



Frequently Asked Questions About Parks and Open Space

We hope this information about parks and open space is helpful. If your question is not answered through the information below or if it relates to a specific park, please call the general inquiries number below.

Community Services Department General Inquiries:

Phone: 905-878-7252, ext. 2211

I did not receive a street tree but my neighbours have received one. Was my house missed?

No, your house was not missed. Trees are typically designed to be placed every 12 metres within the right-of-way (the limits of the public roadway next to your home, including sidewalks and roads).

There are two reasons why you may not have received a tree:

- 1) A site or utility conflict, such as a street light or cable box, does not allow for the planting of a tree. (Often utilities are underground and not visible.)
- 2) A developer may have itemized a street tree in the Purchase and Sale Agreement of your home; however, the payment goes toward the streetscape of the subdivision as a whole. Payment of this money does not mean that your home or lot will have a street tree in the right-of-way.

To confirm whether or not your lot will receive a tree, call the general inquiries number and a staff member will provide the information.

My street tree is dead/appears stressed. Who do I call?

Either your developer or the Town of Milton is responsible for your street tree, depending on the development stage of your subdivision. Please report your concern to the Community Services Department so we can track tree issues in your neighbourhood. If the tree is the developer's responsibility, we will forward your concern on to the developer on your behalf.

I called last year about my tree and it still hasn't been replaced. Who do I contact to determine the status?

Call the general inquires number for assistance.

Either your developer or the Town of Milton is responsible for your street tree, depending on the development stage of your subdivision.

If the replacement tree is the Town's responsibility:

Staff will direct your call.

If the replacement tree is the developer's responsibility:

The Town will verify that your request has been forwarded to your developer's consultant. The Town does not coordinate developer planting schedules. If a tree replacement is warranted, it will be completed prior to the Town granting assumption of your subdivision from the developer.

(Granting assumption means that the Town of Milton has taken responsibility over the property, the developer has passed all inspections and no deficiencies remain.)

My property backs onto a park/open space area. Am I allowed to put a gate in my chain link fence?

No, you are not allowed to put a gate in your chain link fence. Changes to this fencing are not permitted as it is located on Town property and is owned by the Town.

Most Town-owned open spaces, including parks and stormwater management ponds, are fenced with a 1.5 metre high chain link fence. Defined entrances to Town open spaces are designed to safely accommodate visitors and protect our public open spaces.

Will the Town share the cost of privacy fencing?

No, the Town will not share the cost of privacy fencing. Chain link fencing is the Town's standard for dividing public from private property and cannot be changed or removed.

However, if you wish to put up your own privacy fencing, you may do so on your own property adjacent to the Town's fence. Any additions must conform to the Zoning By-law. For zoning information, contact the Town of Milton Planning and Development Department at 905 878-7252, ext. 2398.

My property backs onto a park and often balls and frisbees end up in my backyard. Will the Town provide more trees to keep objects out of my yard?

No, the Town will not provide more trees. The park boundaries have been designed with trees and plants for the function of the park layout and for visual purposes. The plants and trees are not intended as a physical barrier between the park and nearby properties.

You may put up your own privacy fencing inside your property line. Any additions must conform to the Zoning By-law. For zoning information, contact the Town of Milton Planning and Development Department at 905 878-7252, ext. 2398.

A local nursery, landscape designer or landscape company may be able to offer design solutions for your property to keep objects out of your backyard.

Why doesn't the Town regularly maintain the grass by the stormwater management pond behind my house?

Stormwater management ponds are not maintained in the same manner as parks because they serve a specific purpose and are designed to replicate the natural environment.

Rainfall run-off from your subdivision drains into these ponds where it is temporarily held and then released slowly into our lakes and streams. Natural plants and grasses assist with biological processes that help to remove pollutants in the rainfall run-off so the water that flows out of the ponds (and into our streams) is much cleaner than when it entered.

Many of the plants you see in these areas are native species and were chosen because they naturally break down contaminants such as lawn fertilizers and convert their energy into new plant stalks and leaves. Over time, the smaller trees and shrubs will grow into a more natural vegetated state. Please help them to perform their function by leaving them to grow.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.milton.ca/residents/parksandrec/parks/greenspace.htm>

Can the Town add more garbage receptacles to the park so there is less litter?

Waste receptacles are typically located at the access points into parks and close to play areas. Safety, odour and accessibility (for the public and maintenance crews) are all factors that determine their placement.

Please contact the general inquiries number if there is an area you feel requires another receptacle or if an existing receptacle needs to be relocated, replaced or emptied more frequently.

Can I place my own objects or plants in the open space area by my home?

Additions to open spaces (including vegetable gardens, new shrubs and trees, bird houses, benches, clotheslines, etc.) are not allowed because this is Town-owned property and is not part of your property. Please do not place any of these types of items in parks, natural areas, stormwater management ponds, woodlots or tributaries. Placing household items on Town-owned open spaces or on utility company easement corridors is considered trespassing and destruction of public property (By-law #50-91).

Cutting grass and removing or adding plants in natural or naturalized areas makes it easier for invasive plants and weeds to take over. Pruning shrubs and trees removes the flowers, which reduces the seeds that are produced; this allows invasive plants to establish themselves. Natural vegetation around stormwater management ponds provides a habitat for animals and also acts as a natural water filter to protect creeks and waterways.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.milton.ca/residents/parksandrec.htm>

There are people in the woodlot next to my home and I am worried that this is not safe or that they will damage the trees and shrubs.

Many of the Town's woodlots have been preserved during development of residential areas for everyone to enjoy. It is up to each individual to exercise caution and courtesy to others, the environment and the nearby homeowners. To report tree hazards or other safety concerns, call the general inquiries number and your call will be directed.

Most woodlots have signs posted to educate the public on how to help maintain a healthy environment and an enjoyable outdoor experience by protecting the woodlot. The guidelines include:

- Keep debris, yard waste and litter out of the area (By-law #50-91).
- Leave native grasses, trees, shrubbery and soil untouched.
- Use designated entrances, exits and trails.
- Clean up after your pets (By-law #90-04).

If you see people dumping, cutting or intruding in woodlots or other Town-owned green spaces (By-law #50-91), gather details in a safe manner and report them to the Town's by-law enforcement officers so they can investigate the situation. Call 905-878-7252, ext. 2134 or send an e-mail to townclerk@milton.ca.

For any other vandalism or disturbance issues, contact the Halton Regional Police.