


**TOWNSHIP OF SCIO BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
***Tree Fund Policy***

**I hereby certify that the Township of Scio Board of Trustees *Tree Fund Policy*  
was adopted by the Board of Scio Township at its Regular  
Meeting held on October 8, 2024**

  
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**Jessica M. Flintoft, Township of Scio Clerk**

## **Tree Fund Policy Statement**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to guide planning, planting, and maintenance of trees, funded in whole or in part by the Tree Fund, created by the following section of Scio Township's Zoning Ordinance:

### **Sec 36-346 Tree And Woodland Resource Preservation**

*(e) Tree removal and replacement regulations.*

*c. Tree fund.* The planning commission shall be authorized to waive a portion or all of the tree replacement requirements when site factors including the size of the parcel (no available area for planting), tree condition or development requirements may make conformity to this section difficult or undesirable and the applicant shall propose a contribution to the tree fund as an alternative, which contribution shall be in an amount reasonably related to the cost of the tree replacement waived including the cost of installation. The tree fund shall be a segregated fund within the township financial system and shall serve as the depository for all contributions proposed by applicants in lieu of tree replacement, as provided in this section. The township board shall administer and use the tree fund for the purpose of planting and maintaining trees and woodland resources within the township.

The entire ordinance can be found at this link:

[https://sciotownship.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=ordinances#name=Sec\\_36-346\\_Tree\\_And\\_Woodland\\_Resource\\_Preservation](https://sciotownship.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=ordinances#name=Sec_36-346_Tree_And_Woodland_Resource_Preservation)

**Goals:** The primary goal of planting trees using the Tree Fund shall be to replace mature woodlands that have been removed and to offer ecosystem services to all Scio citizens, including but not limited to the following benefits:

- Carbon storage (sequestration);
- Stormwater impacts (flood reduction) and water quality;
- Soil quality, erosion control;
- Biodiversity, wildlife habitat;
- Weather amelioration (air temperature reduction; wind reduction; ultraviolet radiation reduction) and building energy conservation);
- Noise/visual buffering;
- Mental/physical health; and
- Aesthetic/spiritual benefits.

Fair and equitable access to mature woodlands is an important factor to keep in mind in the use of these funds. Proximity to trees provides people with physical, mental, and emotional health benefits. Conversely, any tree cover inequity in communities can further exacerbate social inequities.

**Authority:** The Scio Township Board of Trustees is the decision-making authority.

**Application:** This policy applies to all Township elected officials, appointed officials, department heads, employees, and contractors planning or implementing projects funded in whole or in part by the Tree Fund.

**Tree Fund Use:** The Parks, Preserves and Pathways Director shall be responsible for developing and implementing a multi-year Tree Fund Management Plan, and may be assisted by a Forestry Ecologist, or other qualified consultant, and township staff. The plan shall include cost, timeline, operational and financial resources, and Township responsibilities. The plan shall be updated annually, in concert with the Capital Improvement Plan, and the annual appropriation included in the Township's annual budget. Regular progress reports will be made to the Board of Trustees.

**Other Funding Sources:** The Township shall explore other funding sources to supplement the Tree Fund such as:

- State of Michigan DNR
- Releaf Michigan
- DTE
- Foundations

**Tree Fund Plan Intent:** The primary intent of the Tree Fund is to plant native trees to mitigate the loss of trees in Scio Township.

The plan shall be developed based on the following priorities:

**A minimum of 80% of the annual tree fund appropriations shall be dedicated to:**

Reforestation, management, and expanding a diverse, native tree canopy on Scio Township owned parks and preserves informed by ecological research and goals as outlined in the annual Tree Fund Management Plan developed by the Parks, Preserves, and Pathways Director.

**Up to 10% of the annual tree fund appropriations may be dedicated to:**

The first 3 years of maintenance and management of trees on Scio Township-owned properties (including prescribed burns and removal of invasive shrubs).

**Up to 10% of the annual tree fund appropriations may be dedicated to:**

Other priorities for planting trees.