

WATERSHED *moments*



LOCATION:
Marie Curtis Park, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:
Sunday September 29, 2019

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:
City of Toronto

IN COLLABORATION WITH:
City of Toronto, Friends of Marie Curtis Park and Local Residents.



Marie Curtis Park Watershed Wide Cleanup with Community Residents

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), in collaboration with the City of Toronto, Friends of Marie Curtis Park and local residents, hosted a fall 'PLALKING' activity. 'PLALKING' is the blend of the Swedish word plogga which means pick and jogging, bringing together two favourite past times, a nature walk and litter cleanup.

Participants began the day with an interpretive hike to learn about local wildlife and plants within the park, then finished with an hour of targeted litter cleanup.

Ben, a local resident, brought a collection of litter including dozens of cigarette lighters that weighed 18 lbs., which had been collected from the beaches on the east and west sides of Marie Curtis Park over several months.

Litter, debris and contaminants, are carried into local waterways during storm events, and by improper disposal by humans. These pollutants have negative effects to both human and wildlife health. Plastics persist in the environment and do not fully break down if not removed. As plastic materials become smaller over time, they become what are known as microplastics. These smaller pieces are more difficult to collect, can be mistaken as a food source to wildlife, and can result in fatalities.

Engaging groups in removing debris and illegally dumped material, assists in providing a better understanding of human impacts to the natural environment and threats littering have on water quality and ecosystem health.



Positive Environmental Impacts

# of Garbage Bags	Litter Removed (lbs)	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
10	142	500	20	60

In collaboration with:

