



Niagara Peninsula  
**CONSERVATION**

*nature for all*



# ABOUT THE NPCA

- Founded in 1959 under the *Conservation Authority Act*
- The core mandate of Conservation Authorities is to undertake watershed-based programs to protect people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and to conserve natural resources for economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- Oversees the Niagara Peninsula watershed, encompassing the Niagara Region, portions of the City of Hamilton, and portions of Haldimand County.
- Manages 41 Conservation Areas, including four flagship properties such as Ball's Falls, Binbrook, Long Beach, and Chippawa Creek. These lands are held in public trust for recreation, heritage preservation, conservation, and education.

## **VISION: Nature for all**

**We envision a healthy and vibrant environment with shared greenspace and clean water that sustains life for future generations.**

# NPCA WATERSHED





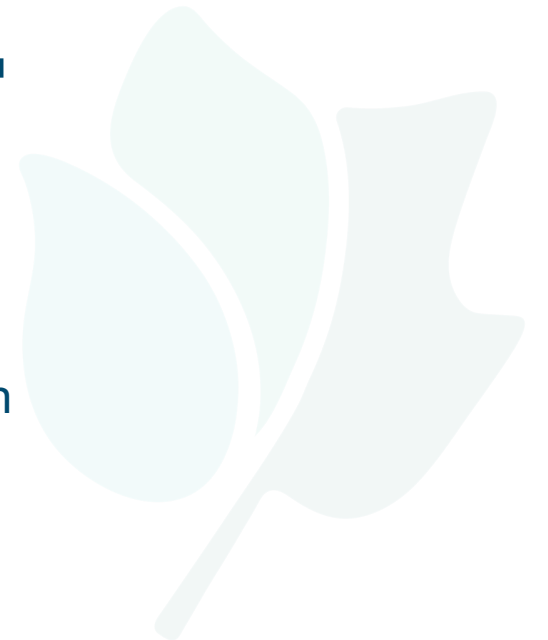
Niagara Peninsula  
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# TREES FOR ALL

GEOFFREY VERKADE  
Senior Manager, Integrated  
Watershed Strategies



Township of West Lincoln  
Council Meeting  
March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# OUTLINE

- Trees for All Overview
- Program Benefits
- Planting Scopes
- 2 Billion Tree Connection and Funding



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Multi-year, high volume tree planting program for both public and private lands in urban and rural areas within the Niagara Peninsula watershed
- Collaborative approach with other organizations & government agencies
- Program goals:
  - Plant 1 million trees across the watershed by 2031
  - Provide subsidized cost for trees and implementation services that value appropriate site preparation, native planting prescriptions, and long-term maintenance and monitoring to ensure the highest survival
  - Improve watershed health, restore woodlots and increase forest cover, enhance local habitats, improve water quality, and build a more resilient natural system
  - Educate communities about the value of trees as nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change, enhance biodiversity and increase local tree canopy
- Built on a cost sharing approach leveraging available subsidies and prioritizes ecological co-benefits.



# PROGRAM BENEFITS



## FULL SERVICE

- Expertise in restoration project planning, site prep, installation, and post-planting monitoring
- Take the guess work out of planning and ordering trees
- Ensure successful planting (right species, right place, improved survival)



## COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Implementation may include community plantings to engage the public in nature-based solutions
- Get public and staff outdoors and engaged in improving natural systems
- For some planting options, we can bring in volunteers for more community impact.
- Showcase partner's environmental efforts



