

Partners in Parks program

Community planting in neighbourhood parks



The City of Waterloo is recognized as a [Bee City](#) due to our efforts to offer community programs and initiatives that support native pollinator populations. Each September and October, we support small community plantings within city parks to help increase our urban forest and create healthy pollinator habitat in natural areas.

Learn how you can get involved in our community planting programs outlined below.

Naturalization plantings in parks

Each fall, our **Pollinator Working Group** and **Friends of Waterloo Park** organize small community plantings in parks around woodland edges and meadows based on priority areas.

These two-hour events are open to public participation and are geared to the surrounding neighbourhood. This activity is appropriate for all ages since small manageable plant material and hand tools are used.

Learn more about native pollinators and healthy habitat, meet new people and help green our community together.



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Large trees for neighbourhood parks

Neighbourhood Associations and neighbourhood groups can host their own park project involving the planting and maintenance of up to 15 deciduous trees (10-15 gallon) in a neighbourhood park. Your community project involves a fall planting event and regular community workdays to water the trees from May to September for two years.



Where can the trees be planted?

- Passive mown areas in city-owned parks in Waterloo
- Parks with a nearby water source (i.e. ice rink hydrant or other source).
- Parks having minimal shade (i.e. low tree canopy cover or parks that have had significant tree removal).
- Near playgrounds, seating areas and public trails for shade, and/or 3 metres from the park boundary.

Application process:

- Select one or two parks in your neighbourhood that meet the criteria above and coordinate with your neighbourhood to gauge interest.
- Two adult project coordinators complete the online application form by May 31.
- In June, City staff review applications and select up to five fall planting projects; additional project information is provided at this time.

In July and August, the selected project coordinators work with City staff to firm up details such as species selection based on our recommended tree list, notifying nearby residents and coordinating the planting event, which takes place in September or October.