

Wonderful Watershed Moments!

MAY 2018

Oak Ridges Conservation Reserve (ORCR), Native Tree & Shrub Planting



TRCA in partnership with UFORA and students from local Richmond Hill schools attended Oak Ridges Conservation Reserve (ORCR) to participate in a native tree and shrub planting.

A group of high school students arrived first to become mentors to the elementary school students and assist with planting protocols and ensure quality. As students arrived, TRCA staff welcomed the group with a safety talk and brief overview on the history and ecological significance of ORCR.

While the students had lunch, they were treated to an educational show highlighting native raptor species including; an owl, bald eagle, turkey vulture and American kestrel.

After lunch, the group quickly got underway to plant 800 native trees and shrubs and placed mulch around each piece to enhance this natural space. Other activities included a litter cleanup, removing invasive buckthorn plants and participating as citizen scientists in TRCA's Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring and Maintenance Program (YTMP). Through YTMP, a percentage of plant material is tagged with a unique identification number and baseline measurements and general observations are recorded. This information is collected over a period of three to five years to track impacts of storm events, climate affects, insect infestation and wildlife browse. It allows maintenance strategies to be put in place to assist in success at restoration sites.

These activities provide a better understanding to the importance of greenspace. It also educates on the value of maintaining these areas through litter cleanups and returning to collect data on health and success of plants at the site.



LOCATION:
Oak Ridges Conservation Reserve, Humber River Watershed

DATE:
Thursday May 10, 2018

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:
Town of Richmond Hill, York Region

PARTNERS:
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Town of Richmond Hill, Urban Forest Associates Inc. (UFORA) Local Schools

Positive Environmental Impacts

Vegetation Planted	# of Pieces Planted	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	# of Garbage Bags	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
Trees	275	690	6	~ 300	1,200
Shrubs	525	790	~ 150		
Total	800	1,480	~ 150 lbs	~ 300	1,200

