

## Canadian Tree Fund Final Grant Report

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CTF - Jack Kimmel Grant 2022 | GV - Canopy for Community   |
| Start Date: February 1, 2022 | End Date: December 31, 2022 |

### Overview

In 2022, Green Venture was awarded the Jack Kimmel Grant through the Canadian Tree Fund to enhance the Canopy for Community program. The main goals of this project include:

1. Learn: Foster awareness of urban forest issues and solutions through education and outreach campaigns such as Youth Stewardship Program and Communi-Tree
2. Grow: Provide resources for individuals to help grow Hamilton's urban forest through Tree Starting Kits
3. Plant: Growing Hamilton's urban forest canopy through innovative techniques such as Mini Forest Plantings, equitable access to nature with the Hamilton Tree Equity Project and CityHousing Hamilton plantings and other stewardship efforts

Green Venture has worked to define the goals of the Canopy for Community program to include inclusive, innovative and inspired techniques to help maintain and grow Hamilton's urban forest. Here are the results of Green Venture's work through the Canopy for Community program in 2022:

| Project Activity  | Audience                     | Participants | Project Goal(s)        |
|---|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Youth Stewardship and Professional Skills Program                     | Grade 11/12                  | 9            | Learn                  |
| Tree Starting Kits  | All ages                     | 55           | Grow                   |
| Mini Forest Installs  | All ages                     | 85           | Plant                  |
| CityHousing Tenant Tree Plantings                                     | CityHousing Hamilton Tenants | 16           | Learn, Grow, and Plant |
| Tree Stewardship  | Youth (high school students) | 56           | Plant                  |
| Communi-TREE  | All ages                     | 274          | Learn, Plant           |
| <b>Total Participants in Tree Programming at Green Venture (2022)</b> |                              |              | <b>505</b>             |

The following will breakdown each project activity, the goals, outcomes and next steps under Green Venture's Canopy for Community program.

**Youth Stewardship and Professional Skills Program**

Currently, nine grade 11 and 12 students are enrolled in the Youth Stewardship and Professional Skills program this fall. Over the course of several weeks, these students will learn about urban forestry while gaining fundamental skills to develop and conduct their own stewardship projects. Students have worked hands-on in urban forestry, helping grow EcoHouse's (Green Venture's office) mini forest by planting many shrubs and trees this past October. Students have learned from professionals in the field at their weekly meetings to learn more about urban forestry and potential career opportunities. Students will present their stewardship projects at the end of the semester and will earn community service hours for their efforts. Green Venture continues to provide this program to students in grades 11 / 12 for different environmental and sustainable subjects.

**Tree Starting Kits**

Over the winter, staff at Green Venture prepared a variety of tree starting kits with seeds/acorns, soil, a growing pot, and simple step-by-step instructions. These kits were distributed to classes and community members. Over the past few months, we've been watching as these acorns grow up into beautiful saplings. Almost 200 acorns were distributed across Hamilton to individuals, families and classrooms.

**Mini Forest Installs**

Green Venture teamed up with CanPlant and the City of Hamilton Forestry Section again to select and plant two mini forests in Hamilton. The Miyawaki method, named after the botanist who developed it, uses dense planting, many different kinds of locally native species, soil preparation, and multilayered design to mimic the complexity of a native forest. 85 volunteers from the local community participated in both Mini Forest plantings with 1200 native trees and shrubs planted at Morton Park and Lake Avenue Park this past fall.

**CityHousing Tenant Tree Plantings**

This past spring, the Hamilton Tree Equity Report ([summary](#) and [full report](#)) was published which includes a detailed assessment of the community-based tree inventory conducted back in the summer of 2021, CityHousing Hamilton tenant survey results, and tree planting location recommendations. Since then, five CityHousing Hamilton properties were selected as part of our pilot planting locations with 18 native trees planted across the properties. To ensure trees live long, Tree Care Teams have been established at each site, consisting of volunteers from each property, to support ongoing tree stewardship. Green Venture continued to conduct tree inventories this past summer, adding another nine properties to the list. Based on this information, another three properties will be selected over the winter to grow Hamilton's urban forest through additional tree plantings.

**Tree Stewardship**

To help maintain Hamilton's growing urban forest, our teams returned to four previous tree planting sites to care for 1250 trees with 56 volunteers over 92 hours. Stewardship tasks included weeding and mulching to ensure existing trees can grow to their full potential. At some

sites, we planted additional trees to replace those that did not survive. These events were promoted across Green Venture's social media channels and outreach efforts were directed to high school students through the school boards and Hamilton youth groups as an opportunity to earn community hours. These sites have been added to Green Venture's [Hamilton Stewardship Network](#) to encourage community members to continue to care for these community planting sites.

### **Communi-TREE + Outreach**

To celebrate National Forest Week in September, Green Venture hosted a week-long social media campaign including tree planting events, stewardship opportunities, contests and educational resources. Topics and themes ranged from the benefits of trees, tree equity, and innovative forestry. Over the course of the campaign 415 participants were engaged online and in person. Over the four events, 186 volunteer hours were dedicated to planting 1200 trees and removing 25 bags worth of invasive plant species. Resources can be found on [Green Venture's blog](#). Additionally, Green Venture has engaged over 100 participants through tree walks at Gage Park and EcoHouse, an online workshop about tree equity, and a number of weekly #TreeTuesday posts.

### **Summary**

The following links showcase some of the work completed under this project:

Featured in the News:

- [Michael Cordeiro, November 2, 2022 - 'Student-led tree projects win sustainability award'](#)

Various web pages, social media posts and blog posts recognized the grant:

- [Canopy for Community](#)
- [Tree Starting Kits](#)
- [Tree Equity Webinar](#)
- [Growing Hamilton's Urban Forest at CityHousing Hamilton Sites One Tree at a Time](#)

