

The Niagara Peninsula Tree Planting Partnership (NPTPP) and Trees For All

The Niagara Peninsula Tree Planting Partnership was formed in response to the Government of Canada's 2 Billion Trees Program and their desire to partner with organizations to help achieve their ambitious goal. It is comprised of lower and upper tier municipalities, eNGOs, Friends of Groups, and other local organizations with the common goal of bringing as many trees to the Niagara Peninsula watershed as possible.

Through the partnership's *Trees For All* initiative, we are positioned to build capacity to participate in this national tree program, and collectively deliver a science-based, multi-faceted, long-term tree planting plan for impactful and measured results.

The primary goal is addressing planting site supply, which will be the most critical functional dependency to facilitate involvement in planning and undertaking future tree planting to reach our goal of increasing woodlot and forest cover in the watershed.

Activities include collaborating with partners to facilitate knowledge building and transfer through identification of potential planting sites on available public and private lands, engaging the community in native seed collection, and optimizing Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's (NPCA) planting operations.

- A preliminary inventory will be developed to guide a multi year framework for tree planting on public (e.g., municipal, and Conservation Authority-owned), lands, including annual community events.
- Mapping exercises will be conducted using existing restoration targets and prioritization data to refine and identify preferred tree planting opportunities on private lands across the watershed.
- Certified native seed collection workshops will be offered to support knowledge transfer and engage the community in supporting efforts to maintain the genetic stock for trees best suited for this part of the Carolinian zone. Seeds will be provided to local nursery suppliers to grow for future tree plantings.

Community Benefits

Trees For All will provide local benefits to our community, organization, and partner organizations:

- Engage partners and the watershed community in planning tree planting and seed collection activities throughout the watershed to unify efforts towards collective climate and environmental benefits;
- Support green jobs, build staff capacity at the NPCA, and provide valuable training to the community of practice (e.g., municipal partners, ENGOS, landowners);
- Provide people with fresh air, clean water, cooling benefits, and recreational opportunities (for well-being) by increasing tree cover and greenspace on public lands;
- Increase total natural cover in the NPCA watershed and improve local biodiversity.
- Advance relationship-building with municipal partners as well as the broader watershed community to further build the foundation for future collaborative initiatives related to restoration, climate change adaptation/mitigation, and urban stewardship; and

- Improve efficiency and capacity of NPCA tree planting operations.

Environmental Benefits

Trees For All will help Canada meet climate mitigation goals by increasing tree cover and climate sequestration potential. It will help Canadians by making the watershed more climate resilient, biodiverse, and protecting species and places. Increasing forest and woodlot cover will help restore a highly degraded and fragmented ecosystem and provide greener public spaces for residents and citizens to explore.

Tree plantings in the NPCA watershed will have direct impacts to Great Lakes water quality issues which are of national interest and importance.

- **REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS** – we will document the carbon sequestration of plantings, appreciating and further promoting the tree planting program as a nature-based solution to mitigate climate change. All planting site opportunities inventoried will be assessed for its carbon sequestration and GHG reduction potential.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL CO-BENEFITS** – promote planting priority based on a systematic conservation planning approach to support healthy and resilient watersheds. This method strives for cumulative ecosystem co-benefits through biodiversity and habitat enhancements, Great Lakes water quality improvements, and climate change resiliency.
- **HUMAN WELL-BEING CO-BENEFITS** - exhaust planting opportunities on public lands that will enhance and create more local green spaces for residents. Community engagement in planting activities will facilitate physical and mental health benefits and enable tree and climate education and stewardship.

For more information:

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