

WATERSHED *moments*




LOCATION:
Ashbridge's Bay Park, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:
Wednesday October 9, 2019

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:
City of Toronto

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



Ashbridge's Bay Park Community-Based Invasive Species Management and Planting

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 waterfront in the east end of Toronto and was once part of the large dune chain spanning the majority of the Toronto Harbour.

This event is part of ongoing efforts to raise public awareness and remove non-native, invasive vegetation which out-competes native plants. The group helped remove invasive burdock from the site earlier in the year and laid down landscape fabric and mulch over the treated areas to solarize and smother the site, to help destroy remaining invasive seeds at the site. Following a safety talk and demonstration from staff, the enthusiastic group planted 125 native shrubs to fill the area and provide valuable habitat for local native wildlife.

Participants also became citizen scientists to assist staff collect data for TRCA's Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring and Maintenance Program (YTMP). This data is used to track health, monitor effects of storm events, wildlife browse, disease of plants, and plan maintenance strategies for successful growth.

Activities of this nature engage 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

Type of Native Vegetation	# of Pieces Planted	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	Invasives Removed (Lbs)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
Shrubs	125	190	264	75	225