

Students put down roots in Edmonton's urban forest

May 13, 2016

To mark the City of Edmonton Arbor Day celebrations, more than 600 Grade 1 students spent the day in Gold Bar Park learning about the importance of trees and our urban forest. Students were given seedlings and took part in a variety of activities, ranging from planting trees to observing insects and ziplining. Students also participated in a ceremonial tree planting to proclaim Arbor Day.

"The City of Edmonton's Arbor Day celebration is an event to recognize everything great about our urban forest and to recognize those people who work hard to keep it safe, healthy and beautiful," said Crispin Wood, Management Supervisor of Urban Forestry. "It serves to educate our youth on the importance of trees in our urban environment, to introduce our children to the many benefits of having trees within our City, and to foster a lifelong appreciation for, and desire to grow and care for our City's incredible urban forest."

Across the province, Grade 1 students receive and plant seedlings each year by participating in Arbor Day and other tree-related celebrations. Since the 1880s, Albertans have celebrated Arbor day, when students would receive evergreen seedlings to plant and care for.

Edmontonians are encouraged to support urban forestry within their community by volunteering for one of many tree planting programs offered through Root for Trees throughout the spring and summer. Launched in 2013, this initiative aims to create a diverse and sustainable urban forest by engaging individuals, community groups and businesses.

In 2015, the City hosted more than 150 tree planting events through its Root for Trees initiative, while almost 4,000 volunteers donated more than 7,700 hours of their time to tree planting efforts. As a result, Edmonton's urban forest grew by more than 42,500 plants and shrubs in 2015.

For more information on Edmonton's urban forest, visit edmonton.ca/rootfortrees.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/arborday

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