

Wonderful Watershed Moments!

APRIL 2018

Oak Ridges Conservation Reserve, Earth Week Native Tree and Shrub Planting with Milliken Mills High School



LOCATION:
Oak Ridges Conservation Reserve, Humber River Watershed

DATE:
Thursday April 26, 2018

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:
Town of Richmond Hill, York Region

PARTNERS:
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and Milliken Mills High School Students and Teachers

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), in partnership with staff and students from Milliken Mills High School, attended Oak Ridges Conservation Reserve (ORCR) to participate in a native tree and shrub planting.

The planting was just one of the activities planned as part of the school-wide effort to celebrate Earth Week. As students arrived, TRCA staff welcomed the group with a safety talk and brief overview on the history of ORCR. Staff also provided planting demonstrations to ensure quality planting. Students quickly got underway to plant 250 native trees and shrubs to enhance this natural space. As planting continued, a student-based camera crew from the school circulated the site soliciting feedback from staff and students on positive experiences.

Other activities during the day included; a TRCA Watershed Wide Cleanup, extraction of invasive buckthorn which out-competes and smothers native vegetation and participation 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. Site maintenance and tree health data 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.

Positive Environmental Impacts

Vegetation Planted	# of Pieces Planted	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
Trees	50	125	~ 160	480
Shrubs	200	300		
Total	250	425	~ 160	480

