

MAY 2017



**LOCATION:**  
Boyd Park North, Humber River Watershed

**DATE:**  
Thursday May 25, 2017

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
Region of York, City of Woodbridge

**PARTNERS:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), York  
Region, Local Residents



## Boyd Park North, Invasive Species Pull With Local Residents

A small but dedicated group of local volunteers worked hard to remove a large patch of invasive garlic mustard that had recently been introduced into the Environmentally Sensitive Area of Boyd Park North.

The group removed about 25 large garbage bags of garlic mustard weighing approximately 350 pounds. They have also committed to working in this area for the next couple of years to target garlic mustard and help prevent the spread of this invasive plant deeper into the forested valley.

Garlic mustard is an invasive herb native to Europe. It was brought to North America in the early 1800s for use as an edible herb. Available in the early spring and high in vitamins A and C, it has a strong, distinctive smell similar to garlic. Since its arrival in North America, it has spread into natural areas and is now one of Ontario's most aggressive forest invaders. Garlic mustard can invade relatively undisturbed forests. Once established, it can displace native wildflowers and understory vegetation. It hinders other plants by interfering with the growth of fungi that bring nutrients to the roots of the plants.

Removing garlic mustard should be done during flowering, before the plants produce seed. Pull at the base of the plant and try to remove the entire root. Once pulled, the garlic mustard plant material needs to be placed in a garbage bag and disposed off because if left on the ground, the plant will still complete flowering and set seed.



## POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Type of Invasive Species	# of Bags Collected	Weight of Bags Collected	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
Garlic Mustard	24	~350	8	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>~350</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>