

Volunteers Needed for Tree Planting Days in Village Parks
Anyone Needing Service Hours Please See Mrs. Godar

Date: Saturday, April 23

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Rochester Community Park on West Main Street

Date: Saturday, April 30

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Wanless Park, Rochester

Recognizing upcoming Earth Week, the Rochester Arbor Committee and Village of Rochester have set up tree planting days in Village Parks. Over 170 mostly native trees of 17 species will be planted in four village parks.

Family groups of all ages, students needing service hours, and park neighbors are encouraged to participate in planting, caring for and watching trees grow. Volunteers should be dressed for the weather and wear gloves and sturdy footwear.

On Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 a.m. we will meet in Community Park on West Main Street. In case of a hard rain or lightning we will meet on Sunday, April 24, at 1:00 p.m. Shade and decorative trees will be planted near ball fields and along the bike trail.

During the week of April 25, several Rochester High School science classes with their teachers will likely plant and maintain trees in North Park, the bike trail, and possibly other public lands.

On Saturday, April 30 at 9:00 a.m., we will meet in Wanless Park to plant trees in a recently cleared 5 acre area. In case of a hard rain or lightning, we will meet on Sunday, May 1 at 1:00 p.m. Wanless Park is a dedicated nature preserve along the South Fork of the Sangamon River and is accessed from the west end of Roanoke Drive. Wanless Park has trails improved by Boy Scouts and is subject to flooding, so trees planted there will be water tolerant.

Village Public Works employees or Arbor Committee volunteers will be present at each planting day to assist volunteers. The Village received a grant from Trees Forever to pay for the trees. These trees and those planted last year will be entered into a carbon credit program, by which the Village will receive annual payments based on carbon credit auctions, the trees planted, and maintenance of the trees. The Arbor Committee has also recommended to the Village Board enrolling Rochester in the TREE CITY USA program which recognizes municipalities for progressive tree policies on public lands.

Please call the Rochester Village Office at 217-498-7192 with any questions.