

# Wonderful Watershed Moments!

**AUGUST 2018**



## Oak Ridges Conservation Reserve (ORCR), Community Based Restoration Activities with York Region Conservation Youth Corps

TRCA in partnership with the York Region Conservation Youth Corps hosted 18 enthusiastic students at Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve (ORCR) to take part in various community based restoration activities.

The Oak Ridges Conservation Reserve (ORCR) is a sanctuary for nature and an essential ecological link on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The property is more than 175 hectares in size, dominated by forests and wetlands, and consists of many unique and sensitive natural areas. Within the site are over 470 types of plants and 81 wildlife species, creating a rich and diverse ecosystem.

Despite heavy rain, students worked diligently to perform maintenance by removing invasive buckthorn, Manitoba maple and weeds that had encroached and were out-competing previously planted native trees and shrubs. Students were educated about invasive species and adverse effects on local ecosystems.

Students also learned about TRCA's citizen science Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring and Maintenance Program (YTMP). Through YTMP a percentile of plants are tagged with a unique ID number, measurements taken and general observations recorded. A maintenance strategy is put in place for 3 years to track impacts of invasive vegetation, insects, disease, wildlife browse and affects from storm events of newly restored sites.

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



**LOCATION:**  
Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve, Humber River Watershed

**DATE:**  
Tuesday Aug 21, 2018

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
Town of Richmond Hill, York Region

**PARTNERS:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Town of Richmond Hill, York Region Conservation Youth Corps

### Positive Environmental Impacts

Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	# of Invasive Removed	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
1,480	~60	18	54
<b>1,480</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>54</b>

