

# WATERSHED *moments*



**LOCATION:**  
Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

**DATE:**  
Thursday September 19, 2019

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
Region of Toronto, City of Toronto

**IN COLLABORATION WITH:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), City of Toronto, Friends of Colonel Samuel Smith Park and Local Residents



## Colonel Sam Smith Park, Community-Based Planting with Friends of Colonel Samuel Smith Park

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), in collaboration with the City of Toronto and the Friends of Colonel Sam Smith Park, completed a native shrub planting as part of an effort to manage invasive Burdock from Whimbrel Point at Colonel Samuel Smith Park.

Native songbirds that migrate through this area are being negatively effected by invasive burdock plants. As they fly through, their wing feathers get caught in the burs rendering them unable to free themselves. This entanglement often leads to fatalities of the birds. Burdock out-competes native habitat and reduces nesting availability for birds. Replacing burdock with low growing and fruit bearing native shrubs will improve habitat for local wildlife.

Earlier in the spring, staff and local residents removed burdock and covered the area with tarps to solarize the seed bed. Gathering at the site again in the fall, native shrubs were planted through an organic hemp fabric to will help prevent re-sprouting of the invasive burdock. The fabric will slowly decompose over time, allowing the newly planted shrubs a better chance of survival.

Engaging local residents with enhancement activities provides a better understanding to the importance of healthy natural areas. It also educates on the value of maintaining these areas through future invasive species removals and collecting plant growth data.



### Positive Environmental Impacts

Vegetation Planted	# of Pieces Planted	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
Shrubs	50	75	12	36

*In collaboration with:*

