

Corridor Park Rambler

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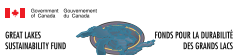
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To subscribe to the Corridor Park Rambler or submit an article, please contact:
jhordowick@trca.on.ca

This publication can also be viewed online at
www.trca.on.ca



You're Invited to an Open House and Presentation!

- Get up to date on what has been achieved to protect and restore the Oak Ridges Corridor Park and what's happening in 2009.
- Give us your thoughts and ideas on what you would like to see on the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Lands (Jefferson's Forest), as we begin a management plan for the land.
- Find about the Oak Ridges Corridor Park Stewardship project and how you can get your hands dirty helping to protect and restore this important natural area.
- Formal 20-minute presentation begins at 7:10 p.m., with the opportunity for informal discussion afterward.

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Elgin West Community Centre
Palisade Room

11099 Bathurst Avenue



Oak Ridges Corridor Park and Jefferson's Forest

- Help protect the land you love!

Whether it's creating a butterfly garden in your yard, planting trees in the community, going for a hike or helping to create habitat for birds, stewardship is about being a good neighbour with nature! With the Oak Ridges Corridor Park (ORCP) nearby, Richmond Hill residents have a beautiful piece of nature right on their doorstep.

The ORCP is a 1057 acre (428 ha) piece of the Oak Ridges Moraine, located between Bathurst Street and Bayview Avenue, in the community of Oak Ridges. The Province of Ontario acquired the ORCP in 2004 to protect these ecologically sensitive lands. A walk along the park's main trail offers views of its colourful meadows, peaceful forests, and clear kettle lakes. Home to more than 70 species of wildlife, the park serves as a bridge connecting natural areas to the east and west of Richmond Hill, allowing wildlife to travel safely through the area.

The ORCP is enhanced by 482 acres (195 hectares) owned by the Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) east of Bayview (see map, back page). The lands, locally referred to as Jefferson's Forest, are much loved by neighbours who hike, bike and snowshoe on the many informal trails. The property is also home to a variety of wildlife and plants, many of which are rare in this area.

You may be aware that in 2006, TRCA completed a management plan for the Oak Ridges Corridor Park (ORCP) in partnership with the Province of Ontario, the Town of Richmond Hill, York Region, community groups and developers. This plan addressed the provincially-

owned lands located between Bayview Avenue and Bathurst Street. Toronto and Region Conservation is now embarking on a management planning process for the TRCA-owned lands located east of the ORCP. The management plan will address natural and cultural heritage protection, restoration and habitat enhancement, edge management, site securement, and trail planning.

We need your help to create this management plan. We want to know what you love about the Jefferson's Forest area, what you want to be sure is protected, what type of forest user you are, etc. Please come out to our public meeting on Tuesday, March 24 and make your voice heard!

You can also get involved in helping to steward the Park. The ORCP Stewardship Project is a partnership between TRCA, Town of Richmond Hill and the Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment. With funding support from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, the project engages the local community in tree planting events, nature walks, litter cleanups and workshops. "Local residents played an important role in protecting this park" says Julie Hordowick, Project Ecologist at TRCA. "We are excited to continue working with this community to restore the park and promote awareness of its importance to

How Do I Get Involved?

To get involved in the management planning process or in community stewardship events:

- Attend public meetings.
- Participate in surveys. (available at public meetings)
- Bring your friends and family out for one of our planned community events.
- Invite us to talk to your community group or school about the natural

heritage of the park and how you can help protect it.

- Join our mailing list to receive updates on events, the management plan and volunteer opportunities at the park
- Visit our website – www.trca.on.ca



Green Garden Makeover Contest

Do you dream of a beautiful garden that conserves water and attract birds and butterflies? Join the trend towards environmentally friendly gardening with native wildflowers, trees and shrubs! Make a change that will protect your local environment and make your yard the envy of the neighbourhood!

Enter the Oak Ridges Green Garden Makeover contest to win a customized eco-garden for your front yard!

What is a "Green Garden"?

