



Parks Naturalization Policy

Policy (or Procedure) Number:	A09-NA Naturalization Policy
Department:	Development Services
Section:	Parks Planning
Sub-Section:	
Subject:	Park Naturalization
Council Motion:	07-G-604 NATURALIZATION POLICY
Staff Report:	LTW035-05 Naturalization Policy
Effective Date:	November 12, 2007
Document Date:	April 17, 2025
Revision Date:	

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Naturalization Policy will provide a strategy to implement naturalized areas in all city parks based on defined park categories with standardized levels of parkland management.

SCOPE

1. This policy applies to all City greenspace.

DEFINITIONS

Public Park (Parks): All lands owned or operated by or belonging to the City or other public body such as school boards, Allandale Community Development Corporation or conservation authority which may be designated as Open Space or Environmental Protection Area and used by the public for active or passive recreational use including sporting activities and games, or as gathering places such as urban or village squares, or which may be left in their natural state for environmental reasons. Shall include but not be limited to Inland parks, waterfront parks, Dog off Leash Recreational Areas or other such areas as designated from time to time.

PROCEDURE

1. The City of Barrie will implement areas of naturalization in City-owned lands, where appropriate, in accordance with the following Naturalization Categories.
2. That all future City-owned lands will strive to preserve natural features and naturalize areas, where appropriate, in accordance with the following Naturalization Categories.



NATURALIZATION CATEGORIES (1)

I	II	III	IV
DESCRIPTION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Waterfront Parks (e.g. Heritage Park, Centennial Park, & Memorial Square) City Facilities (e.g. City Hall, Library, Transit Terminal, Barrie Molson Centre, Allandale Recreation Centre, East Bayfield Community Centre, Police, Fire Stations, etc.) Major Sports Fields (Ball Diamonds & Soccer Fields which are typically irrigated and lighted - e.g. Eastview, Lampman Lane, & Queens) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Community Parks (e.g. Holly, Shear, Golden Meadow, Queens, & Sunnidale) Minor Sportsfields (ball diamonds/soccer fields e.g. Painswick, Hickling, & Holly) Reverse Lot Frontages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Parks (e.g. Bear Creek Park, & Bayshore Park) Gores Boulevards on arterial roads (e.g. Mapleview, Ferndale & St. Vincent) Woodlot Edges Stormwater Management Areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Space Areas and Environmental Protection Lands (e.g. Little Lake Park, Ardagh Bluffs, & Lackie's Bush) Watercourses (natural & built)
NATURALIZATION STANDARDS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naturalize 4:1 or greater slopes, selective weeding as required and monitoring. Where possible, buffer width to be in accordance with Conservation Authority Policies in regulated areas or MOE Design Guidelines in unregulated areas. Buffers to watercourses and water bodies to be no-mow except for access. Selective weeding as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mow 1.82 metre (6') strip maximum along property line fencing where required. Mow boulevard road allowances. Naturalize 4:1 or greater slopes, signed, no-mow, selective weeding as required and monitoring. Where possible, buffer width to be in accordance with Conservation Authority Policies in regulated areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mow 1.82 metre (6') strip maximum along property line fencing where required. Rough cut stormwater management areas 3 times per year. Mow undeveloped property as requested. Naturalize boulevards where possible. Rough cut, 3 times per year or no-mow, selective weeding as required and monitoring. Naturalize 4:1 or greater slopes, signed, no-mow, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural.



I	II	III	IV
	<p>or MOE Design Guidelines in unregulated areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffers to watercourses and water bodies to be no mow except for access. Selective weeding as required. • 3 metre low-mow buffer strip where possible to edge of transitional vegetation to woodlot edges. Rough cut, 3 times per year. • Rough cut, 3 times per year or low-mow 3-6 metres between regeneration areas and sportsfields or high maintenance landscapes. 	<p>selective weeding as required and monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible buffer width to be in accordance with Conservation Authority Policies in regulated areas or MOE Design Guidelines in unregulated areas. • Buffers to watercourses and water bodies to be no-mow except for access. Selective weeding as required. • 3 metre low-mow buffer strip where possible to edge of transitional vegetation to woodlot edges. Rough cut, 3 times per year. • Rough cut, 3 times per year or low-mow 3-6 metres between regeneration areas and sportsfields or high maintenance landscapes. 	

- (1) For proposed Parkland Management Category Listings by park see attached Appendix "A".
- (2) Within each of the four Parkland Management Categories, land is evaluated on an individual site-by-site basis regarding suitability for Naturalization.
- (3) Invasive species removal approved by Council.
- (4) It is recognized that some parks in Categories I, II and III include natural areas which would be managed as Category IV.

REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [City of Barrie Parks Use By-law](#)
- [Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#)
- [Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Implementation Plan](#)
- [Bee City](#)
- [Bird Friendly City](#)



LOG OF CHANGES

(This document should include any and all changes to the procedure and be kept separately from the procedure itself for document management purposes).

DATE	SPECIFIC CHANGE	EDITOR'S NAME	REASON FOR CHANGE
April 17, 2025	Adaptation of the Naturalization Policy into a Policy template, as per Staff Report ENG023-07 Appendix "A".	Wendy Loevenmark	Naturalization policy had not been placed in current policy template.