## COST SAVINGS

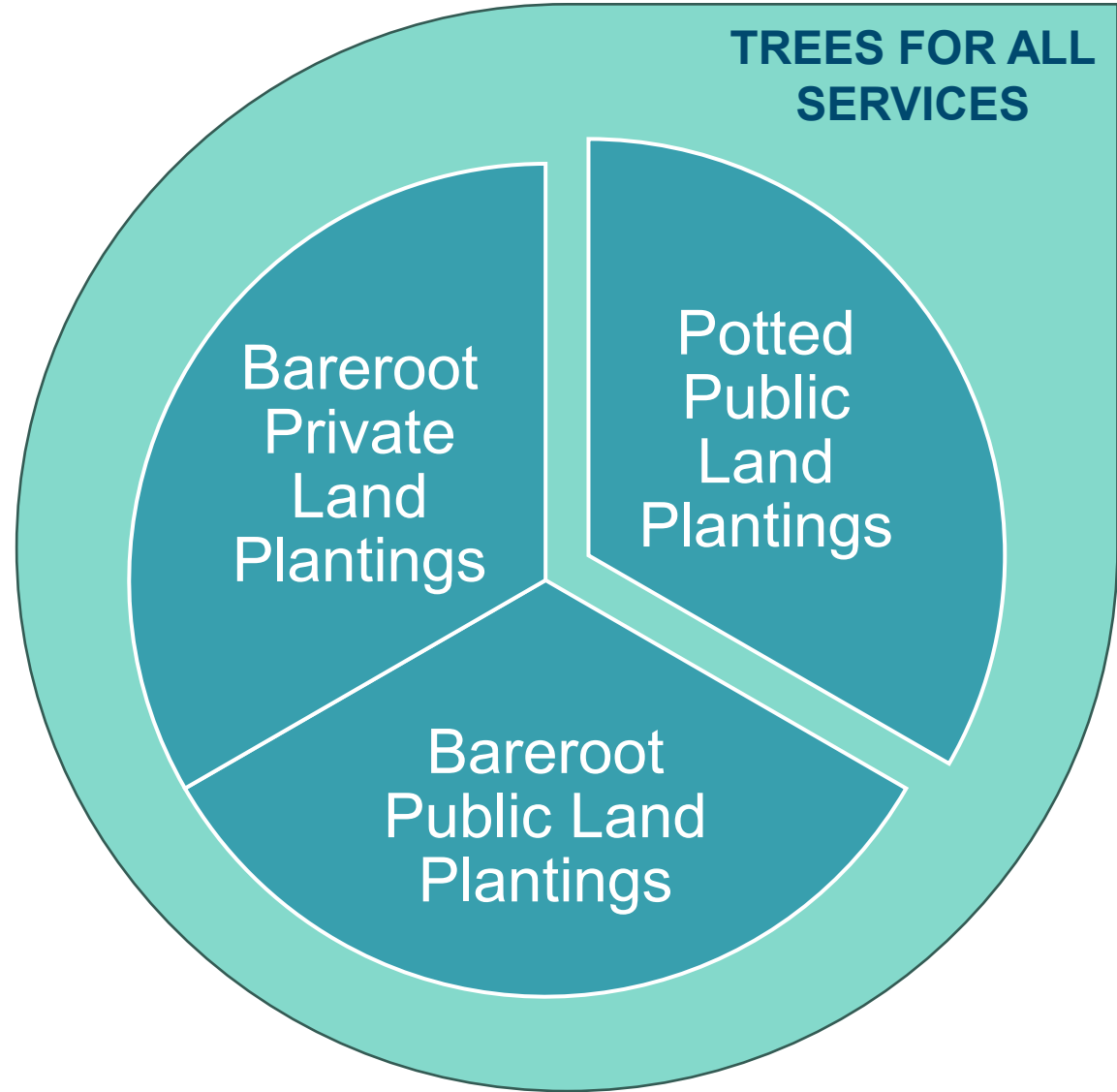
- Federal funding enables us to provide a subsidy on a generous list of eligible potted tree planting project costs.
- Aggregator funding enables us in partnership to provide a low cost for private landowners to participate in eligible bareroot tree planting projects.



# INTEGRATED PLANTING SCOPES

**Potted planting opportunities** are predominantly naturalization efforts on public sites and viable considerations for community planting events offering a high level of civic engagement to participate in tree planting as a nature-based solution.

**Bareroot planting opportunities** are typically the classic afforestation and ecological co-benefit-oriented projects that NPCA traditionally implements with private landowners.





# 2025 POTTED PLANTINGS



- 20,000 potted trees to allocate amongst partners from 2BT award
- Competitively secured stock
- Prioritized for greening and naturalization plantings on public lands
- Can be implemented through community plantings for high civic engagement
- Partner financial and available in-kind contributions need to be quantified and documented (materials and supplies, staff time).



# 2025 BAREROOT PLANTINGS

- 41,120 trees and shrubs across 10 municipalities
- NPCA planting services on private property
- Subsidized by 2BT aggregators (Forests Canada and Tree Canada)
- Landowners contribute
- Partners and third-party funding balance cost share
- 2025 sites solicited through Trees for All campaign in 2023



The NPCA has completed the Watershed-based Resource Management and Conservation Area Strategies, advancing its commitment to conserving natural heritage in the Niagara Peninsula watershed. [Learn more.](#)

EVENTS PLANNING & PERMITS WEDDINGS FOUNDATION GOVERNANCE CONTACT

FLOOD STATUS: ● ● ● ●



PARKS & RECREATION

WATERSHED HEALTH

SERVICES

LEARNING

GET INVOLVED

ABOUT



# NEWSROOM



02.27.2025

## NPCA READY TO SCALE UP LOCAL TREE-PLANTING EFFORTS WITH \$2.3 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING



# 2BT PLANTING AGREEMENT

Federal Contributing Agreement for **2 Million** executed in July 2024

- Potted stock (1-2 gal.) – in rural or urban context, on private or public lands.
- Intended to assist with planting scopes not eligible through Forest Ontario and Tree Canada existing 2 Billion Tree program investments (NPCA bareroot planting aggregators).
- Structured over 4 years
- 20,000 trees per year for a total of 80,000 by 2028

Will require **1 Million** in matching financial contributions at minimum from partners over term of agreement

In-kind limit is 25% of total costs equaling up to **1 Million** cumulative in-kind partner contributions to balance the matching required



# NATIVE SEED COLLECTION

Scope includes developing:

- a multi stakeholder native seed collection community of practice in the Niagara Watershed;
- seed collection needs in terms of species, for both research purposes, and volumes to support Trees for All and aimed at enhancing biodiversity resilience;
- a seed collection site network that addresses identified needs;
- an annual seed collection schedule template that multiple stakeholders certified in seed collection can regularly participate in; and
- appropriate storage and transfer facilities and protocols to ensure seed gets to our supply nurseries and other growing operations safe and securely.

Additional expert organizations interested in local seed collection have joined the existing Trees for All partners through this initiative:

Carolinian Canada -  
SOSS

**Vineland Research  
and Innovation  
Centre**

Niagara Parks  
Commission –  
Horticulture and  
Growing Aspirations

Forests Ontario –  
Standards and  
Infrastructure

Forest Gene  
Conservation  
Association – Seed  
Collection Training



# Thank you!

For more information, please contact:

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