Some garden practices such as over fertilizing, using pesticides and frequent watering can harm the environment. A "Green Garden" uses native flowers, trees and shrubs suited to the local climate and soil conditions so they do not need much pampering to thrive. These beautiful plants can be used in formal or more eclectic garden styles. They also attract birds and butterflies that typical garden plants do not.

Contest runs from Feb. 15-May 21, 2009. A winner will be drawn from eligible entries on Friday May 22. The lucky winner will be notified the following week.

To enter visit: events.signup4.com/greengarden or call 416-661-6600 ext. 5644 for a mail-in entry form.

Upcoming Events

Snowshoe Hike – Jefferson's Forest Saturday, March 14, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Start your March Break off on the right foot with a snowshoe hike! The whole family can enjoy the beautiful winter scenery of Jefferson's Forest and learn about the plants and animals who call the forest home. This is also an opportunity to talk to TRCA staff about the initiatives planned for these lands. Dress warmly and bring a travel mug for hot chocolate after the hike.

To register for the hike, contact Lesli at 416-661-6600 ext. 5579 or lrynyk@trca.on.ca with the number of people attending and whether you need snowshoe rental (\$5.00/pair, one size only). If there is not enough snow on the day, please bring your hiking boots! Kids over seven years of age are welcome! In the event of bad weather, call the registration line for notice of cancellation.

Location: Meet at the Sunset Beach parking lot on the north side of Bethesda Sideroad, west of Bayview Ave. Take Bayview Ave. 2 km north of Stouffville Rd. or 2 km south of Bloomington Rd. to Bethesda Sideroad, turn west toward Lake Wilcox and go 30 metres to parking lot on right.

Amphibian Adventures April 16, 2009, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

As the snow and ice melt, wetlands come alive with the sounds of frogs calling in the night. Like birds, each frog species has a distinctive call that can be used to identify them by sound. Learn about the lifecycle of these amazing creatures with a presentation and guided hike through the Oak Ridges Corridor Park to listen in on the action.

Space is limited to 25 participants - please register early to avoid disappointment. Registration at www.trcastewardshipevents.ca

Location: Meet at the Bathurst Glen Golf Course clubhouse, 12481 Bathurst St., approx. 1km south of King Rd.

Oak Ridges Community Clean Up April 25, 2009 - 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Come put the green back into our green spaces! Please bring your family, friends and neighbours to spend a couple of hours cleaning up the winter litter from our parks, wetlands and public areas. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided. Please dress for the weather with appropriate footwear and a hat. Be sure to join us back at the Connor Room for the barbeque and draw prizes beginning around 2 p.m. Volunteers to help with organization and donations of door prizes and supplies are welcome.

Location: check in to the Clean Up operation centre at the Connor Room in the Parks and Recreation building at the south west corner of Yonge St. and King Rd. Pick up your supplies and tell us where you are cleaning up so we can cover all areas and arrange garbage collection.

