

Naturalization



City of Woodstock

April 1998



The City of Woodstock's parks are a valued part of our community. While these parks already provide open spaces for sports fields and recreational activities, they can also provide a more natural experience for passive recreation, such as hiking and nature appreciation.

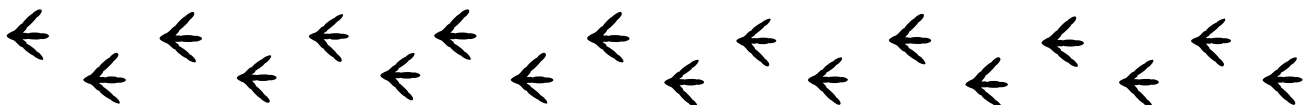
The City has initiated a program to bring nature back to some of its parks. In partnership with community groups and agencies, the Parks Division is planting native trees and shrubs and reducing the amount of mown area in select parks and open spaces throughout Woodstock.

A naturalized park has many benefits. Steep slopes and low lying areas with poor drainage are excellent locations to plant native species. These areas are difficult and sometimes unsafe for parks staff to maintain. Other naturalization projects will enlarge or link existing natural areas to improve habitat for wildlife and create travel corridors. This does not mean that there will be more pest animals in the city! Wildlife will much prefer to stay in the naturalized park areas, rather than the urban backyard. Planting along waterways, such as Cedar Creek, and wetlands, such as Brick Ponds, also protects water quality, improves aquatic habitat, and reduces erosion.

Some parks have naturalized sections already, and planning has begun for other parks. Once native trees and shrubs have been planted in an area, it must not be mowed.

Natural Areas:

wetlands, meadows, forests, valley lands and other relatively undisturbed lands that are home to many different plant and wildlife species.





How can I contribute?

Planting takes place in the spring and the fall. Local residents can help establish naturalization projects at community participation days. Call the Parks Division at 539-1291 ext. 245 for more information.

You can help ensure the success of a naturalization project in your neighbourhood by remembering the following guidelines:

- ✓ Know where your property line is and please do not mow the parkland.
- ✓ Do not dump garden waste or garbage in the naturalized areas. It can smother vegetation, and may contain chemicals that are harmful to natural vegetation. Seeds from your garden may begin to grow in the naturalized area and choke out native vegetation. Dumped garden and yard waste also looks unattractive.

Expand on the park naturalization project by creating wildlife habitat in your own yard. The key ingredients are food, water and shelter!

For more information or to get involved, please call the City of Woodstock Parks Division at 539-1291 ext. 245.



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