

Village of Lancaster Shade Structures Policy

The Purpose of the Village of Lancaster's Shade Structure Policy is to ensure that shade structures are utilized in public spaces to provide relief for residents and pets during times of heat, to provide the public protection from high heat conditions and ultraviolet radiation, and to provide a cost-effective method to help ensure the health and safety of its citizens.

Through this policy, the Village of Lancaster recognizes that aesthetically pleasing shade structures provide opportunities for social networking and public gatherings, and are particularly important for individuals that do not have access to air conditioning.

Shade structures such as trees, gazebos and covered outdoor facilities provide a public benefit and this shade structure policy for Village-owned properties requires consideration of shade structures in all public places.

Village of Lancaster Shade Structures in Public Places Policy

The policy pertains to Village-owned properties and contains the following provisions:

- Opportunities to install shade structures on Village-owned properties be evaluated;
- Existing shade structures be assessed as to their suitability;
- Shade trees should be protected to the fullest extent practicable;
- Priority to be given to tree planting as a means of shade protection, with further priority being given to native tree species;
- When feasible and practical, two trees be planted when replacing a mature or a sick tree and consideration be given where possible to planting three trees
- If a mature tree is lost, every effort should be taken to replace two within the Village;
- Development projects on Village-owned properties integrate shade structures when and where appropriate;
- Consideration be given to provide shade structures when upgrades to existing properties are undertaken;
- When considering shade structures for a particular area, the Village seeks community input through the Climate Smart Task Force.
- Areas on Village-owned properties that are particularly vulnerable to high heat be identified;
- Village Department Heads and community groups such as the Beautification Committee and the Climate Smart Task Force be engaged in making recommendations for implementation of the Policy;
- The Policy be incorporated into future Comprehensive Planning process;
- The Department of Public Works should be charged with overseeing the implementation of the Policy
- The Policy be reviewed annually to assess its effectiveness