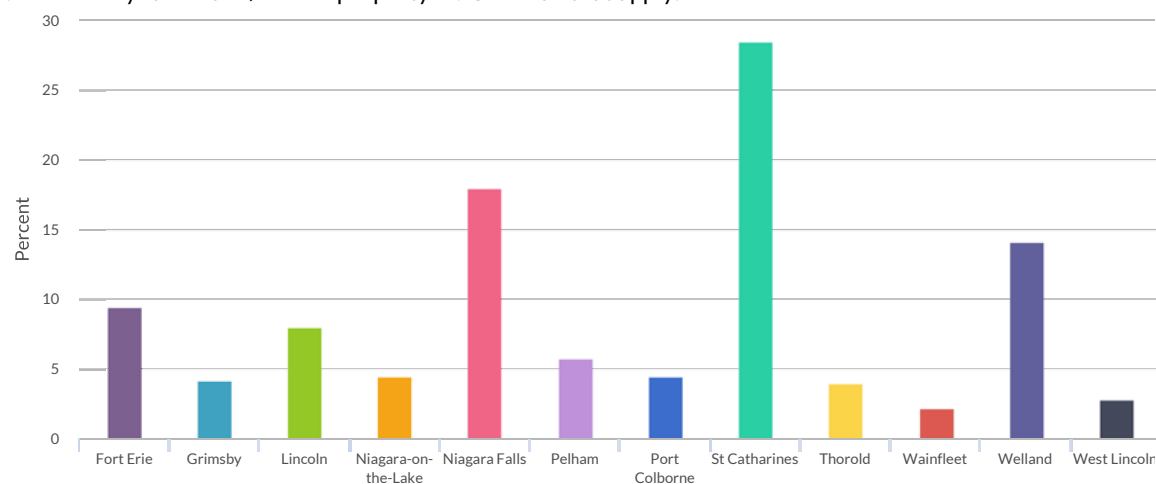


Report for Woodland By-law Review

Response Counts

Completion Rate:	73.4%	
Complete		273
Partial		99
		Totals: 372

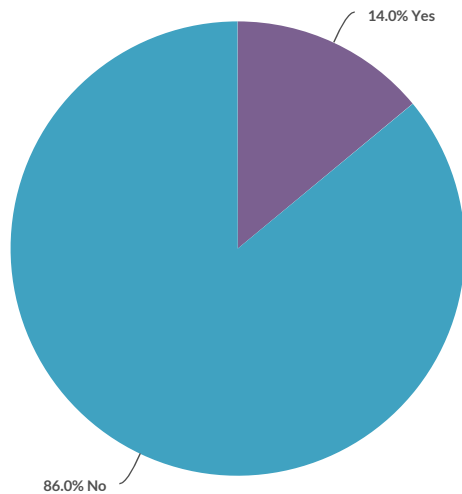
1. Where do you live and/or own property in? Check all that apply.



Value	Percent	Responses
Fort Erie	9.4%	34
Grimsby	4.1%	15
Lincoln	8.0%	29
Niagara-on-the-Lake	4.4%	16
Niagara Falls	18.0%	65
Pelham	5.8%	21
Port Colborne	4.4%	16
St Catharines	28.5%	103
Thorold	3.9%	14
Wainfleet	2.2%	8
Welland	14.1%	51

Value	Percent	Responses
West Lincoln	2.8%	10
I don't live in or own property in Niagara	2.5%	9

2. In order to qualify as a "woodland," an area must meet specific density requirements: 1,000 trees of any size per hectare (2.47 acres) OR 750 or more trees of 5 cm in diameter per hectare (2.47 acres) OR 500 or more trees of 12 cm in diameter per hectare (2.47 acres) OR 250 or more trees of 20 cm in diameter per hectare (2.47 acres) Do you live on property, own property, or manage property in Niagara with a woodland or forest on it?



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	14.0%	46
No	86.0%	283
		Totals: 329

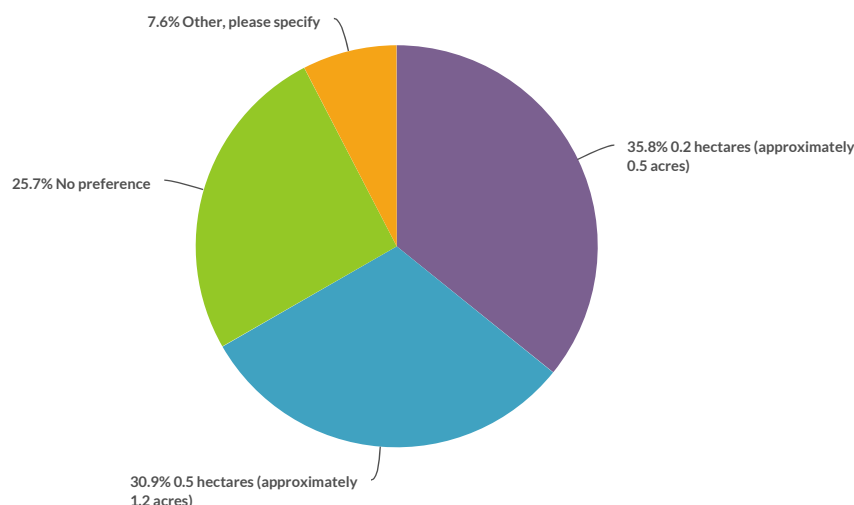
3. Have you ever obtained a permit or exemption under the current Tree and Forest Conservation By-law?

Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	4.6%	15
No	95.4%	312
		Totals: 327

4. Niagara Region has identified several priorities that will guide the implementation of the revised by-law. Rank which priorities are most important to you with 1 being most important.

Item	Overall Rank	Rank Distribution	Score	No. of Rankings
To provide increased protection for woodlands from unauthorized clearing or cutting	1		986	277
To increase species diversity and forest health to help Niagara adapt to climate change	2		968	263
To increase protection of woodlands in urban areas	3		915	262
To help achieve the current Regional Official Plan goal for increased forest cover in Niagara	4		712	255
To contribute to the local economy and ensure a sustainable supply of forest products	5		442	256
		Lowest Rank Highest Rank		

5. The current by-law regulates the destruction or injury of trees in wooded areas 1 hectare (2.47 acres) in size or larger that meet specific density requirements. Wooded areas less than 1 hectare, and specific heritage or community-significant trees, are governed by Niagara's local municipalities, who can also choose to delegate that authority to the Region. For those municipalities who choose to delegate their authority to the Region for woodlands less than 1 hectare, what should be the minimum size able to be regulated?



Value	Percent	Responses
0.2 hectares (approximately 0.5 acres)	35.8%	103
0.5 hectares (approximately 1.2 acres)	30.9%	89
No preference	25.7%	74
Other, please specify (click to view)	7.6%	22
		Totals: 288

6. The current by-law regulates the destruction or injury of trees in wooded areas 1 hectare (2.47 acres) in size or larger that meet specific density requirements. Wooded areas less than 1 hectare, and specific heritage or community-significant trees, are governed by Niagara's local municipalities, who can also choose to delegate that authority to the Region. For those municipalities who choose to delegate their authority to the Region for woodlands less than 1 hectare, what should be the minimum size able to be regulated? - comments

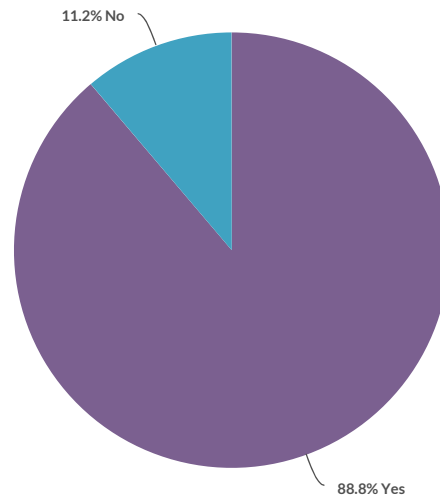


[Show Responses ▶](#)

7. The current by-law includes several exemptions, some that are legislatively required, and others that are optional. The following optional exemptions are included in the current by-law: Harvest of trees for personal use, as per specific conditions in the by-law Removal of trees by a farmer for agricultural use, as per specific conditions in the by-law Removal of trees on a waste disposal site Removal of trees for the construction of drainage works under the Drainage Act Removal of trees that are dead or hazardous to human safety or property Removal of trees that are diseased, as identified in a Forest Management Plan or Silvicultural Prescription Niagara Region is considering adding an exemption for woodlands on historically contaminated lands that require soil remediation (cleanup) as directed by the Province. Should this exemption be added?

Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	60.7%	170
No	39.3%	110
		Totals: 280

8. Niagara Region is considering adding a condition that woodland removals not associated with a Good Forestry Practices Permit must occur during late fall or winter, or after bird/bat surveys are completed and measures identified, to protect bird and bat species during their spring/summer breeding periods. Should this condition be included?



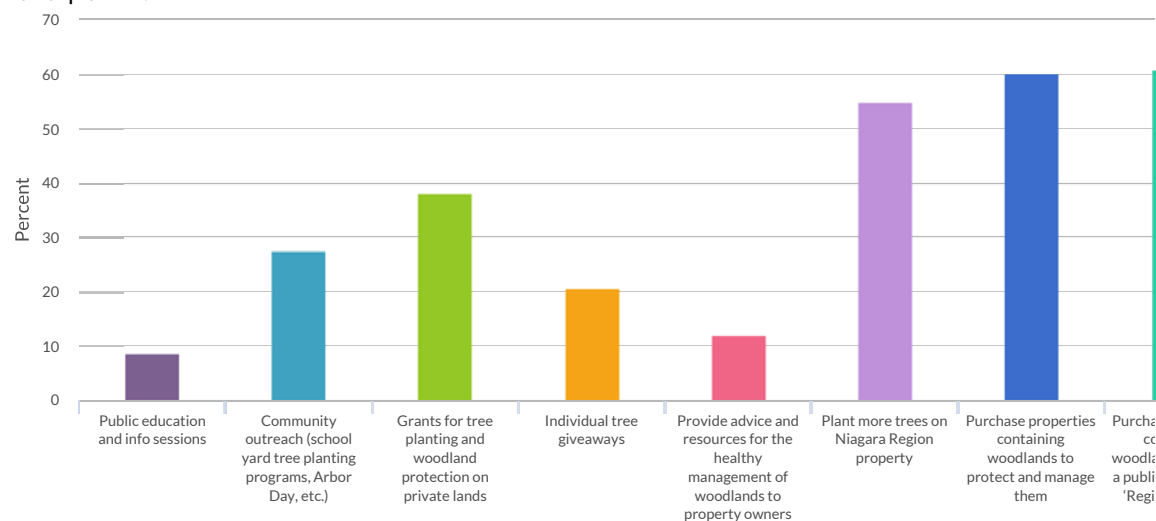
Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	88.8%	245
No	11.2%	31
		Totals: 276

