

Norfolk County - 20 year Forest Management Plan

Norfolk County is currently preparing a 20-year Forest Management Plan to assist with the planning and management of over 2,000 acres of forested land owned by the municipality. The lands addressed in this plan are referred to throughout this survey as 'County woodlots' or 'woodlots'. There are 29 County woodlots scattered throughout the rural landscape of Norfolk, and 2 woodlots within the urban boundaries of Simcoe.

Many of the properties were acquired between the 1920's and 1950's. They were commonly farm properties on which the sandy soils were degraded and unproductive for agricultural use. After the County (or at that time Town or Township) had acquired a property, it would often be re-forested.

Today these forests have grown and changed substantially, as have the landscapes surrounding them. These woodlots are now home to countless forms of wildlife and habitat for endangered species. They perform functions of watershed protection, carbon sequestration, erosion control, and provide numerous other environmental benefits.

It is important that the community have a voice when making decisions surrounding matters that may concern them, such as the management of this important municipal asset and natural resource. This survey is one way that we may better understand and interpret the needs of the community and perception of matters pertaining to the management of these woodlots.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GQ7MP3D>

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