



Partners in Parks program

Short-term stewardship activity: Mulching woodland trails

The City of Waterloo works with community groups to mulch woodland trails on public parkland as a one-time stewardship activity.

Wood chip mulch piles are delivered to access points along the trail then moved by participants using wheelbarrows and spread with garden rakes.

Spreading a thick layer of coarse wood chips on the trail helps to encourage trail users to stay on the path, preventing soil compaction and erosion throughout the woodland. Mulch is especially helpful in soaking up excess moisture in lowland areas.



Responsibilities

The City of Waterloo and Group Leader work together to determine the extent and timing of the group activity. Responsibilities include:

- City of Waterloo coordinates the required equipment and hand tools, wood chip mulch delivery, orientation and monitoring during the activity
- Group Leader engages community involvement and ensures participants are wearing personal protective equipment, have read, understood and signed the Informed Consent Agreement and are directly supervised with suitable project tasks. Transportation to the activity site is the sole responsibility of the participants.

Group participants

- Group Leader must be 18 years of age or older to coordinate the activity with City staff
- geared to ages 14 years and up; ideal for 5 to 15 participants per group
- moderate physical exertion required such as bending, walking, lifting and pushing wheelbarrows filled with wood chip mulch

Direct supervision

Group Leader directly supervises group participants during the activity. Parent or guardian of any under-age-18 participant must sign the Informed Consent Agreement for the minors' participation and supervise them with suitable project tasks.



Partners in Parks program

Short-term stewardship activity: Mulching woodland trails

Orientation

City of Waterloo will provide instruction, a tool safety talk and will monitor the activity to ensure tasks are completed safely and of the highest standard.

Time and place

- mulched woodland trails on public parkland in Waterloo
- ideally summer to fall (June to September) when the ground is dry
- a two hour activity preferably during the weekday between hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or afternoon directly after 4 p.m.

Personal protective equipment

All group participants shall wear:

- closed-toe footwear which must be fully laced to provide full support and to prevent accidents
- clothing appropriate for outdoor weather and natural area conditions including long pants, hats, sunglasses, as well as sunscreen, insect repellent and bottled water, as required
- cloth gloves, supplied by the City, where they may be exposed to the hazard of injury from contact of skin with a sharp or jagged object which may puncture, cut or abrade the skin

Acceptable tools and supplies

cloth gloves
wheelbarrows

garden rakes
bins to carry mulch

flat shovels
wood chip mulch



Wellington-Waterloo Ontario Stewardship Rangers