



Trees for Woolwich

2019 Update

A society is great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit.



2019 was a year of significant expansion for the activities of Trees for Woolwich and TWEEC (Township of Woolwich Environmental Enhancement Committee). Through outreach to neighbouring communities, increased participation by Woolwich Council, and significant support from Woolwich businesses and residents, and of course our tireless volunteers, Trees for Woolwich “branched out” into several exciting new areas.

This update highlights these activities. Here are the highlights, with details following in the main report.

Highlights:

- **Tree Planting:** Trees for Woolwich planted 1157 trees in plantings in the spring and fall. These were undertaken by volunteers from the community and teams of volunteers from local businesses: Rigarus Construction and Enviro-Stewards. In addition to the trees planted by Trees for Woolwich, there were over 150 boulevard trees planted by the township and 200 trees planted by the Elmira Lions Club. More than 28,000 trees have been planted since 2011 as part of the Trees for Woolwich campaign. [Click here for more details about tree planting.](#)
- **Woolwich Green Infrastructure Plan:** This was a study performed by environmental consulting firm NRSI and presented to township council in 2018. Recommendations in the report for preserving existing trees and targeting an urban tree cover of 30% were initiated in 2019. Council provided for a 0.5% tax levy for greening projects. [Click here for more detail.](#)
- **Community Tree Vouchers:** Generously supported by Toyota Boshoku, Trees for Woolwich provided \$50 vouchers for Woolwich residents to purchase and plant native trees in their own yards. [Click here for more details about tree vouchers.](#)
- **Tree Inventory and Tree Care:** This was a new initiative to manage our existing trees. Inventory is important to know what trees we have and to know their condition. Volunteers were trained to take inventory, resulting in over 400 Elmira trees being inventoried. Volunteers were also trained to prune street trees to provide healthier trees into the future, with over 1300 trees pruned. [Click here for more details about Tree Care.](#)
- **Community Outreach:** Community engagement with trees rose to a new level in 2019, with local businesses involved in corporate planting days. A tree stewards' group was set up to help manage the Southpark Woods in Elmira, after 880 dead and dying ash trees had to be removed. 200 trees were planted in the fall and the Stewards of Southpark Woods will help to replant more in the spring. Fact sheets on tree care were prepared for the benefit of home owners. [Click here for more details on Community Outreach.](#)
- **Community Tree Nursery:** The nursery continued its educational outreach with "Seedlings in the Classroom" where school classes planted over 1000 tree seeds in trays, providing a hands-on educational program for the students. The nursery underwent a major expansion, building a new shade structure that doubled its useful area, and installing a solar powered sprinkler system. The nursery has provided more than 1300 trees since 2014 for planting in the township. [Click here for more details on the Community Tree Nursery.](#)
- **Increased Township Support:** The township has a full time Environmental Coordinator, Ann Roberts, who works directly with Trees for Woolwich. The Township also hired a junior arborist summer student to work on tree inventory and management. Township staff organized dead ash tree removal and replanting boulevard trees. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Trees for Woolwich actively recruits volunteers for several programs. [Click here for more information.](#)

2019 Woolwich Greening Activities

What an incredible year of greening and growing in Woolwich! With support from Township Council, Trees for Woolwich and TWEEC volunteers, businesses and of course MANY Woolwich residents, new greening programs were developed and..... 1157 trees were planted in Woolwich Township in 2019!

Woolwich Greening Initiative

The Woolwich Greening Initiative began in 2017 with a request to council from the Township of Woolwich Environmental Enhancement Committee (TWEEC) and Trees for Woolwich (a sub-group of TWEEC) for support to prepare a Greening Plan for Elmira.

With Township support and Region of

Waterloo Environmental Sustainability funding, environmental consulting firm, NRSI was hired to develop a greening plan or road map for the next 20 years of Greening in Elmira. The report was approved and endorsed by council in 2018 and officially called the Woolwich Greening Initiative. The Woolwich Greening Plan can be reviewed at

<https://www.woolwich.ca/en/township-services/resources/Elmira-Green-Infrastructure-Report.pdf>

Several recommendations outlined in the report were initiated in 2019. The focus is on preserving what trees we have and increasing our tree cover. Township council has adopted the goal of increasing Elmira's tree cover from 16.4 to 30 percent.

As a result of the report, Woolwich Township Council approved an additional \$50,000 to support the greening plan.

This year much work was done to set the stage for ever more ambitious planting in the years to come. More business, partners, more volunteers and a bigger tree nursery. Read on to see what is happening!

More information about Trees for Woolwich and TWEEC is at www.healthywoolwich.org



Volunteer Greening Activities



A BIG Thank-you to many helping hands

A BIG Thank-you goes out to the many Woolwich volunteers who participated in many greening activities in 2019. Volunteers were busy planning events, planting trees, learning to prune and inventory trees, pruning and mulching trees along boulevards and in parks, inventorying trees along boulevards and parks.

