



Partners in Parks program

Long-term park project: Planting and maintenance of vegetation

This project involves planting and maintaining a pollinator garden bed or living fence buffer within a neighbourhood park for a five-year renewable term. Project coordinators (18 years or older) and group participants require basic gardening knowledge and skills and must be able to undertake moderate physical exertion.

For garden beds, the city delivers coarse wood chip mulch in May or September annually and assists with initial bed preparation. Garden bed projects may involve group participants.



Options include:

- A. Pollinator garden: planting approved trees, shrubs and perennials within a small mulched bed located within a park; native species are encouraged to attract native pollinators
- B. Living fence buffer: planting native shrubs within a maximum 2m wide buffer at the rear of your private property into the park, depending on park and location. The turf within this buffer must be consistent with the park (i.e. the adult PIP volunteer is responsible for mowing around newly planted shrubs, using their own standard push-mower, if the adjacent park area is mown)

Responsibilities

The Partners in Parks Community Group Representative (pollinator garden) or Individual Project Volunteer (living fence buffer) will be responsible for following activities for a five-year renewable term:

- purchase and delivery of all vegetation and additional materials, including replacement costs (if desired) for materials that are damaged or removed
- plant and maintain the vegetation, as per City specifications and standards (Appendix A. Planting resources)
- for living fence buffers, mow grass around shrubs using adult participants' standard push mower
- schedule and monitor regular workdays throughout the growing season, using participants' tools
- dispose of organic waste (weeds, perennial stems, trimmings) in suitable containers and remove from the site according to the Region of Waterloo's [household yard waste collection schedule](#)
- repair vandalism, excessive litter and/or damage immediately

Next steps

Review Partners in Parks program guide and follow the community action process:

Initiate project by completing the online application form (Partners in Parks long-term park project) based on the timelines.

Upon project approval and an understanding of the Volunteer Position Description, complete the online volunteer application form and waiver (link will be provided). Screening of two references is required for garden bed projects involving group participants.

During a mandatory orientation session, the City staff liaison reviews the Partners in Parks safe-work guidelines with the project coordinators, who then signs an agreement confirming your commitment to the project.

