

Trees for All

Bringing Millions of Trees to the Niagara Peninsula Watershed

By Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

The Niagara Peninsula Tree Planting Partnership (NPTPP) invites private landowners to join collective efforts to bring millions of trees to the Niagara Peninsula watershed, in support of Canada's goal of planting two billion trees.

The Government of Canada's 2 Billion Trees (2BT) Program seeks to partner with governments and organizations to plant two billion trees that will capture and store carbon from the atmosphere, improve air and water quality, help restore nature and biodiversity, cool urban centres, and support thousands of green jobs. As such, community groups, environmental agencies, and governmental organizations in the Niagara Peninsula watershed have joined to create the NPTPP, with the common interest of supporting this initiative at the local level.

The Niagara Peninsula watershed is known as a natural wonder with many environmental assets and unique phenomena and is

situated between two Great Lakes. It is the most biodiverse but also threatened ecoregion in all of Canada, part of the Carolinian Zone, and home to globally significant ecosystems, 40 per cent of Canada's species, and more than 150 species at risk. However, the landscape currently only contributes an estimated 56 per cent of what science recommends as the minimum ecological objective required for healthy and viable ecosystems.

One of the earliest conservation efforts to help mitigate watershed-scale problems such as erosion, flooding, and decades of degraded land and water quality, was planting trees to restore forests. Restoration efforts have since progressed to understand that involving communities helps connect people to their natural environment and leads to better outcomes.

The NPTPP's new Trees For All initiative for the Niagara Peninsula watershed will engage private landowners from Niagara, Haldimand, and Hamilton, to build the capacity necessary to participate in the Government of Canada's national tree program, and

collectively deliver a local, long-term tree planting plan for impactful and measured results.

The Goal Today is Simple

Private landowners are encouraged to express their interest and register their property for potential consideration in future tree plantings. This first data-gathering phase solely aims to gauge landowner interest to help shape the future of the Trees For All program, with no obligation.

The opportunity to engage watershed residents in enhancing our unique forests and urban tree canopy is significant. As so much of the land is privately owned, large-scale reforestation initiatives like the federal 2 Billion Trees provide local stewardship opportunities and help incentivize landowners to participate in tree-planting programs. The Trees For All initiative will help strengthen and surpass the NPCA's existing commitments to add 600 hectares of natural cover, plant more than one million native trees across the watershed by 2031 and help mitigate the impacts of climate change in the Niagara Peninsula watershed.

Private landowners are asked to visit the web portal getinvolved.npca.ca/trees-for-all to learn more and proceed with registration. This portal is home to important documents for interested participants, a project timeline on this exciting initiative, a confidential mapping tool to register interest and pin locations, and great online engagement tools to provide feedback and share stories and ideas.

For more information, visit getinvolved.npca.ca/trees-for-all or www.npca.ca. You can phone 905.788.3135 or write for information at 250 Thorold Road West, Welland ON, L3C 3W2.

About NPCA

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

(NPCA) is a community-based natural resource management agency that works to protect, enhance, and sustain healthy watersheds. With 62 years of experience, the NPCA offers watershed programs and services that focus on flood and hazard management, source water protection, species protection, ecosystem restoration, community stewardship, and land management.

The NPCA is one of 36 conservation authorities in Ontario and manages 41 conservation areas within the Niagara Peninsula watershed held in public trust for recreation, heritage preservation, conservation, and education. These natural and shared green spaces marry nature, culture, and adventure to create limitless opportunities for discovery.

About 2 Billion Trees

The 2 Billion Trees program is committed to partnering with governments and organizations to plant two billion trees that will capture and store carbon from the atmosphere, improve air and water quality, help to restore nature and biodiversity, cool our urban centres and create and support thousands of green jobs.

Editorial note:

Halton Hills

The 2 Billion Trees program (2BT) has provided funds for tree planting to other Escarpment-area communities as well. Trees for Halton Hills has received funding from 2BT and intends to plant 65,000 trees in the next five years, one tree for every citizen in the town. Information is at 65000trees.ca or by writing 30 Albert St., Halton Hills ON L7G 2B1.

If your community is involved in this program, let us know!

Write to editor@NEViews.ca or Niagara Escarpment Views, 50 Ann St., Georgetown ON, L7G 2V2.

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