Greening Launches

Trees for Woolwich and TWEEC volunteers hosted two greening launch events to kickoff the new Woolwich Greening Initiative. Many families came to plant trees and shrubs around the splash pad at Bolender Park on May 4. \$50 tree vouchers were available for a \$5 donation to T4W to encourage residents to plant trees in their own yards. A large crane brought in 3 large caliper trees and the remaining trees were planted by residents.

At the second launch in September, Woolwich residents came out to plant trees around the playground areas to provide shade for future users. Residents were provided with vouchers to plant trees in their own yards.



Volunteer Tree Inventory and Tree Care

In the spring, nine Woolwich volunteers attended a tree inventory training day hosted by the Elora Neighbourhoods program. Following the training, volunteers, with support from the summer arborist student, inventoried just over 400 trees along boulevards and in parks in Elmira from May until August. Now we know what kind of tree it is, and what condition it is in. A key to maintaining a healthy and diverse tree population

Sixteen volunteers and 2 township staff also attended 3 training sessions by a certified arborist to learn proper pruning techniques. Volunteer tree care crews along with the summer arborist student pruned and mulched 360 boulevard trees in Elmira from May to August. Pruning is key to maximizing tree health and longevity as well as eliminating any hazards and obstructions.

Volunteers spent 182 hours on tree care and tree inventory in 2019. If you see a volunteer at work take a minute to thank them for their service to our tree health.

A part-time tree care staff pruned just over 1000 park and boulevard trees in St. Jacobs, Bloomingdale, Breslau and Conestogo from May to November.



Tree Planting



In 2019 tree planting in Woolwich continued along boulevards, in parks, along trails and in rural areas.

- 156 boulevard trees were replanted in Elmira in 2019. Most of those were replacements from ash trees which had fallen prey to the emerald ash borer
- 31 park trees were planted in 2019...at the two launch events
- 1157 trees were planted in various locations as part of the Trees for Woolwich campaign in 2019. The Elmira Lions, tree planters of longstanding, planted 200 trees along the Kissing Bridge Trail east of Elmira. <https://observerextra.com/2019/10/03/lions-mark-100-years-with-tree-planting-blitz/>
- Clean Waterways group, under the auspices of Woolwich Healthy Communities, has been planting long watercourses in Woolwich for the last 25 years! The model is to work with farmers to fence cattle out of the creeks, then plant up the banks to prevent erosion, slow runoff and improve water quality. In April 2019, they planted 250 trees along Hopewell Creek on the farm property of Fred and Helga Wagner near Maryhill. Shea Lambert and his 30 students from Conestogo Public School, Rachel Seller, Katie Martin and Eileen Cotey with their 40 students from Riverside Public School and Ruth Showalter with her 29 students from the Floradale Parochial School all helped to plant over two days. Over the years these students and teachers have been invaluable to our efforts.
- More than 33,768 trees have been planted since 2011 in the Trees for Woolwich campaign



Community Outreach

“\$5 will get you \$50” tree voucher program:

Thanks to the generosity of Toyota Boshoku, 100 tree vouchers were available to Woolwich residents. The program encourages residents to plant trees in their own yards. The voucher program will continue in 2020.

Community Tree Planting Events:

Trees for Woolwich hosted several community tree planting events in 2019. Young and old came out to plant trees along the Kissing Bridge Trail near West Montrose, in Southpark Woods, at Bolender and Valley View Parks.

Tree Fact sheets:

Fact sheets about proper tree care, including mulching, watering and pruning are available to residents.

Tree steward groups:

with support from Trees for Woolwich, the Stewards for Southpark Woods group was formed in 2019. Over 880 dead trees had to be cut from Southpark Woods in summer 2019 and replanting in that woodlot has already begun. A remarkably careful job was done by Christian Bauman who was contracted to remove the trees. The Township will be paid for the useful lumber which was removed. The Stewardship Group looks forward to continuing the replanting in the spring. If anyone is interested in adopting a park or woodlot, please get in touch and we can work to make it happen!

Corporate planting days:

In 2019 Trees for Woolwich hosted tree planting days for two local businesses, Rigarus Construction and Enviro-Stewards. Trees for Woolwich will continue working with corporate partners in 2020.



Local Businesses Help Woolwich Go Green!

Thanks to the support of several Woolwich businesses, the Woolwich Greening Initiative got off to a great start in 2019. Support ranged from labour to plant trees, donations and advertising of Green activities. All contributions helped to make this initiative such a great success.

Staff from Rigarus Construction spent a September afternoon planting 50 trees to infill open areas of Southpark Woods where dead and dying ash had been removed. For several years now, staff from Enviro-Stewards and their families have helped plant trees at Trees for Woolwich projects. In 2019, they helped plant 75 trees on Township-owned land near the Elmira community tree nursery.

Toyoto Boshoku Canada's Elmira location helped support the Woolwich Greening Initiative with a donation of \$5600. The donation was used to provide one hundred \$50 tree vouchers to Woolwich residents to purchase trees for their yards.

