



## **Natural Cover Working Group**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Mandate**

The Working Group will advise the Prince Edward Environmental Advisory Committee in their recommendations to Council regarding the conservation, preservation, stewardship and restoration of natural cover, which includes plant and wildlife habitat in Prince Edward County.

#### **Goals/Purpose**

The goals and purpose of the Environmental Advisory Committee Natural Cover Working Group are to:

1. Conduct research, carry out surveys and prepare documentation, as necessary, to assist the Environmental Advisory Committee in their recommendation to Council in their decision on the future wellbeing of natural cover and wildlife habitat.
2. Follow the scope of the Environmental Advisory Committee Strategic Plan.
3. Support the implementation of “How much habitat is enough?” guidelines to improve and increase forest, wetland, and grassland habitat conditions in Prince Edward County.
4. Create and promote tree planting and tree canopy improvement initiatives to increase both urban and rural forest cover and the associated health and carbon sequestration benefits.
5. Create initiatives for sustainable landscaping alternatives for lawns on municipal and private properties (reduce lawn area by at least 50%), to encourage attractive, water-wise low maintenance, biologically diverse, wildlife sustaining, landscaping practices.
6. Develop an invasive plant species management strategy for operations on municipal lands (eg. parks, ditches, infrastructure).
7. Promote protection of hedgerows and fence bottoms.
8. Promote climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## **Membership**

1. Two (2), Environmental Advisory Committee Member(s). The Chair of the Working Group will be a member of the Environment Advisory Committee.
2. Other members may represent the following groups and/or organizations: Quine Conservation Authority, Prince Edward County Field Naturalists' Club, Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, Prince Edward County Horticultural Society, Prince Edward County Master Gardeners, Natural Heritage Conservation - Prince Edward County.
3. 4 Public representative(s) determined by the Environmental Advisory Committee.
4. Committee may terminate the appointment of any member without notice, and may add additional members up to a maximum of 10, as needed.

## **Scope of Activities/Roles**

1. Members will actively participate, and provide support and expertise.
2. The Working Group will liaise with the Prince Edward County Environmental Advisory Committee. The working group members will serve as voting members and count towards meeting quorum for working group meetings.
3. Observe the County of Prince Edward's Strategic Plan, Official Plan, secondary plans, and any applicable policies or procedures.
4. Identify community outreach opportunities.
5. Consult with key stakeholders as required.

## **Responsibilities of the Working Group**

It is the responsibility of all appointed members to comply and work with County procedures, by-laws and Provincial legislation, with guidance from staff:

- a. Council's Code of Conduct
- b. *Ontario Heritage Act*
- c. County Accountability and Transparency Policy
- d. County Procedural By-law
- e. Other applicable County by-laws and policies
- f. *Municipal Act*
- g. *Planning Act*
- h. *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*
- i. *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*

The Working Group will make recommendations to the Prince Edward County Environmental Advisory Committee on issues concerning the conservation, preservation, stewardship and restoration of natural cover and wildlife habitat. The Working Group will utilize the Prince Edward Environmental Advisory Committee Strategic Plan.

### **Term**

The term of the Working Group will coincide with the Environmental Advisory Committee term.

### **Staff Support**

Upon request from the Chair of the Prince Edward Environmental Advisory Committee, staff support and resources may be provided to the Working Group with the approval of the CAO.

### **Reporting Relationship to Council**

The Working Group will act as a resource to the Prince Edward County Environmental Advisory Committee and does not have any delegated authority. Recommendations for implementation will be provided to Council via a staff report to the Committee, then Council.

The Working Group will report to the Prince Edward Environmental Advisory Committee.

### **Finances**

No member shall receive remuneration for services. A member is entitled to reimbursement for any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses that have been pre-approved by the CAO or Council.

### **Meetings**

The Working Group shall meet as required. Should a public meeting be required, staff will provide support, on direction from the Chief Administrative Officer.