Embracing Tree Health Monitoring

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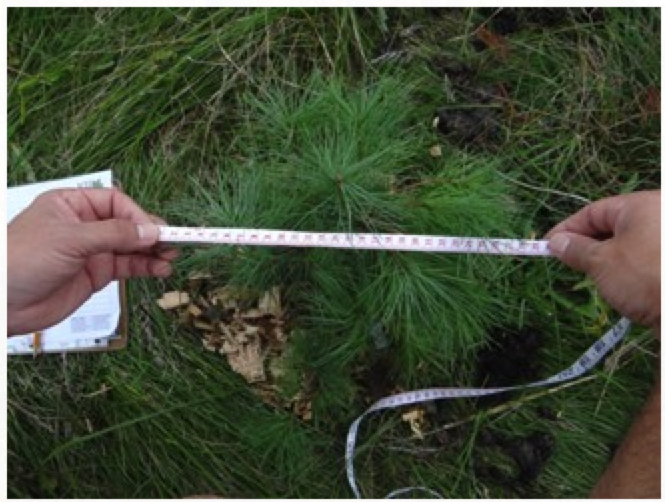
The Living City Foundation

Toronto and Region Conservation for The Living City

TREE HEALTH MONITORING PROJECT PARTNERS

Toronto and Region Conservation for The Living City

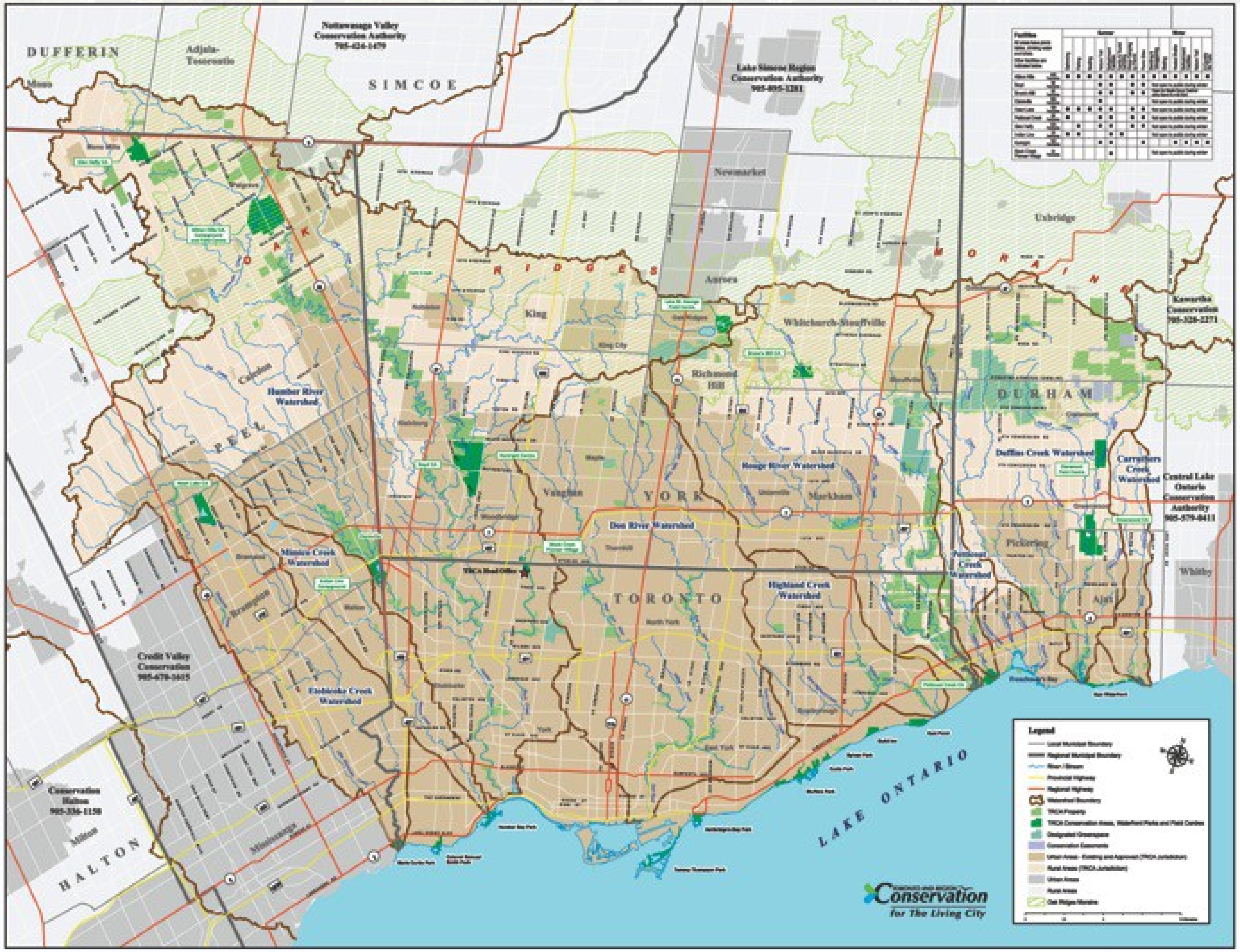
ACER ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



