

News Release

Graham Creek Improvements Continue

TAY RIVER WATERSHED, October 2, 2013 — Improvements to Ottawa's Graham Creek continue this fall. As with most urban streams, the west-end Ottawa creek struggles from hardened or eroding shorelines and poor water quality. The Graham Creek Restoration Program looks to improve and restore a section of the creek in Andrew Haydon Park that is suffering from excessive erosion.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF), the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's (RVCA) Shoreline Naturalization Program, the City Stream Watch Program and the City of Ottawa have combined efforts to carry out this important community improvement project. Bioengineering techniques and shoreline plantings will be used to make the creek a healthier and more vibrant space for people and wildlife. These efforts will also improve water quality.

"We have been working through the project in phases," says Andrea Klymko, RVCA Shoreline Naturalization Program Manager. "We have already done significant naturalization in the fall of 2012. We are now dealing with the final touches."

This final stage will see dogwood and willows planted along the shoreline to hold the soils in place and provide habitat for local water and land animals. A small upland area will also be planted as well with elderberry, serviceberry and high bush cranberry.

"Natural buffers between the creek and human alterations are extremely important for filtering excess nutrients running into the creek, infiltrating rainwater, maintaining bank stability and providing wildlife habitat," said Chelsey Ellis, City Stream Watch Coordinator. "Natural shorelines shade the creek, helping maintain baseflow levels and keeping water temperatures cool. By planting natural materials and structures we can help stabilize soils, minimize erosion, mitigate the impacts of climate change and grow a more healthy and resilient shoreline to improve water quality."

Special thanks to the over 15 volunteers who have donated more than 70 hours to the project. This project is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors: City of Ottawa, Evergreen, the Ottawa Sustainability Fund and Walmart Canada.

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For more information, contact:

Andrea Klymko
RVCA Stewardship Planning Manager
613-692-3571 ext. 1173
andrea.klymko@rvca.ca
or
Chelsey Ellis
City Stream Watch Coordinator
613-692-3571 ext. 1180
citystreamwatch@rvca.ca

The City Stream Watch program is a community-based partnership, which includes the City of Ottawa, Heron Park Community Association, the National Defence Fish & Game Club, the Ottawa Flyfishers Society, the Rideau Roundtable, the Ottawa Stewardship Council, NCC and RVCA. From its inception in 2003, volunteer numbers have grown from 26 to over two hundred.

The RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program offers technical guidance and financial assistance to waterfront property owners wanting to naturalize their shore.

Learn more about both programs at www.rvca.ca