

Wonderful Watershed Moments!

SEPTEMBER 2017



LOCATION:
Phyllis Rawlinson Park, Rouge Watershed

DATE:
Sunday September 24, 2017

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:
York Region, Town of Richmond Hill

PARTNERS:
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Town of Richmond Hill, York Region, Local Residents



Phyllis Rawlinson Park Native Vegetation Planting and Citizen Science Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring and Maintenance Program with Local Residents

Residents from the Town of Richmond Hill joined TRCA staff at Phyllis Rawlinson Park to participate in a native tree and shrub planting to help enhance a section of valley land within the Rouge River watershed.

Participants were welcomed by TRCA staff, given a safety talk, planting demonstration to assist with quality and got underway to plant 275 native trees and shrubs. Despite record breaking heat, the group persevered, taking frequent water breaks and made sure each piece of plant material was planted properly and had a mulch mat and mulch placed around the base.

A group of participants took on the challenge of becoming citizen scientists to participate in TRCA's Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring and Maintenance Program (YTMP). Through this program, a representative percentage of plants are tagged with a unique ID number, measurements are taken and general observations recorded. Each year data is collected and maintenance strategies are developed to assist with successful growth. This program also tracks effects of climate change, storm events, wildlife browse, insect infestation and disease which negatively impact vegetation.

Participants also had an opportunity to participate in an activity to learn about the importance of native wildflowers and create a seed-ball which they were able to take home and plant in their gardens.

These types of activities provide a better understanding of natural space within urbanized settings and educate residents on healthy, diverse ecosystems.



POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

| Vegetation Planted | # of Pieces Planted | Total Area Enhanced (square metres) | # of Participants | Participant Hrs Contributed |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Trees | 35 | 90 | 23 | 70 |
| Shrubs | 240 | 360 | | |
| Total | 275 | 450 | 23 | 70 |