

WATERSHED *moments*



LOCATION:
Phyllis Rawlinson Park, Rouge River Watershed

DATE:
Sunday June 23, 2019

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:
Town of Richmond Hill, York Region

IN COLLABORATION WITH:
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA),
City of Richmond Hill and Local Residents



Phyllis Rawlinson Park, Community-Based Invasive Vegetation Control and Maintenance

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), working with the City of Richmond Hill, hosted an invasive species removal activity at Phyllis Rawlinson Park with local residents.

TRCA staff provided a safety talk and demonstration on protocols to safely use the equipment and remove vegetation. Using Extragators, loppers and shovels, the group diligently worked to remove over 450 buckthorn and vines. These efforts prevent the fast growing and invasive plants from encroaching and smothering native trees and shrubs that had been planted at this site in the spring.

Invasive plants such as: European buckthorn, Russian olive, tartarian honeysuckle and vines, spread quickly and aggressively. These non-native plants prevent healthy native plant growth and create monocultures leading to habitat loss. Fruit from these plants do not provide significant food sources or habitat for local wildlife or migrating birds, making their stored energy depleted when embarking on migration.

Engaging local residents and community groups with enhancement activities, provides a better understanding to the importance of greenspace. It also educates on the value of maintaining these areas through invasive species removals and returning to collect data on health and success of newly planted vegetation at the site.



Positive Environmental Impacts

Invasive Species Removed	# of Pieces Removed	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
Buckthorn	15	24	10	30
Buckthorn Saplings	450	96		
Total	465	120	10	30

