

Providing ecological restoration educational opportunities

The Society for Ecological Restoration of Ontario (SERO) is pleased to offer three field trip opportunities in 2019 for members and non-members. These events will enable registrants to view and discuss 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.

2019 Field Trips

Property	Agency	Trip Leader	Restoration Efforts	Date
York Regional Forest & Holland Landing	York Region & WSP Limited	Dana Laxton, Jeff McNeice, & Jeff Warren	Tall grass prairie and oak savannah restoration	Thursday July 11, 9:30am - 12:00pm
Glenorchy Conservation Area, Oakville	Conservation Halton	Nigel Finney	Pit and mound swamp, marsh, & forest restoration	Thursday September 5, 9:00am - 12:00pm
Bob Hunter Memorial Park, Markham	Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	Ryan Stephenson	Headwater wetlands, forest, and meadow restoration.	Friday September 27, 9:30am - 1:00pm

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.

All tours will involve significant walking in order to access the various restoration projects on site. Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing and bring drinking water and snacks. Due to the sensitive nature of the landscapes and wildlife on site, we ask that you leave your pets at home. For the consideration of all attendees, smoking/vaping are not permitted on the field trips.

- Registration:** Online at Eventbrite <http://sero.eventbrite.com>
- Cost:** \$7 for SERO members and Students, \$15 for non-SERO members
- Contact:** Ryan Stephenson
sero.fieldtrips@gmail.com

York Regional Forest Tall Grass Prairie & Oak Savannah Restoration

York Region & WSP Limited

Thursday July 11, 9:30 – 12:00 pm
(Rain Date – Tuesday July 16, 1:00 – 3:30 pm)



Trip Leaders:

Dana Laxton-Regional Municipality of York, Project Manager

Jeff McNeice-Regional Municipality of York, Environmental Specialist

Jeff Warren-SERO Workshop Coordinator; Senior Ecologist/Project Manager, WSP Limited

Description:

Location 1: Bendor & Graves Tallgrass Prairie/Oak Savannah Creation Site in the York Regional Forest: Located in the Town of East Gwillimbury, the Bendor & Graves Tract contains 6.7 hectares of tallgrass prairie habitat that was intentionally seeded into an acquired hayfield working in partnership with Tallgrass Ontario and NativeScape. This site is located within historical range of prairie and savannah habitats. In fact, some prairie remnant species were found to exist on the heavily farmed site prior to any restoration/creation work taking place. The site was left to grow for four years before being burned in March 2018. The site was then planted with 250 oak trees (red and bur) to assist its transformation to an oak savannah with time. Today, the site is on its second green-up post- 2018 burn and the plant composition may start shifting from grass-dominated to contain more wildflowers. Many species at risk birds have been observed using the site. Bring your binoculars!

Trip Leader: Dana Laxton

Location 2: Tallgrass Prairie Creation in Holland Landing: Also located in the Town of East Gwillimbury, a former cultural meadow was transformed into a tallgrass prairie. This project was initiated in 2016 with site preparation and is now entering its third year of seeding/management. By comparison to the Bendor & Graves site described above, the management regime at this site involves herbicide and mowing treatment and seeding. A portion of the site is seeded with Big Bluestem and other areas are a mixture of prairie herbs/grasses. Come and learn about the management approach for this site.

More Information: [York Regional Forest Controlled Burn 2018 Video](#)

Meeting Locations:

Location 1: Parking lot @ 17858 McCowan Rd, Cedar Valley, ON. L0G 1E0

Location 2: Street Parking @ East end of Cedar St, Holland Landing, ON. L9N 1G4

Capacity: 20 people

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

Ecological Restoration in Glenorchy Conservation Area Conservation Halton

Thursday September 5, 9:00 – 12:00pm
(Rain Date – Thursday, September 12, 9:00 – 12:00pm)



Trip Leader:

Nigel Finney - SERO Chair; Project Manager, Conservation Halton

Description:

In 2013 the Society for Ecological Restoration Ontario Chapter (SERO) and the Field Botanists of Ontario (FBO) held a combined field trip to highlight recent restoration efforts at the Glenorchy Conservation Area. Six years later SERO is inviting field trip participants back to see the progress to date in the 10-year restoration project (2008-18). In total, 174 hectares of land has been restored to pit and mound forest, swamp, marsh, grassland and riparian ecosystems. Results of restoration have already proven to provide suitable habitat for indicator species such as Western Chorus Frog, Pied-billed Grebe, Virginia Rail, Sedge Wren, and Bobolink.

Glenorchy Conservation Area is a protected area not open to the public and this tour offers a unique opportunity to see various stages and techniques of large-scale restoration as well as extant reference forest ecosystems and spectacular views of the Sixteen Mile Creek valley. The vision for this natural area dates to 1958; Conservation Halton has been managing the land on behalf of the Province since 2008.

More Information: [Glenorchy CA Restoration Fact Sheet](#)

Meeting Location:

Palermo Park, 2345 Dundas St W, Oakville, ON L6M 4J3

Capacity: 20 people

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

Headwater Wetland Restoration at Bob Hunter Memorial Park

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Friday September 27, 9:30 – 1:00 pm

(Rain Date – Friday, October 4, 9:30 – 1:00pm)



Trip Leader:

Ryan Stephenson - SERO Field Trip Coordinator; Project Manager, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

Description:

Bob Hunter Memorial park is a 193-hectare naturalized park located in the headwaters of the Rouge River watershed in Markham. Accessible since 2006 but officially opened in 2016, the restoration work throughout the park has been ongoing for over a decade. Surrounded by significant urban expansion, Bob Hunter Memorial Park provides a critical connection between local and regional natural heritage corridors on the western margins of the Rouge National Urban Park.

This trip provides the opportunity to discuss the specifics of wetland design and implementation throughout the park, as well as the other multi-framework restoration projects which interconnect throughout the area. The TRCA's Restoration and Infrastructure group has worked closely with a variety of stakeholders and community groups to create an urban park that embraces the principles of biodiversity and ecological restoration. Led by the TRCA, restoration work throughout the area includes the planting of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers; targeted wildlife habitat creation and the creation of numerous wetland and meadow systems.

More Information: [Toronto and Region Conservation - Restoration Projects Group](#)

Meeting Location:

Bob Hunter Memorial Park, 7277 14t Ave, Markham, ON, L6B 1A8

Capacity: 25 people

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