

Urban Food Forest to be planted in Montgomery Park

May 11, 2021

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – Following a [presentation](#) last spring by Councillor Gabrielle Blatz, the City began researching urban food forests and how we could implement one in Wetaskiwin.

As a result, the Public Works department has purchased—and will be planting—41 fruit-bearing trees and shrubs in Montgomery Park (53 St. & Centennial Dr.). The tentative planting date is June 3, 2021, depending on availability from the nursery.

An urban food forest is defined as a place where mainly perennial edibles are planted using the permaculture guild system. This means that the trees planted will regrow year after year without replanting, and each plant contributes beneficially to the success of the others.

“I think it’s great that we can offer fresh fruit to our community members through something as simple as growing it ourselves,” said Mayor Tyler Gandam. “We can all look forward to grabbing an apple or a few raspberries while using the park or as we pass through on the trail.”

This type of urban food forest project has been successfully implemented in other central Alberta communities—such as [Red Deer](#)—and within a few years, the trees should be producing a bountiful harvest that everyone can enjoy. Montgomery Park was chosen as the best location for the urban food forest since it is centrally located, has had the recent addition of community garden spaces, and would see increased usage as a beautiful green space for the community.

Types and Number of trees being planted

- 4 Goodland eating apples
- 4 Honeycrisp eating apples
- 4 Pembina eating plum
- 3 Brookred eating plum
- 6 Combination eating pear
- 8 Aurora honeyberry (Haskap)
- 8 Tundra honeyberry
- 2 Nanking cherry
- 2 Native raspberry.

Contact the Public Works department with any questions at 780.361.4436 or publicworks@wetaskiwin.ca, or if you would like to volunteer to help plant some trees.

About the City of Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community, home to a diverse population of 13,000 people. Located only 30 minutes south of the Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.

For more information please contact:

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