

# WATERSHED *moments*

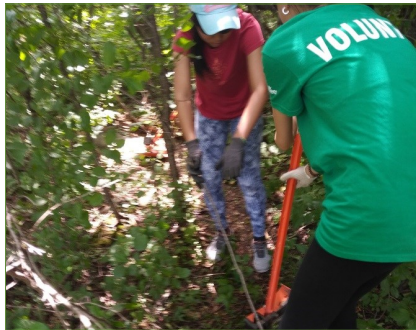


**LOCATION:**  
Phyllis Rawlinson Park, Rouge River Watershed

**DATE:**  
Wednesday July 10, 2019

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

**IN COLLABORATION WITH:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA),  
City of Richmond Hill, York Region and York  
Conservation Youth Corps Students



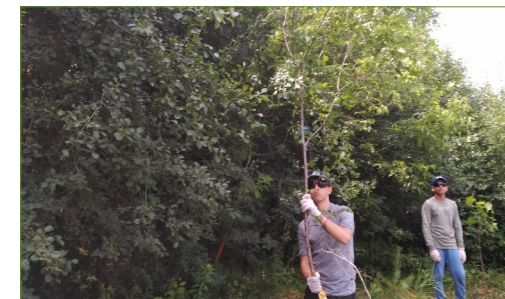
## Phyllis Rawlinson Park, Invasive Vegetation Control and Maintenance with York Region Conservation Youth Corps

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), working with the City of Richmond Hill, hosted York Region Conservation Youth Corps Students at Phyllis Rawlinson Park to perform maintenance activities at newly restored areas. These activities provide students with 35 hours of volunteerism they are required to achieve as part of the secondary school curriculum.

Invasive plants such as: European buckthorn, Russian olive, tartarian honeysuckle and vines, spread quickly and aggressively preventing healthy native plant growth. Fruit from invasive plants do not provide significant food sources or habitat for local wildlife or migrating birds, making their stored energy depleted when embarking on migration.

After a safety talk by TRCA staff and equipment demonstration, the group removed over 60 buckthorn plants from the understory. Additional activities included mulching and participation in TRCA's citizen science Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring and Maintenance Program (YTMP). Through YTMP, a portion of plant material is tagged with a unique ID number, measurements are taken and general plant health recorded. A maintenance strategy is put in place for approximately three years, and each year citizen scientists return to the site to; re-measure plants, track effects of storm events, insect infestation, disease, wildlife browse, and record general observations to assist with plant growth and survival.

Community-based restoration activities of this nature allow participants to be involved in improving the overall health and function of the watershed and provide a greater appreciation and understanding of natural spaces within urbanized environments.



### Positive Environmental Impacts

Invasive Species Removed	# of Pieces Removed	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	# of Participants	Participant Hours Contributed
Buckthorn	65	445	10	70



In collaboration with:

