

Providing ecological restoration educational opportunities

The Society for Ecological Restoration of Ontario (SERO) is pleased to offer three field trip opportunities in 2025 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.

2025 Field Trips

Property	Agency	Trip Leader	Restoration Efforts	Date
Nobleton Tract Trail, King Township	York Region & TRCA	Dayna Laxton & Patrick Esson	Meadow & Wetland Restoration	Thursday August 7
Derry Green Corporate Business Park, Milton	GEI	Olivia Robinson, Natalie Dunn, & more	Riparian & Forest Restoration Site Monitoring	Thursday September 25
Salt Creek Nature Reserve, Rice Lake Plains	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Ewa Bednarczuk	Tallgrass Prairie & Black Oak Woodland Restoration	Thursday October 2

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 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

Tall Grass Prairie & Wetland Restoration in the York Regional Forest

York Region & TRCA

Thursday August 7, 10:00am – 12:00pm
(Rain or Shine)



Trip Leaders:

Dayna Laxton, Invasive Species Specialist, Waste Management and Forestry, York Region

Description:

Nobleton Tract, York Regional Forest is located in King Township, just northeast of Nobleton, Ontario. York Region Natural Heritage and Forestry partnered with Tallgrass Ontario to plant 16.2 hectares of tallgrass prairie at this site in 2014. In 2020, approximately 6.3 hectares of prairie was farmed for two seasons as the initial drill-seeding was unsuccessful due to the amount of competition from

undesirable species. The objective was to cultivate the soil, manage weeds and plant a competitive crop to reduce the seed bank of undesirable species over time. These “re-start” areas were then drill-seeded with a prairie seed mixture in spring 2022. The remaining intact prairie areas received their initial controlled burn in April 2022 and again in April 2023. The site continues to present restoration and enhancement challenges while providing important functional grassland habitat for breeding and migrating birds, including species at risk such as Bobolink and Meadowlark, and pollinators like the Monarch butterfly. In addition to the tallgrass prairie creation and restoration efforts, the TRCA has been working to restore wetland areas in conjunction with tree planting on slopes to convert areas not suitable for grassland establishment. This restoration field trip will look at the meadow, prairie, and wetland systems and discuss the specifics of their construction implementation and ongoing monitoring efforts.

More Information: [Project Website](#)

Meeting Location: 5354 15th Sideroad, King. Parking Lot @ Nobelton Tract, York Regional Forest

Capacity: 25 people

Registration: [EVENT LINK](#)

Collaborations in Urban Riparian Restoration & Site Monitoring

GEI

Thursday Sept 25, 10:00am – 12:00pm
(Rain or Shine)

Trip Leaders:

Olivia Robinson & Natalie Dunn GEI
Paul Villard & Michael Lawson, Geo Morphix
Andrew Kozyn & John Bishop, MGM Consultants
Jennifer Lawrence, Jennifer Lawrence and Associates,
Martin Gedeon, DS Consultants



Description:

Collaboration is a key component of restoration projects and especially in urban systems. GEI and partners have worked together alongside developers in Milton for restoration and monitoring alongside commercial development. The 5A (Sereda) natural heritage system includes a retained woodland, a realigned stream corridor, a re-created wetland and associated riparian and upland plantings in Milton's rapidly growing business community. This restoration field trip will share insight into the collaborative undertakings, planning and design process, restoration design efforts, implementation/construction considerations, and early findings of the ongoing ecological monitoring. The field trip will be co- led by the consulting professionals involved throughout the various stages of the project, including GEI Consultants, GEO Morphix, MGM Consultants, DS Consultants, and Jennifer Lawrence and Associates.

More Information: [Project Website](#)

Meeting Location: 2100 Labrador Ave, Milton. Street Parking at dead-end.

Capacity: 25 people

Registration: [EVENT LINK](#)

Tallgrass Prairie Restoration in the Rice Lake Plains Nature Conservancy of Canada

Thursday Oct 2, 10:00am – 12:00 pm
(Rain or Shine)



Trip Leaders:

Ewa Bednarczuk, Coordinator, Conservation, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Description:

The Rice Lake Plains host a unique blend of oak woodland and prairie habitats and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has been involved in conservation and restoration of sites in this area for years. The Van Hove property is located in the NCC's Salt Creek Nature Reserve, which is part of the Salt Creek Environmentally Significant Area. The Van Hove property was purchased by the NCC in 2006 with the support of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and private donors, including many local supporters, because of the property's prairie remnants and to function as a buffer for the Red Cloud Cemetery prairie, which the original purchase abuts on two sides. The renowned cemetery prairie has original, untilled tallgrass prairie communities that NCC is buffering and expanding through active and passive restoration techniques on this 4.55 ha site. The site was recently burnt in 2024, following which tallgrass seed was collected with a mechanical harvester to be used across other Rice Lake Plains restoration sites. This tour will explore the involvement of private funders in conservation and restoration as well as explore the restoration efforts of Salt Creek Van Hove Properties and the surrounding ESA.

More Information: [Project Website](http://chapter.ser.org/ontario)

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

Meeting Location: 560 Red Cloud School Rd, Warkworth, On. K0K 3K0. Parking Lot & Street Parking

Capacity: 20 people

Registration: [EVENT LINK](#)