

# Wonderful Watershed Moments!

**JUNE 2018**



**LOCATION:**  
Boyd Conservation Area, Humber River Watershed

**DATE:**  
Tuesday June 12, 2018

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
Vaughan, York Region

**PARTNERS:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Local Residents



## Boyd Conservation Area, Invasive Garlic Mustard Seed Removal and Maintenance with Local Residents

In 2017, a dedicated group of local volunteers noticed that invasive garlic mustard plants were rapidly encroaching in a designated environmentally sensitive area (ESA) located within Boyd Conservation Area in the city of Vaughan. The group reached out to TRCA and a maintenance activity was initiated. Last year approximately 25 large garbage bags of garlic mustard weighing approximately 350 pounds was removed.

This year they continued the initiative to remove this invasive vegetation, noticing a marked improvement in the area targeted the year before. Five large garbage bags were filled totaling approximately 80 pounds of plant material removed.

Garlic mustard is an invasive herb native to Europe. It was brought to North America in the early 1800s for use as an edible herb. Since its arrival in North America, it has spread into natural areas and is now one of Ontario's most aggressive forest invaders. Garlic mustard can invade relatively undisturbed forests. Once established, it can displace native wildflowers and understory vegetation. It hinders other plants by interfering with the growth of fungi that bring nutrients to the roots of the plants.

Removing garlic mustard should be done during flowering, before the plants produce seed. Pull at the base of the plant and try to remove the entire root. Once pulled, the garlic mustard plant material needs to be placed in a garbage bag and left without sunlight. If left on the ground, the plant will still complete the flowering process and seed will set, to continue the invasive process.

### Positive Environmental Impacts

Invasive Vegetation	# of Garbage Bags Collected	# of Pounds Removed	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
Garlic Mustard Seed	5 Large Bags	~ 80 lbs	4	12

