasible and appropriate to select native species of plants for each intended planting site. Staff will also be engaged to review Design and Construction project plans to make recommendations for where native species can be incorporated.
- **Director of Parks and Facilities Services:** The Director will ensure that Parks and Facilities Services staff are complying with this policy when selecting plants for each intended planting site. The Director will also ensure that Staff are engaged in reviewing Construction and Design project plans to make recommendations informed by the criteria set out in Section 2.0 of this Policy.
- **General Manager of Public Works:** The General Manager of the Public Works Commission will have authority over enforcement of and exceptions to this Policy.

<b>Date of Enactment:</b> February 28, 2023	<b>Related by By-law Number/ Staff Report Number:</b> 23-2023/2023-16
<b>Review Date:</b>  <b>Amendment Dates:</b>	<b>Department Responsible for Review:</b> Parks & Facilities Services
<b>Date of Next Review:</b> February 28, 2025	<b>Applicable Legislation/ Legislative Authority:</b>