The Woolwich Observer provided free advertising and produced flyers and posters for many green activities. For many years, AllGreen Tree Service has delivered mulch to our tree planting sites at no charge. This service continued in 2019.

John's Nursery donated a tree as well as expertise with the planting plan for the Bolender Park planting and advertised the Trees for Woolwich campaign.

Willow Brae Pallets created 60 decorative wooden Christmas trees made from recycled pallets. These were sold at local Home Hardware Stores, John's Nursery and the Eco Café in St. Jacobs. All proceeds go to support Trees for Woolwich activities.



Local businesses interested in helping support the Woolwich Greening Initiative can contact Ann at aroberts@woolwich.ca or 519 514-7027.



Elmira Community Tree Nursery and Education



Here we grow again!

Volunteers with the Township of Woolwich Environmental Enhancement Committee (TWEEC) along with other community members, lead by volunteer John Mathers, doubled the size of the Elmira community tree nursery in spring 2019. The larger area under partial shade will accommodate the increased number of seedlings being grown in the Seedlings in the Classroom and the Seedlings for Seniors programs.

The expansion project also included improvements to the solar irrigation system, designed and installed by volunteer Matt Cowan. Details are at <https://digital-archives.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/2019/OBSERVER+-+November+14%2C+2019+-+online.pdf>

Approximately 2100 trees are currently sleeping at the tree nursery. 500 trees are ready for planting in spring 2020. More than 1300 trees have been harvested from the nursery and planted out on various sites in Woolwich since 2014.

To improve our students' understanding of our environment, TWEEC offers several educational programs: Seedlings in the Classroom, Students for Shade, Keeping our Water Clean and Yellow Fish Road. TWEEC also offers the Seedlings for Seniors outreach program. Details on the student program were featured <https://observerextra.com/2013/11/08/tweecs-tree-planting-efforts-extended-to-younger-students/>



Township and Regional Greening Support

Township Staff Support

Additional staff were available to support the greening initiative in 2019. A summer arborist student was hired to guide and support volunteer tree pruning and inventory crews. The summer arborist student and a part time staff person also undertook tree care and inventory work independently. The Township Environmental Coordinator worked with Trees for Woolwich and TWEEC volunteers to organize tree planting events, tree care and inventory crews and the activities of the part time and summer arborist staff. Funding for the tree care programs was provided by the Township and the Region of Waterloo Community Environment Fund.

Ash Tree Removal and Replanting

In 2019 the Township continued to cut dying and dead ash trees in our parks, cemeteries and woodlots, and along trails and street with more to cut in 2020.

With guidance from the regional forester, the cutting began in two woodlots in the summer of 2019. A contractor was hired to cut dead and dying trees in Southpark Woods in Elmira and at Maryhill Memorial Park.

Southpark Woods:

- 866 dying and dead (mainly ash) trees were removed in the summer of 2019.
- 200 trees were planted by 40+ volunteers in the fall.
<https://observerxtra.com/2019/10/03/volunteer-led-tree-planting-effort-to-help-replenish-elmira-woodlot/>
- 200 more trees will be planted in 2020.

Maryhill Heritage Park:

- Dead and dying ash were cut and removed around the parking lot in 2019. Trees around the perimeter of the park will be cut in winter 2020.
- Replacement trees will be planted in 2020.

Boulevard Tree Planting

156 trees were planted along boulevards in Elmira to replace many dead and dying ash trees. Funding for this work was provided by the Township and the Region of Waterloo Community Environment Fund.

2020 Greening Volunteer Opportunities

Something for everyone!

Meet New People- Learn Great stuff- Combat Climate Change



Tree planting: Join in on Saturday mornings in the spring and fall for 2 or 3 hours. Bring the whole family. To add your name to the email notification list, just send your email address to treesforwoolwich@gmail.com

Planting in industrial areas is a planned focus for 2020.



Tree Care Stewards: Work with a volunteer crew to mulch and prune young boulevard and park trees. Training and tools are provided, and timing is flexible.

Tree Inventory: Discover our tree resources and build an inventory of trees in the Township. It's a great way to learn about trees. Training is provided, including tree identification and assessing tree health.



Elmira Community Nursery Volunteers: Roll up your sleeves and help transplant seedlings, fertilize, weed, water and prune trees at the nursery. The schedule is flexible.



Tree Seed Collectors: Johnny Appleseed anyone? Help collect seeds in the spring, summer and fall for our Seedlings in the Classroom and Seeds for Seniors programs. Training is provided, including seed forecasting, tree ID and more.

*Interested in Learning More or Signing up?
Contact Ann Roberts, Township of
Woolwich.
519 514-7027 or aroberts@woolwich.ca*

A big THANK YOU to...

Our MANY Woolwich Community Volunteers



Township of Woolwich
**Environmental
Enhancement
Committee**



**Trees for
Woolwich**



Region of Waterloo

**ENVIRO-
STEWARDS**



CONTACT US | 1-888-713-4088 | Neighbourwoods@EloraEnvironmentCentre.ca

