

Providing ecological restoration educational opportunities

The Society for Ecological Restoration of Ontario (SERO) is pleased to offer three field trip opportunities in 2024 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.

2024 Field Trips

Property	Agency	Trip Leader	Restoration Efforts	Date
Red Hill Valley, Hamilton	Kayanase	Kerdo Deer & Dan Werner	Stream Restoration	Thursday June 27
Rogers Creek, Erin	Credit Valley Conservation	Chelsea McIsaac & Brenden Gallant	Online/Offline Ponds and Tiny Forest Plantings	Tuesday Oct 1
Northern Wildflowers Farm & Kivi Park, Sudbury	Northern Wildflowers Inc	Jenny Fortier	Meadow Restoration	Thursday Sept 26

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

Monitoring the Red Hill Valley Natural Channel Design Kayanase

Thursday June 27, 10:00am – 1:00pm
(Rain Date – Friday June 28, 10:00am - 12:30pm)



Trip Leaders:

Kerdo Deer, Kayanase, Ecological Team Lead
Dan Werner, Kayanase, Operations Manager

Description:

The ecological restoration efforts of Hamilton's Red Hill Valley project continue as construction wrapped up in 2007 and almost two decades later the project is now in an important monitoring and maintenance phase. At the time it was the largest (over 7 km) urban natural channel design project undertaken in North America. The project involved the restoration of nearly 75 ha of the Red Hill Valley and resulted in the establishment of over a million trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs. Local ecological restoration and native plant propagation company, Kayanase, have been involved along with other partners with this project throughout the years and continue to monitor the restoration trajectory of the site and its associated plantings. Kayanase offers a fresh perspective on the restoration efforts with the field trip leads involved in the work as field staff and over multiple points in their careers. Join us to check back in on the restoration efforts in the Red Hill Valley as we hike the trails and look at several different project locations along the way.

More Information: [Project Team Website](#)

Meeting Location:

Parking Lot @ Red Hill Valley, 169 Mud Street, Hamilton

Capacity: 25 people

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/monitoring-the-red-hill-valley-natural-channel-design-field-trip-tickets-907775499957>

Online to Offline Ponds on Rogers Creek & Tiny Forests Credit Valley Conservation

Tues Oct 1, 10:00am – 1:00pm

(Rain Date – Wednesday Oct 2, 10:00am – 1:00pm)



Trip Leader:

Chelsea McIsaac, Credit Valley Conservation, Senior Coordinator

Brenden Gallant, Credit Valley Conservation, Specialist Greening Corporate Grounds

Description:

Stop 1: A section of Rogers Creek runs through a private property in Erin, Ontario where it backwatered into an online pond. The pond interrupted natural geofluvial processes of the creek, served as a partial barrier to fish passage, and increased water temperature in the coldwater creek. In 2022 restoration works removed the pond from active creek flow through the creation of a bypass channel and removal of the stream blockage. The project included the mitigation of a perched culvert that was also a seasonal barrier to fish passage. The project also saw adaptive management following the completion of the project due to functional failures in the spring freshet. This project tour will outline the project's successes, challenges, and lessons learned of taking online ponds offline and stream restoration in this area.

Stop 2: The first project of its kind for credit valley conservation, mini-forests are modelled after the Miyawaki method, a planting design technique developed in Japan and practiced across the globe. The mini-forests emulate a natural forest community by recreating a densely spaced, biodiverse ecosystem in urban spaces where the ecological goods and services of forests are greatly needed. This portion of the trip focuses on tree planting discussions and the merits of tiny forest projects.

More Information: [Project Team Website](#)

Meeting Location:

Stop 1: Terra Cotta Conservation Area Parking Lot, 14452 Winston Churchill Blvd, Halton Hills
Stop 2: St George's Anglican Church Parking Lot, 60 Guelph St, Georgetown, On

Capacity: 20 people

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/online-to-offline-ponds-on-rogers-creek-tiny-forests-field-trip-tickets-907809762437>

Family-owned Seed Production & Meadow Restoration Northern Wildflowers

Thursday Sept 26, 10:00am – 2:00 pm
(Rain or Shine)



Northern
Wildflowers



Trip Leaders:

Jenny Fortier, Northern Wildflowers, CEO

Description:

Join us for an inspiring field trip to Northern Wildflowers, a Sudbury-based leader in native wildflower seed production and agricultural technology. Founded in 2012, Northern Wildflowers' mandate is to empower everyone, everywhere to create habitat and outdoor spaces that spark joy. Specializing in the field growing and wild collection of seeds from over 50 native wildflower species, they play a crucial role in restoration projects across Eastern and Central Canada. Their innovative and eco-friendly seed enhancement technologies are revolutionizing large-scale seed-based restoration efforts, ensuring higher success rates. With a dedicated team of 8 staff members and the support of over 20 small Canadian farmers and contract seed collectors, Northern Wildflowers is at the forefront of sustainable restoration practices. The tour will offer a unique opportunity to visit Northern Wildflowers' farm and/ or shop, (weather and time permitting), and witness their impactful work firsthand. Additionally, we'll visit the local grassroots restoration initiatives at Kivi Park, where you can see wildflower, tree, and native shrub planting projects in action.

More Information: [Project Team Website](#)

Meeting Location:

Kivi Park Parking Lot. 4472 Long Lake Rd, Sudbury

Capacity: 20 people

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/family-owned-seed-production-meadow-restoration-field-trip-tickets-907816231787>