

Riparian Rangers Mississauga Program

Riparian Rangers Mississauga is a program developed to improve and protect native habitats along areas that link land and water environments. Its goal is threefold: to restore and defend habitats for native species in the highly urbanized Lake Ontario Watershed, to enhance buffer zones in Mississauga to mitigate the risk of flooding, and to engage community members to perform long-term monitoring and reporting.



This program presents opportunities for community members to be involved in hands-on activities concerning restoration and long-term monitoring within sensitive ecosystems. Riparian zones are valuable areas, as water flowing from land into waterways often eventually flows into sources of drinking water. Vegetation along these areas will act to slow the flow of water, allowing for increased infiltration and less erosion. Extending vegetative buffer zones will help stabilize riverbanks, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and reduce water temperatures thus improving the overall health of the ecosystem.

For the fall of 2014, ACER has partnered with the City of Mississauga to restore three priority sites. For each site trained youth volunteers, ACER staff, and the staff of the City of Mississauga will plant 200-300 native trees and shrubs. Each year after planting, volunteers will measure 10% of each tree species planted in terms of tree growth and health. Project photos, maps, and tree growth data are posted on our website: <http://www.climatesake.ca>.



ACER funding for this program includes hands-on training, implementation and technical resources, equipment, and support until one year's growth has been measured.

Here is a sample of data collected by citizens for newly planted trees. Our Quality Assurance (QA) protocol allows data to be graded for accuracy. This protocol can be completed with the help of trained ACER participants. Equipment for measuring both young and mature trees is provided in ACER’s monitoring equipment bag.

Description		Measurements					Diagnosis	Comments
Equipment & units used		Calipers (mm)	1.5 Meter tape (cm)	Calipers (mm)	1.5 Meter tape (cm)		Health check (see codes below)	
Tree #	Common/ Latin Name	Root Collar	Total Height * Ht	Diameter at 1.3m **Ht	Crown Diameter			
					W1	W2		
e.g. 8	<i>Sugar Maple</i>	35	120	30	60	86	A, LB	Tag-M

Tool that may be found on our website include:

- New training videos and Planting for Change Manuals that outline ACER’s planting and measuring protocols
- Role Cards: Download a set of ACER instructions for teams to measure your trees
- Common Tree Species in GTA and Niagara and Common Invasive Species
- Trees in Winter Playing Cards

Additional tools available under our Resources page such as our Treepedia and information about the City of Mississauga’s plan to plant one million trees can be found at:

<http://www.acer-acre.ca/resources>
<http://www.onemilliontrees.ca>



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