

Wonderful Watershed Moments!

MAY 2018



LOCATION:
Centennial Park, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:
Tuesday May 8, 2018

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:
Toronto, City of Toronto

PARTNERS:
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), City of Toronto,
Deer Park Public School Students and Teachers

Centennial Park, Native Tree and Shrub Planting with Deer Park Public School Students

TRCA in partnership with the City of Toronto and students and teachers from Deer Park Public School, hosted a community based restoration planting at Centennial Park in the Etobicoke Creek watershed.

City of Toronto staff recently removed a large amount of invasive vegetation from this and other areas within Centennial Park. Invasive vegetation such as buckthorn, thistle and teasel, can out-compete native trees and shrubs and decrease the amount of habitat and food available to local birds and wildlife. By planting native trees and shrubs in these areas previously managed for invasive species, participants helped increase plant diversity and habitat for local wildlife at the site.

Over 20 students and their teachers attended the site and were given a warm welcome by TRCA staff and a safety talk and planting demonstration to ensure planting quality. Participants enthusiastically got underway to plant 140 native trees and shrubs and placed mulch mats and mulch around each piece.

Participants also took on the role of citizen scientist to assist staff in collecting data for TRCA's Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring and Maintenance Program (YTMP). Through this program a percentage of plants are tagged with a unique ID number, measurements are taken and general observations recorded. For a period of three to five years data will be collected and maintenance performed to track success of plants. This data is used to track health, monitor effects of storm events, wildlife browse, disease of plants and plan maintenance strategies for successful growth.

Activities of this nature engage participants to be involved in improving the overall health and function of the watershed and provide a greater appreciation and understanding of natural spaces within urbanized environments.



Positive Environmental Impacts

Vegetation Planted	# of Pieces Planted	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
Trees	40	100	25	75
Shrubs	100	150		
Total	140	250	25	75

