

# WATERSHED *moments*



**LOCATION:**  
Garnier Park, Don River Watershed

**DATE:**  
Saturday May 4, 2019

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
City of Toronto

**IN COLLABORATION WITH:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA),  
City of Toronto, Gates of Bayview Residents



## Garnier Park, Watershed Wide Cleanup with Gates of Bayview Residents

Despite rainy, overcast weather conditions, a group of dedicated local residents from Gates of Bayview condominiums came out to participate in the third annual Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Watershed Wide Cleanup Campaign at Garnier Park to remove garbage and litter from the local ravine, naturalized areas, and waterways.

Participants collected and removed more than 180 lbs of trash and illegally dumped debris from the greenspace. Some of the more unique finds included; a large tractor tire, car brakes, part of a security lift gate, a lawn fan, a broken chair, a garden hose and over 2,000 cigarette butts. In recent years, a recycling program has been initiated by TerraCycle which turns cigarette butts into industrial products. To learn more, please follow this link: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-CA/brigades/cigarette-waste-brigade>

Removing litter and garbage from waterways and natural areas is very important because of the significant negative impact from pollutants and chemicals affecting both human and wildlife health.

Plastic left in these greenspaces eventually breaks down into smaller pieces that are referred to as microplastics. Microplastics are difficult to remove from both land and water and these small pieces are often mistaken as a food source to wildlife and when ingested, can prove fatal.

Watershed Wide Cleanup Campaigns are important engagement and learning opportunities for residents to better appreciate the importance of proper litter disposal and provide a greater appreciation of natural areas.

### Positive Environmental Impacts

Total Weight Collected (lbs)	# of Garbage Bags Collected	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
180	15	7	24