Region of Peel Working for you

TORONTO

TRCA JURISDICTION

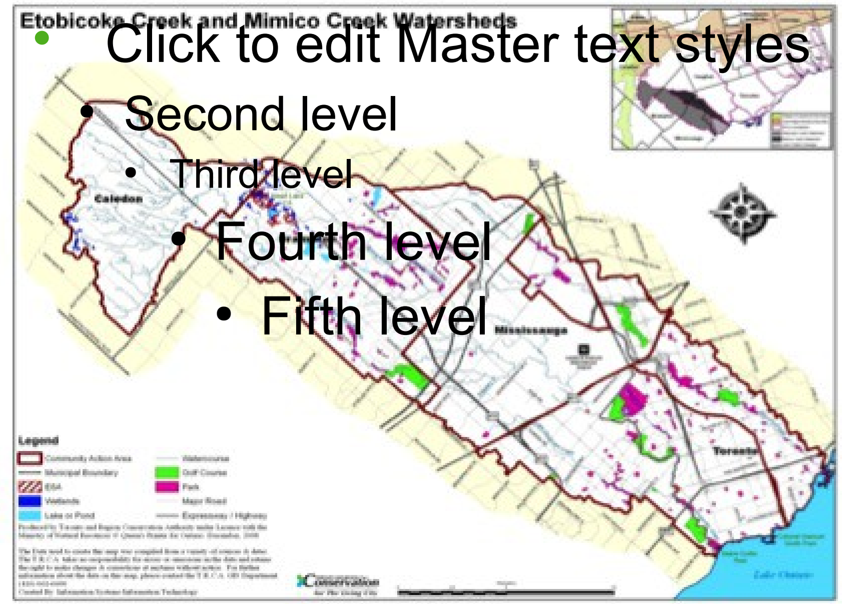


PLANTING EFFORTS IN THE TRCA JURISDICTION

From 2008 to 2012, TRCA and its volunteers have planted 1,718,270 native trees, shrubs and aquatic plants within TRCA watersheds in an effort to:

- improve local forest health
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Help cool urban areas
- Retain water and reduce run-off
- Improve air quality
- Reduce impacts of climate change

ETOBICOKE & MIMICO CREEK WATERSHEDS



- Click to edit Master text styles
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- **Etobicoke Creek**:

  71-78% Urban/Urbanizing 14% Natural Cover

- **Mimico Creek:**

  96-100% Urban/Urbanizing 11% Natural Cover

Etobicoke & Mimico Creeks
Community Stewardship & Restoration Projects

- Deliver approximately 20 -30 Community planting events annually in the EM watersheds.

- Engage approximately 3000 local residents, students, business employees in EM community planting events annually.

- Plant approximately 5000 – 8000 Native trees & shrubs through staff and community plantings annually .

- Restore approximately 25,000 – 30,000 square meters of EM watershed through community plantings annually.

PAST MONITORING EFFORTS IN THE EM WATERSHEDS

- Conducted post planting site visit and maintenance as required.
- Noted changes and trends, but information not saved and shared.
- Engaged local schools and community groups in random and maintenance activities using ACER monitoring protocols.
- Good education and communty engagement opportunities

MOVING FORWARD

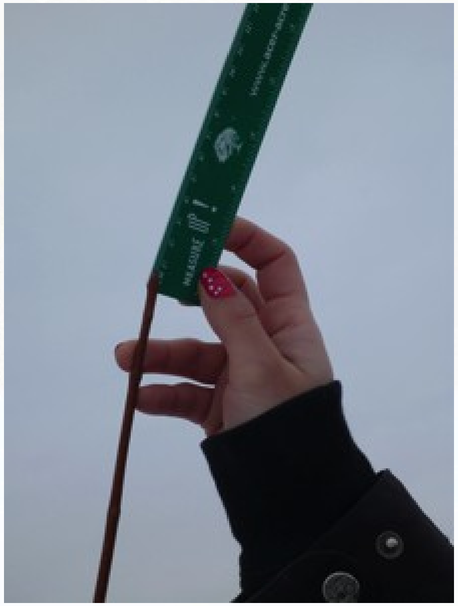
- Set a goal to monitor all EM restoration plantings as of 2012 for a period of 5 years.
- Using the ACER "Tracking for Success" Program, will monitor a sample set from each restoration site to track survival rates and over plant health.
- Monitoring will be done through a combination of staff and volunteer efforts.
- Sites will be visited a minimum of twice a year – Spring and Fall, to conduct maintenance activities and monitor and record data related to tree health.
- Data will be maintained and stored by TRCA staff.

YOUNG TREE – IDENTIFICATION,MONITORING & MAINTENACE GUIDE

- Working with Fleming College and ACER to develop a monitoring and maintenance field guide for newly planted young trees.

- The guide will include information on the importance of the urban forest, step by step instructions for properly selecting sites for tree planting, how to properly plant a tree, tree maintenance tips, the ACER monitoring protocol and native Tree & Shrub ID Sheets.

- This resource will be used as a tool to raise awareness and engage local school groups and community volunteers in our monitoring efforts.



PROJECT OVERVIEW continued

- Identification sheets for selected species of native trees and shrubs. Each ID sheet will include images of species during younger phase, list of identification features that will assist in identifying species at younger phase, habitat and restoration benefits the plant provides, identify growth potential and preferred growing/site conditions, and list of threats that the plant is susceptible to resulting from weather, disease, insects and/or wildlife.

Project Challenges

- Will require a significant investment in staff time and staff resources to actively monitor the sites.

- Coordinating and securing school groups, corporate groups and volunteers to return to planting sites and participate in the ongoing tree health monitoring.

- Funding to support monitoring efforts – rethink planting costs.

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Thank you

Questions?