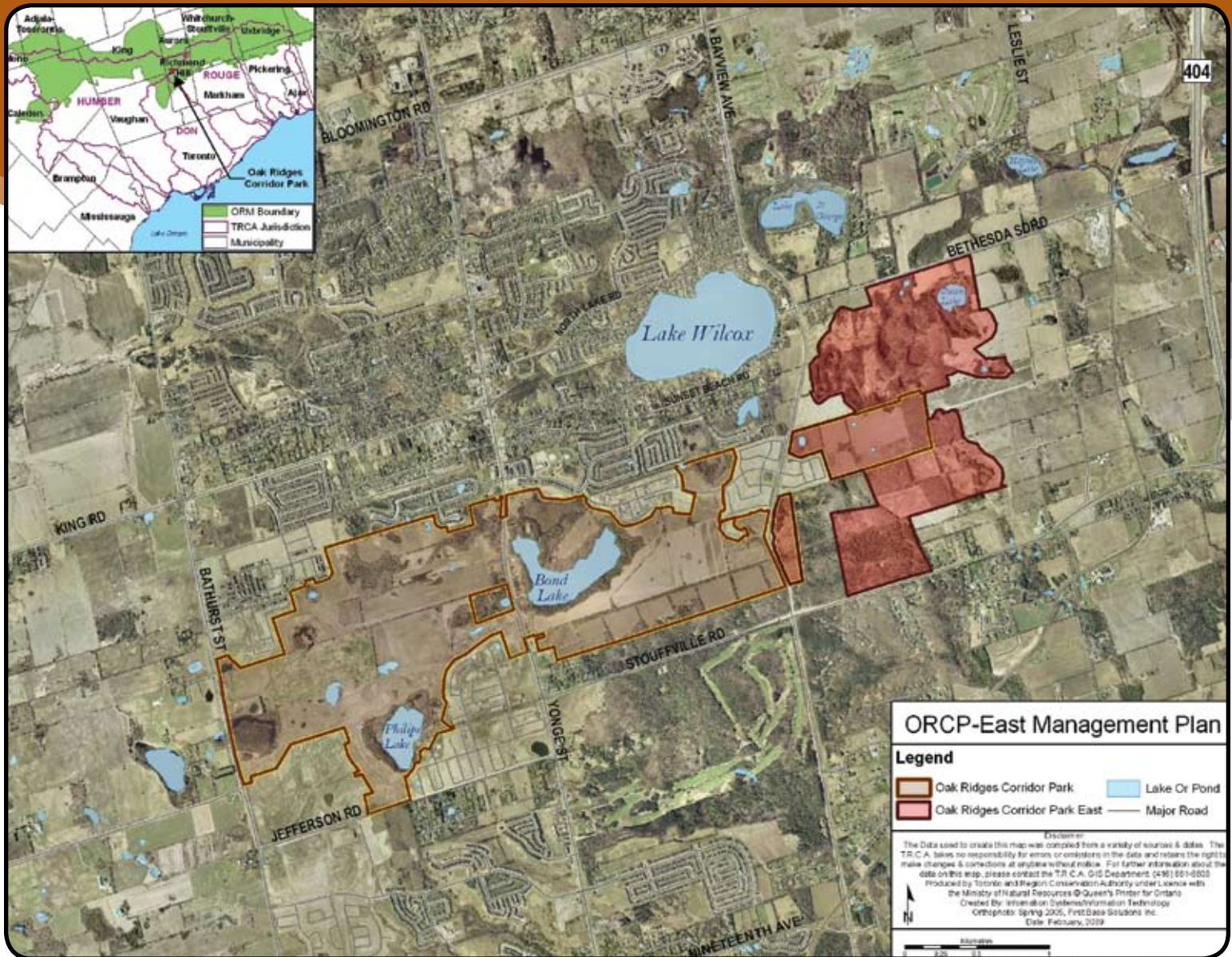
For information and to pre-register contact us at: orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca or call 905-773-7415

Stewardship Day at the Oak Ridges Corridor Park Saturday, May 9, 2009, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Celebrate spring by lending a hand with some environmental projects around the park. We will be building bird boxes, mulching and planting trees. Learn more about the park and the wildlife that live here with interactive displays and a hike. Refreshments and door prizes for participants.

Location: Meet at the parking lot off Old Colony Rd. at the east end of the trail.

Contact Julie Hordowick - jhordowick@trca.on.ca or 416-661-6600 ext. 5644 for more information or to register.



Accomplishments to date

Thanks to all of our partners who made this work possible!

- 1.2** hectares of buffer planting
- 98%** survival rate of planted material
- 28** hectares of reforestation (69,000 seedlings)
- 350** trees and shrubs in the park
- 40** participants attended nature hike; in partnership with Bathurst Glen Golf Course
- 5km** of trail built
- 1** pedestrian crossing installed on Yonge Street

Lake inventory completed for both Bond and Philip Lakes, looking at fish habitat and toxin levels

Enforcement increased through York Region police patrols



Contact Information

For information on the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Lands Management Plan, contact:

April Weppler, 416-661-6600 x5320 or aweppler@trca.on.ca

For information on community stewardship, contact:

Julie Hordowick, 416-661-6600 x5644 or jhordowick@trca.on.ca