

Providing ecological restoration educational opportunities

The Society for Ecological Restoration of Ontario (SERO) is pleased to offer three field trip opportunities in 2017 for members and non-members. These events will enable registrants to view innovative, new and established ecological restoration projects in Ontario.

The objective of the SERO program is to promote dialogue between practitioners and to introduce the public to notable restoration efforts that are occurring in Ontario. This is done by organizing short field trips, led by restoration practitioners and researchers, which promote the practice, principles, and benefits of ecological restoration.

2017 Field Trips

Property	Agency	Trip Leader	Restoration Efforts	Date
Red Hill Creek Parkway – 10 Years Later, Hamilton	AMEC Foster Wheeler	Jim Rockwood	Creek re-alignment, wetland, forest, SAR	Saturday, June 17
Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail, Scarborough	Toronto & Region Conservation Authority	Katie Turnbull	Hydro corridor rehabilitation, meadow	Saturday, August 12
Courtcliffe Park Creek Restoration Project, Carlisle	Conservation Halton	Beth Anne Fischer	Coldwater Creek Channel Form & Functions; re-alignment, brook trout habitat	Saturday, September 23

To reserve a spot for one or more trips, please use the EventBrite registration system. Children must be at least 10 years old and accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. Participants will be responsible for providing transportation to and from the field trips. Pets and smoking are not permitted on field trips.

Registration: Online at Eventbrite <http://sero.eventbrite.com>

Cost: \$15 for SERO members and \$20 for non-SERO members

Contact: Nigel Finney
SERO Field Trip Coordinator
sero.fieldtrips@gmail.com

Red Hill Creek Parkway

Saturday, June 17, 9:30 – 12:00

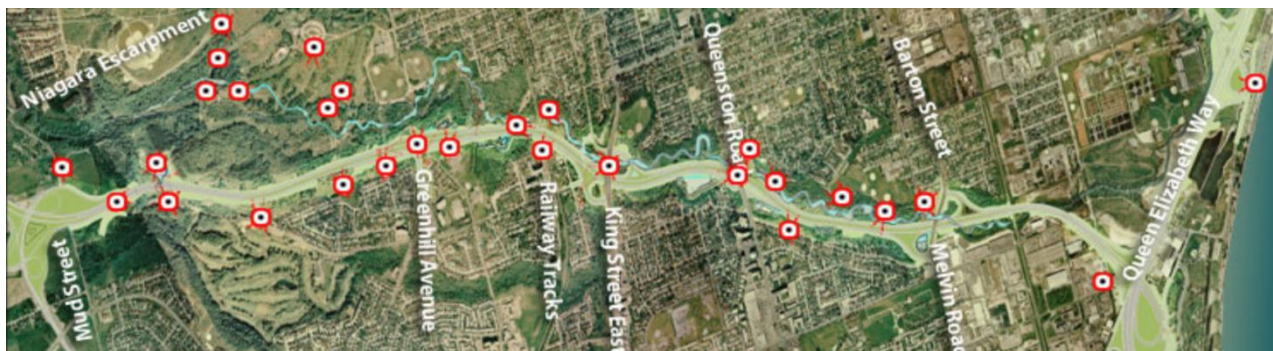
Leaders:

Jim Rockwood, Senior Environmental Consultant, AMEC Foster Wheeler



It will be 10 years this November since the Red Hill Valley Parkway opened to traffic. The Ecological Restoration Program planting, which was an important element of the project, commenced in the spring of 2007 and lasted into the fall of 2012, thus some sites are a full 10 years old while others are as young as 5. The installations took place in widely variable local landscapes, from the current Lake Ontario shoreline to alvar environments at the Niagara escarpment and everything in between. Predictably, the outcomes have been just as variable.

Please join us to view and discuss the successes and failures and to enjoy a shared learning experience.