9. Should Niagara Region require replacement planting or cash-in-lieu payments to be used for planting in targeted areas when trees are approved for removal under building permits or Planning Act applications?



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	84.2%	234
No	15.8%	44
Totals: 278		

10. Woodland canopy cover in Niagara is estimated to be approximately 17 percent. How should Niagara Region direct these cash-in-lieu resources to increase canopy cover? Choose your top three.



Value	Percent	Responses
Public education and info sessions	8.6%	20
Community outreach (school yard tree planting programs, Arbor Day, etc.)	27.5%	64
Grants for tree planting and woodland protection on private lands	38.2%	89
Individual tree giveaways	20.6%	48
Provide advice and resources for the healthy management of woodlands to property owners	12.0%	28
Plant more trees on Niagara Region property	54.9%	128
Purchase properties containing woodlands to protect and manage them	60.1%	140
Purchase properties containing woodlands to create a publicly accessible 'Regional Forest'	60.9%	142

11. Do you have any additional comments or feedback?

2020-07-31

ResponseID	Response
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382	We have just completed a planting of 1400 trees in a sensitive area on one of our properties in conjunction with Npca. We actually have many other areas we are willing to reforest which should benefit society as a whole. My concern is that non landowners will have a disproportionate input on what we should/could do on our private lands. Many people I know in the urban areas (friends / relatives) are all in favour of conservation and forestry restrictions as long as it doesn't affect them. If people have a tree in town that shades their pool, drops maple keys etc, the reaction is to want it removed. I guess in short,I am just pointing out the hypocrisy.
383	You cannot protect Niagara's remaining woodlands over time if you continue to allow the destruction of the understory. Find a way to prevent this. The exemptions and loopholes that allow the destruction of the remnants of forest that remain in Niagara ensure that we will continue to lose our valuable green infrastructure at a time when the Global Warming crisis and the extinction crisis makes them evermore important. What the Woodland bylaw cannot do, the Region must through the designation of a Natural Heritage System. The Region, whether on its own or through partnership and funding to the NPCA and community groups, must also get serious about restoring tree canopy and improving biodiversity throughout the region through tree planting, grants, tree giveaways, buying land, promoting the planting of native species by Regional residents — whatever it takes. While I appreciate the work of the staff on the Woodland Bylaw Review, I don't think there is anything in it that will save an addi (Read More)
389	Trees in residential addresses that have wildly grown due to lack of property maintenance and affect fences and neighboring properties need to be addressed. Bylaws in place for tall grass but not for invasive trees on properties.
395	Why is brush hogging, mowing or destruction of the understory or shrubbery edge good forestry. It should not be allowed as it destroys biodiversity, prevents forest regeneration and changes the habitat that the plants and animals depend on that already live there. "Property maintenance" of this type should not be allowed and certainly should not be allowed while development is being considered or pursued as it disrupts the natural environment before studies such as breeding birds or botanical surveys can be completed. Enforcement has not been happening and forests have been losing canopy cover and or resilience. Forests have been cleared by landowners after being decimated by Emerald Ash Borer . These decimated Ash forests should be protected and allowed to regenerate.
398	If it is the Regions' goal to increase forest cover in Niagara, but a particular Municipality supports a foreign developer who keeps violating our provincial policies by negligently bulldozing substantial Forest cover when no one is looking, without any authorization to destroy protected wetlands and woodlands, how does the Region plan to support their important goal? How can forest cover be increased when rogue developers understand there will be little to no consequences for their actions, when they enjoy the full support of a Municipality that is complicit in their continued disrespect for our Forest and our laws? Lots of work to do to address this ongoing affront to Niagara's natural heritage. I hope you find the correct solution. Niagara's Forests deserve to be protected, not sold off to demonstrably inept rogue foreign developers. With regards to adequate by-laws, punishment needs to fit the crime.
400	I responded to question about soil remediation based on the assumption that a forested area is self-remediating and that removing those trees would be a greater disturbance to the local ecosystem at that stage.

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This is a report for "Woodland By-law Review" (Survey #50069742)