

WATERSHED *moments*



LOCATION:
Ashbridge's Bay Park, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:
Thursday July 25, 2019

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:
City of Toronto

IN COLLABORATION WITH:
City of Toronto, Friends of Ashbridge's Bay



Ashbridge's Bay Park Community-Based Invasive Species Management Activity

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), in collaboration with the City of Toronto and the Friends of Ashbridge's Bay, hosted community members for an invasive vegetation control and maintenance activity at Ashbridge's Bay Park. This park is located on the Lake Ontario waterfront in the east end of Toronto and was once part of a large dune chain spanning the majority of the Toronto Harbour.

This area has been negatively impacted by non-native, invasive burdock which is listed as a noxious weed in Ontario's Weed Control Act. It rapidly out-competes native vegetation, degrading the quality of wildlife habitat. It is also very harmful to songbirds which can become entangled in the burs.

After a welcome and safety talk by TRCA staff and a demonstration on maintenance protocols, the group started removing burdock from the area. Participants were trained to use extractigators, a special tool that removes the entire plant including the root system. The ground was then covered with biodegradable hemp fabric and mulch to prevent further growth.

Engaging and educating residents and community groups to identify and practice control methods on invasive species which enhance natural areas, provides a better understanding of the importance of green space for recreational activities and habitat for local wildlife.



Positive Environmental Impacts

# of Bags of Burdock removed	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
24	~300	31	93