The City of Waterloo works with neighbourhood groups and our Pollinator working group to co-ordinate small community planting events within city parks in September and October, depending on funding and the current year’s program. See the Community planting webpage for current program information.

These plantings help to increase the urban forest, provide shade and enhance natural areas around woodland edges and meadows.

OPTIONS

A. Community planting within existing natural areas

The City is recognized as a Bee City due to our efforts to support native pollinators and their habitat. Our Pollinator working group coordinates small community plantings within neighbourhood parks around woodland edges and meadows based on priority areas.

These events are appropriate for all ages since small manageable plant material and hands tools are used. These events are open to public participation and are geared to the surrounding neighbourhood.

B. Sponsored planting of shade trees in parks

Neighbourhood Associations or non-affiliated neighbourhood groups may consider hosting their own community planting event in their neighbourhood park. This involves fall planting of shade trees (10-15 gallon) near public trails, playgrounds, seating areas or 3m around the park perimeter. Trees are selected based on our recommended native deciduous tree list.

Priority areas include parks that have had significant tree removal (i.e. due to Emerald Ash Borer) or low tree canopy cover. Parks must have a nearby watering source such as ice rink hydrant since project coordinators must commit to on-going maintenance (regular watering every two weeks from May to September) for two years after planting.

Project costs provided by the City of Waterloo include native trees and supplies, as well as staff, equipment and hand tools on the day of the event. The neighbourhood group will be responsible for hosting the event, which can include refreshments as well as in-kind volunteer hours required to host the event and future tree maintenance (watering only).

Depending on funding and the current year’s program, up to five community planting events per year will be considered. This opportunity will be promoted via Waterloo Neighbourhood e-news and directly to current neighbourhood groups in April to May. Submission of the online application form is required by May 31st to express interest in carrying out this community park project.
Partners in Parks program
Community planting in neighbourhood parks

Responsibilities
City of Waterloo and two project coordinators work together to determine scope, site selection and timing of community planting events involving large shade trees in parks. We encourage community involvement and input during this phase to ensure the community is in support of the project.

After City staff have selected approved projects early June, project coordinators:

• communicate with neighbours surrounding the park and those living within the neighbourhood association to confirm a planting plan with tree species list and complete the “List of Community Support” (PDF)
• obtain commitment from residents who will help water the trees for two years
• complete a volunteer application form and sign a Partners in Parks agreement

Event preparation:
• City of Waterloo orders and delivers the vegetation/supplies, obtains utility locate clearance and can assist with promotion
• Project coordinators engage and coordinate community involvement and commitment

Day of event:
• City of Waterloo supplies the required Forestry & Horticulture staff, equipment, planting trailer with hand tools; provides instruction and a tool safety talk, and monitors the activity
• Project coordinators greet participants and ensure participants have signed the Informed Consent, are wearing personal protective equipment (closed-toe footwear, cloth gloves and other, as required) and are directly supervised with suitable project tasks

Group participants
• Project coordinators (18 years of age or older) and group participants live within the neighbourhood surrounding the park
• moderate physical activity is required such as digging, bending, pushing wheelbarrows of mulch, lifting up to 20 lbs, may involve walking in natural areas or on uneven terrain

Time and place
• neighbourhood parks within Waterloo, based on criteria and priority areas
• a two hour event during September – October (consider National Forest Week)
• Saturday morning (9 a.m. - 11 a.m.) / Saturday afternoon (1 p.m. - 3 p.m.)