

Restoration Tree Planting Spring/Fall 2023

Reforestation Plantings Beginning Spring 2023

Location: North End of Churchill Park

This spring, Royal Botanical Gardens will be continuing reforestation efforts at the north end of Churchill Park as a part of the on-going implementation of the [Churchill Park Management Plan](#). Phase Two of the Churchill Park Master Plan was completed in November 2022, and site preparation for reforestation will commence February 2023, with planting events occurring in April. This will be followed by a second round of site preparation and plantings in the fall of 2023. Part of the naturalization process involves moving the Ginger Valley Trailhead to its original location, approximately 150m south of its current entrance point. The reforestation project will compliment the park's new trail system while increasing interior forest habitat for plants and wildlife.

Churchill Park Management Plan

(Approved by Hamilton City Council and the Board of Royal Botanical Gardens in 2014)

Plan Vision - Churchill Park is a unique, open and strikingly beautiful space that embraces the natural heritage of Cootes Paradise. Central to the community, the park enhances the health and well-being of everyone in all seasons.

Plan Goal - Preserve our existing open space and encourage an adaptable, inviting, safe, beautiful and sustainable environment that reflects the community's values, provides a community gathering place, and facilitates participation in activities for everyone.

The was plan will be implemented in stages starting in 2015. Major reconstruction plans were approved by the NEC 2018.

Overall, the appearance and the use of the park will remain essentially the same. The most significant changes in appearance are the infiltration zones (rain gardens) with tall vegetation and the establishment of formalized paths. The use of the park infiltration zones will reduce neighbourhood urban runoff. Flooding is of great interest to RBG, as the associated CSO tanks for this neighbourhood otherwise overflow to Cootes Paradise Marsh. The reforestation strategy assists in the creation of interior forest habitat, strategically expanding the narrow ribbon of forest on the south shore of Cootes Paradise. Upon the completion of the reforestation projects, there will be an increase from 0.2 hectares to 3.5 hectares of interior forest area as the trees establish. The establishment of a formalized entrance and path system will also result in a clear separation in experience between visiting the park and visiting the Cootes Paradise Nature Sanctuary.

