

Local park assembles team to protect biodiversity

Willow Park Ecology Centre in Norval has brought a team together to protect biodiversity in Hungry Hollow and will host a volunteer day this Saturday.

Seven conservation partners named the Hungry Hollow Collaborative helped by more than 100 citizen volunteers are combating a silent invader in Georgetown's central ravine.

The invader is a shrubby tree called English buckhorn. Brought here by early settlers for hedgerows and windbreaks, this tough little non-native plant has spread widely, crowding out our native species.

The collaborative picked ten of Hungry Hollow's 150 hectares to clear out of some of the thickest patches of buckhorn. Volunteers were organized for four summer and fall days to cut, pull and remove prickly buckhorn brush.

Next, professionals with heavy equipment came in for a week to remove and mulch thicker stands along Miller Trail and up its slopes. Native trees will be planted in the cleared areas in the spring of 2017 to

give nature a boost in regenerating local biodiversity.

The Credit River valley has 11 Centres for Biodiversity. Credit Valley Conservation has named these watershed landscapes as best examples of the forest, wetland and aquatic features that contribute to the diversity and connectivity—the health of our local water system.

The beautiful green space in Hungry Hollow is one of these biodiversity hotspots. The collaborative is leading the way in partnering to care for native biodiversity with this cleanup and re-planting project.

Our work here shows how we can improve the ravine's ecology and habitats for our local species, said Tunde Otto, program director at Willow Park Ecology Centre, and project manager. I'm excited to see our partnership caring for this local CVC-designated Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity.

There's a volunteer day at the Miller Trailhead this Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Tunde Otto at 905-703-7147.



Hungry Hollow volunteers take care of Willow Park. A volunteer day is planned for this weekend.

Submitted photo

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