Meeting Location:

Confederation Park, Hamilton
Parking Lot immediately west of Hutch's on the Beach, 280 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton

Capacity: 20 people

Registration: <http://sero.eventbrite.com>

<http://chapter.ser.org/ontario>

Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail (Phase 1-4)

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Saturday, August 12, 9:30 – 12:00

Leaders:

Katie Turnbull (Project Manager I – Restoration Projects, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority)



Over the years, many grassland bird and butterfly species have experienced a decline in population. This is predominantly due to loss of habitat. As development grows, habitat opportunities for meadow species become increasingly scarce. In recent years, The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) have embarked on various meadow restoration projects in an effort to develop meadow communities in the Toronto Region. Recently, TRCA has partnered with Hydro One Networks Inc., City of Toronto and The W. Garfield Weston Foundation to establish native wildflower meadows on lands within the Gattineau Hydro Corridor. The corridor is a 40 hectare parcel of publicly accessible greenspace in Scarborough starting at Brimley Road and Lawrence Avenue running northeast to Ellesmere Road and Scarborough Golf Club Road. The site was historically mowed six times a year by Hydro One, leaving an extensive swath of thick fescue grass that limits biodiversity and natural appeal. By creating native meadows along the hydro corridor, mowing maintenance on the fields is reduced to once every 4 years. Meadows are a perfect fit for hydro corridors given the restriction of only being able to plant certain shrubs, grasses and forbs. The revitalization of hydro corridors within the City of Toronto has become the single most important opportunity for creating significant meadow habitat in Toronto.

Meeting Location: Thomson Memorial Park – Gattineau Hydro Corridor Parking Lot (Brimley Rd and Lawrence Ave E – North East Corner Parking Lot)

Capacity: 20 People ****Bike Tour: Please bring your own bikes or rent from**

www.gearsbikeshop.com/#!/bike-rental-services/c4td

Registration: <http://sero.eventbrite.com>

Courtcliffe Park Creek Restoration Project

A partnership project by Conservation Halton, Trout Unlimited Canada & the City of Hamilton

Saturday, September 23 9:00 – 10:30
+ *Optional 10:30 – 12:00*

Leaders:

Beth Anne Fischer (Project Manager, Watershed Restoration Technician, Conservation Halton)



The Courtcliffe Park Creek Restoration Project was initiated in 2013 to restore 1 km of coldwater creek habitat in the headwaters of the Bronte Creek watershed. The project site is located in Courtcliffe Park, a City of Hamilton owned multi-use community green space and park. Upper Main Bronte Creek and Mountsberg Creek both flow through the park lands. The previous landowner dug out sections of the creek, installed online ponds, undersized creek crossings and diverted flows into dug straightened bypass channels. The channel form on this site has been heavily altered. As a result water quality, sediment transport, channel form and habitat has degraded. Brook Trout (an indicator species of coldwater creek ecosystem health) has disappeared from this site and a cool-warm water fish community is now present.

This multi-phase creek restoration project aims to restore the channel form and functions, water quality and a coldwater fish community. Three phases of large-scale creek restoration have been implemented by contractors. These works include: installation of natural channel design, creek crossing replacement, channel re-alignment and online pond modification to floodplain wetlands. These works were completed in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Community volunteer work days have been on-going and are utilized to help narrow the creek to a healthy width-to-depth ratio and improve riparian vegetation. Community workdays include planting trees and shrubs, harvesting and installing livestock, installing sediment mats and deflectors.

Community engagement and education has been a significant component of this restoration project. “Bronte Creek Family Fun Day” is co-presented with partner organizations annually and yields ~250 people in attendance. Families cycle through nine interactive activity stations where they learn about aquatic ecosystem ecology, build their connection to the creek and get involved in the rehabilitation via tree planting. Join us for a community volunteer workday after the tour to install sediment mats and deflectors!

For more information on the project visit: www.conservationhalton.ca/courtcliffe-park-restoration.

Meeting Location: Courtcliffe Park Pavilion, 159 Carlisle Road, Carlisle, Hamilton, ON

Capacity: 30 people

Registration: <http://sero.eventbrite.com>

Optional: After field trip hands-on workday, to contribute to the goals of the Courtcliffe Park Creek Restoration Project. In-stream workday to install sediment mats.

Time: 10:30am – 12pm

Goals: Improve creek width to depth ratio. Improve channel form and functions.

*Restoration Techniques: Sediment mats will be installed against the existing creek banks in areas that are over-widened. Biodegradable plant materials (Christmas trees and branches) will be anchored in place to form a network of branches that will collect fine sediment. As sediment deposits and accumulates on the branches, plants will begin to grow on the sediment mats and a new creek bank will establish. *No previous experience required.*