

Planting Design Considerations for a Changing Climate as it relates to Natural Channel Design

Amy Bennewies¹

¹*INTO THE WOODS, Huron County*

Natural Channels provide an opportunity for native and invasive plant species to naturally migrate north via these connected pathways and this should be considered when making planting design decisions. Climate change models predict that our future climate in Southwestern Ontario may more closely resemble that of Tennessee. Understanding the species of invasive plants in this region can inform our planting design decisions to avoid potential invasive species that reduce diversity. Planting design should be focused on every opportunity to increase ecological diversity. Opportunities to encourage the migration of native species north should be explored.

Climate Change will also see an increase in the frequency of intense storm events often associated with higher rainfall volumes in shorter periods. Establishing vegetated buffers now could be instrumental in buffering the impacts of these events.

Biography

Amy Bennewies is the owner of INTO THE WOODS, a Landscape Architecture and Arboriculture consulting practice located in Huron County. Amy is accredited with her full stamp and seal from the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects. In addition, she is a certified Arborist, Tree Risk Assessment Qualified, and a Butternut Health Assessor. She completed her MPlan at the University of Guelph where she focussed on Rural Resilience to Peak Oil and Climate Change. Amy has over twelve (12) years of professional experience working on multi-disciplinary projects throughout Ontario specializing in environmental consulting. She strives to promote adaptation to climate change and sustainability in her design approach with every project.