

Impact Report 2022





TREESFORWOOLWICH

IMPACT SUMMARY

- 1905 trees planted by volunteers- mulch and guards installed
- Increased carbon capture, flood control and air pollution reduction – 950 tonnes of carbon captured over 40 years
- Active watering to achieve 90% survival rate for trees
- An automated solar powered irrigation system was designed and installed for the entryway trees
- Invasive species control- 15 acres of buckthorn were eliminated and biodiversity increased
- Pit and Mound excavation created ponds in the wetland area and allowed tree planting on the mounds
- The impact of your financial donation was amplified by approximately 1800 hours of volunteer time

2022 has seen a peak in the level of activity with 3 times as many trees planted as last year. We started in March with the removal of 13 acres of invasive buckthorn trees which were choking out any native trees. We ended on November 15th with a planting of sycamore, despite a little snow .



Your donation helped to achieve all this.

- 1905 trees in total were planted throughout the southern section. These included 28 varieties, each suited to the particular habitat into which they were being planted. The largest numbers were sugar maple, bur oak, pagoda dogwood, and white pine.
- More rare and endangered species were planted throughout, including disease resistant elm, tulip tree, American chestnut and witch-hazel.
- While trees have many benefits, several that can be quantified are carbon capture, stormwater capture, and air pollution absorption. Each species behaves differently and a detailed calculation of the benefits is underway.
- Watering these trees was an enormous commitment especially during the drought this summer. A pump from the stormwater pond and fire hose was used to maximize efficiency, but in midsummer it was discovered the pond had dangerously high levels of salt, which was impacting the trees, and an emergency pivot was required. Many thanks goes to our neighbour **Engineered Lifting Systems** who allowed us to run a hose from their building and provided clean water.



- The 2 acre Tall Grass Prairie section of the Habitats was seeded in the fall of 2020 and had to be weeded throughout the summer to limit invasive weeds.
- Trails were mowed to allow people to enjoy more of the area.
- Signs recognizing our founding sponsors are placed at each entrance. They also provide information about the various habitats and for wayfinding.



- Based on the inventory completed the previous year, a lot of time, effort and machinery was invested to start eradicating phragmites, buckthorn and Manitoba maple. 13 acres of buckthorn were eradicated in March using an enormous forest mulcher (lower right). This process uncovered 3 large elm trees which had evaded the ravages of Dutch Elm disease. Smaller buckthorn were pulled by hand (lower left). The phragmites had responded well to the cutting and spraying the previous year and seems to be under control. In November, the forest mulcher attacked a further 2 acres of buckthorn in the northern section of the Reserve.



- A public open house in September provided tours of the Reserve and information on the work done.

Community Involvement

The involvement of a broad section of the community providing volunteer labour, equipment, and expertise allowed us to get a great deal accomplished at a very low cost. From seniors to students, farmers to city slickers, all contributed their skills and resources to make this possible. We owe a special thanks to our project manager, Mark Schwarz of Earthscape, and Ann Roberts, the Township of Woolwich Environmental Coordinator. Several companies including Enviro-Stewards, Wallenstein Feed and Toyota-Boshoku gave their employees time to come and help. **We couldn't do it without you!**

Plans for 2023

The work plan for 2023 is ambitious and will focus on the northern section of the Reserve.

- Buckthorn was removed over 2 acres in November to clear for native plantings. This revealed some large oak trees - the beginnings of an oak savannah.
- In the spring 2 acres of tall grass prairie will be seeded.
- Invasive species eradication will continue both by hand and by machine.
- 220 trees will be planted in the north end.
- New trails in the north section will be mowed as well as maintaining the southern section.
- Manual watering will continue in last year's plantings.
- Further signage will be installed.

Visitors Welcome!

The Reserve welcomes all members of the public but our donors are particularly honoured guests. Group tours can be organized on request.

Questions or Comments?

Contact

Inga Rinne

inga@rinne.ca

519 212 1352