

# Wonderful Watershed Moments!

**JUNE 2018**

## Morningside Creek Restoration for Rouge Days Festival 2018



**LOCATION:**  
Morningside Creek, Rouge Watershed

**DATE:**  
Saturday June 2, 2018

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
Region of Toronto, City of Toronto

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

Approximately 300 community members participated in the Annual Morningside Creek Rouge Day Festival which included interactive educational activities, nature hikes and a native tree and shrub planting to enhance local greenspace. The area is located in the Rouge River Watershed which is an extraordinary natural feature in Southern Ontario. Rouge River watershed spans nearly 350 square kilometers of land and water in the Regions of York and Durham, Cities of Toronto, Pickering and Markham, and Towns of Richmond Hill and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Participants were provided with a safety talk, a background on the natural features of the site and planting demonstration to ensure quality. A total of 400 native trees and shrubs were planted and mulched by this group. Other activities included a display of future restoration plans in the area and an educational activity involving benthic macroinvertebrates found in the adjacent creek. Macroinvertebrates are small aquatic species which are indicator species of the health of waterbodies.

A group of community members assisted staff as citizen scientists collecting data for TRCA's Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring and Maintenance Program (YTMP). Through YTMP a representative sample of plant material is tagged with a unique ID number. Measurements are taken and maintenance is conducted over a period of three to five years. Data collected through YTMP is used to help track success and health of the plants, provides valuable input in choosing species for restoration sites, and ensures that maintenance strategies are implemented to assist with plant growth and survival.

Activities of this nature allow participants to become involved in improving the overall health and function of the watershed and provides a greater appreciation and understanding in the importance of natural space within urbanized settings.

### Positive Environmental Impacts

Vegetation Planted	# of Pieces Planted	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	# of plants tagged and Monitored	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
<b>Trees</b>	100	250	40	~300	750
<b>Shrubs</b>	300	450			
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>~300</b>	<b>750</b>

