



Charitable Research Reserve

Spring 2018 Land Management Volunteer Opportunities

The **rare Charitable Research Reserve** is a 900+ acre nature reserve located in Cambridge Ontario. Proudly founded on the principles of Conservation, Research, and Education, **rare's** mission is to preserve its lands intact and in perpetuity.

Every year, **rare** takes on new ecological restoration initiatives in order to enhance and rehabilitate the unique native habitats of this urban land trust. Together with volunteer and community support, the **rare Charitable Research Reserve** is happy to provide meaningful opportunities for environmental education and stewardship through volunteer restoration activities.



Photo: Devon Crowell

If you are interested in taking part in the exciting restoration projects at **rare** or would like more information please contact:

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See reverse for details

Invasive Species Removal—Buckthorn

Common Buckthorn was introduced to Canada to be used in hedgerows and windbreaks. It causes harm to the economy and the environment by out-competing native plants, reducing biodiversity, degrading the quality of wildlife habitat and can host oat crown rust and soybean aphids, both of which reduce crop yields. It is effective at spreading since it is a laxative to wildlife and can grow in a wide range of habitats.

Identification of invasive species training will be provided on site as well as instruction on proper removal techniques. This is a great opportunity for those looking to gain in field experience with ecological restoration and become more familiar with flora of southern Ontario.

Dates:

Wednesday, April 25

Thursday, May 3

Each volunteer day will have a morning (9:30AM-12:30PM) and afternoon (1:30PM-4:30PM) session. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for one or both sessions.

Forest Plantation Naturalization

The Thompson Tract plantation was planted in the 1980s, mostly with Black Walnut and White Pine. Plantations are rows of even-aged habitats which can compromise habitat biodiversity and are more susceptible to disease. As part of a Managed Forest Plan, the plantations are being restored to a naturalized forest habitat which includes a mix of native tree species and understory plants.

Thinning the plantation has opened up gaps in the canopy to facilitate understory growth. As a follow-up to the thinning, volunteer days will focus on increasing biodiversity by transplanting native trees and shrubs from the adjacent Indian Woods where there is a surplus of healthy saplings. This is a great opportunity for those looking to gain experience in ecological restoration and tree planting.

Dates:

Friday, May 11

Wednesday, May 16

Thursday, May 24

Each volunteer day will have a morning (9:30AM-12:30PM) and afternoon (1:30PM-4:30PM) session. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for one or both sessions.

Cliffs and Alvars Invasive Species Management

The Cliffs and Alvars Forest is the largest on the reserve and hosts the majority of *rare's* 8 kms of trail. Some of the forest habitat in the Cliffs and Alvars has become fragmented with unauthorised trails, which can bring in invasive species such as Greater Celandine, Garlic Mustard and Mossy Stonecrop which can outcompete the native vegetation.

Volunteer days will focus on removing these invasive species to promote the reestablishment of a native community. Identification of invasive and native species will be provided on site. This is a great opportunity for those looking to gain experience in ecological restoration.

Dates:

Friday, June 1

Wednesday, June 6

Thursday, June 14

Each volunteer day will have a morning (9:30AM-12:30PM) and afternoon (1:30PM-4:30PM) session. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for one or both sessions.