



Spring 2019 Land Management Volunteer Opportunities

The **rare Charitable Research Reserve** is a 900+ acre nature reserve located in Cambridge, Ontario. Founded on the principles of conservation, research and education, **rare's** mission is to preserve its lands intact 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, **rare** provides meaningful opportunities for environmental education and stewardship through volunteer restoration activities.



If you are interested in partaking in exciting restoration projects at **rare**, please register on the **[rare events calendar](#)**.

For more information, contact:
Laura Klein
laura.klein@raresites.org
519-650-9336 x126

See reverse for details

Earth Day—Shoreline Cleanup

Preston Flats is a floodplain habitat situated at the confluence of the Grand and Speed Rivers, an important foraging area for birds during migration and in the winter. The area is often littered with garbage from upstream after spring flooding. Join us in cleaning up the shoreline that numerous birds and other wildlife depend on to thrive.

Dates:

Monday, April 22
(1:00 PM - 4:00 PM)

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 hosting 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.

Volunteer days will focus on Buckthorn removal.

Dates:

Friday, May 3
Wednesday, May 8

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.

Dates:

Thursday, May 16
Friday, May 24

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 invasive species removal.

Dates:

Wednesday, May 29
Thursday, June 6
Friday, June 14
Wednesday, June 19

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

All skill levels are welcome. Species identification training, instructions and tools will be provided.