



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.

The City delivers coarse wood chips to trail entrances or may move piles inside the woodland using a skid-steer, depending on extent of project and access. Participants use wheelbarrows to move the mulch into the woodland and spread on the trail with garden rakes.

Spreading a thick layer of mulch 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 up to 20 lbs and pushing wheelbarrows filled with wood chip mulch



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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.

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
- summer to fall (July to September) when the ground is dry and before the leaves fall on the trails
- a two hour activity preferably during the weekday between the 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

City's wood chip mulch
wheelbarrows

garden rakes
bins to carry mulch

flat shovels
spades



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Wellington-Waterloo Ontario Stewardship Rangers