



Photo by NCC

River Bends on the Mend, part 1

What you will be doing

Participants will be installing upcycled Christmas trees along the banks of Willow Creek in order to restore a naturally meandering channel. Be ready to get wet, work hard and have fun!

Why you will love it

You will be helping to restore Willow Creek back to its natural, meandering form and create a healthy ecosystem and habitat for fish and other aquatic species. Willow Creek was historically damaged by being dredged, straightened and over widened. The work we've been doing has improved the fish community (doubling the species found in the stream and improved the aquatic insect community dramatically).

About the property

Minesing Wetlands, located 20 kilometres west of Barrie, is a provincially and internationally significant wetland, home to over 400 species of plants, 200 species of birds and a diversity of other terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Since 1974, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and its partners have protected close to 4,047 hectares of significant habitat in Minesing Wetlands. The wetland is home to many nationally listed species at risk and to one of the largest and oldest great blue heron colonies in Ontario. Seasonal flooding means that the wetland interior is inaccessible by foot for much of the year. This is your chance to venture inside this hidden gem!

Gathering details

Date: July 20, 2022

Time: 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Location: Minesing Wetlands Natural Area

Meeting details:

Meet at Willow Creek Canoe Launch parking area.

GPS coordinates:

44.423223°N , -79.817774°W



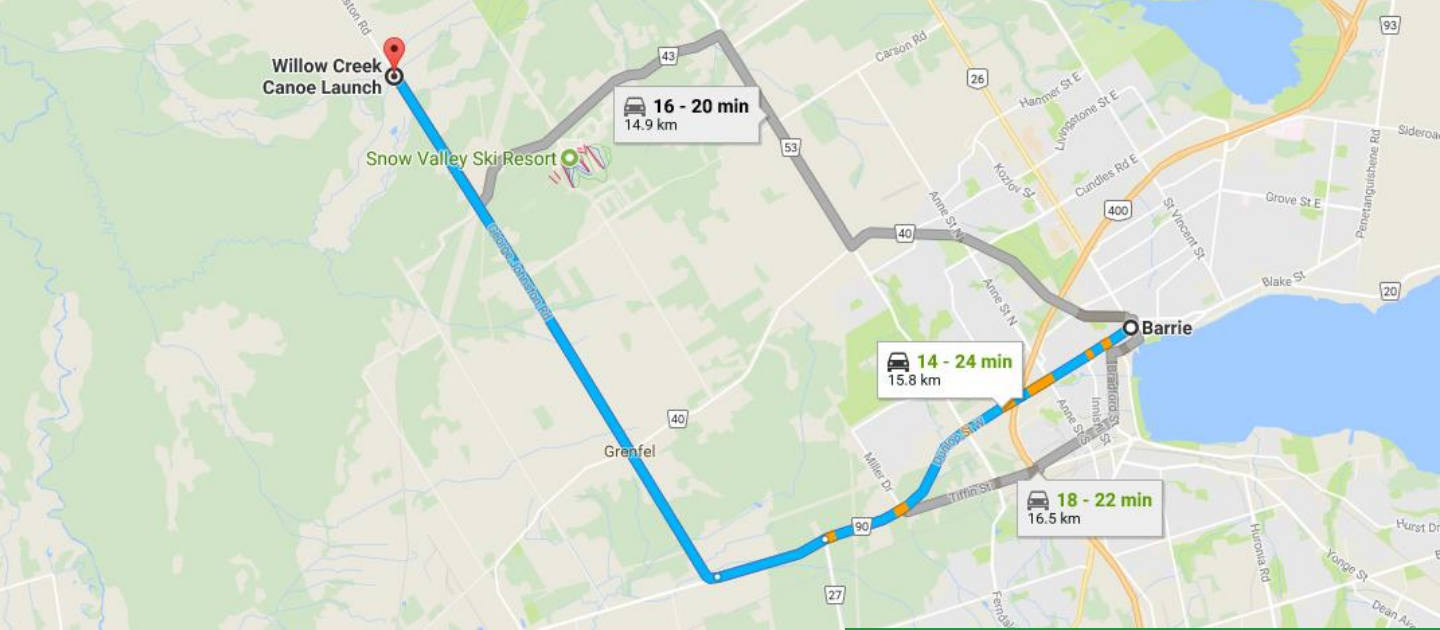
COVID-19 notes

This event will be entirely outdoors, and there is a maximum capacity of 12 people. Masks will be available. All participants must complete a COVID-19 screening before attending, which will be sent in a reminder email.



On-site facilities

There is an outhouse in the parking lot of the meeting location; however, no washroom facilities exist at the work site. Toilet paper and hand sanitizer will be provided to those who chose to use the outdoor facilities.



Driving directions

Park at the Willow Creek Canoe Launch on George Johnson Road, just south of the town of Minesing and north of Snow Valley. There is plenty of parking at the meeting location. Parking is free for the event participants.

Directions from Barrie:

- | | Distance |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Head southeast on Dunlop Street West. | 5.5 km |
| 2. Continue onto County Rd 90 W. | 1.6 km |
| 3. Turn right onto George Johnston Rd. | 8.6 km |
| 4. Turn left into Willow Creek Canoe Launch parking area. | |

Approximate distance/time: 16 km/18 minutes

Directions from ON-401:

- | | Distance |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Take Exit 359 to merge onto ON-400 N toward Barrie. | 77.1 km |
| 2. Take Exit 96B for Dunlop St W toward Angus. | 400 m |
| 3. Merge onto Dunlop St W. | 3.7 km |
| 4. Continue onto County Rd 90 W. | 1.6 km |
| 5. Turn Right onto George Johnson Rd. | 8.6 km |
| 6. Turn left into Willow Creek Canoe Launch parking area. | |

Approximate distance/time: 92 km/55-70 minutes

Click this [google maps link](#) and enter your address for directions tailored specifically for you!

Contact information for the event leader will be sent in a reminder email closer to the event date. If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact on.volunteers@natureconservancy.ca.

Cancellations

If for any reason you cannot attend this volunteer event, please inform us in advance by email or phone.

Inclement weather

This event will run rain or shine, but field work will be cancelled or postponed if extreme weather conditions occur or site conditions are unsafe. If this occurs, all attempts will be made to contact you at the number you provide when you register.

Event-day schedule

Time	Activity
9 a.m.	Arrive
9 a.m.–9:15 a.m.	Welcome and orientation
9:15 a.m.–12 p.m.	Work
12 p.m.–12:30 p.m.	Lunch break
12:30 p.m.–2:15 p.m.	Work
2:15 p.m.–2:30 p.m.	Wrap-up, event evaluations and departure

Safety Notes

We will start our day by carrying supplies over sometimes rough and wet terrain to reach our work site. Be prepared to work hard and get muddy. Stinging nettle and wild parsnip are present along the floodplain of Willow Creek. Please wear long pants and long sleeves to avoid exposure. Event leaders will point out these plants so that you can avoid them. Mosquitos will also be attendance; be prepared by covering up and bringing repellent if you need it. This event is suitable for ages 14+.



What to bring

- Rubber boots
- Change of dry socks and shoes
- Water bottle (1 Litre)
- Layers of clothing
- Rain gear (just in case)
- Sun hat & sunscreen
- Lunch
- Work gloves, lifejacket and chest waders (if you have them)
- Change of clothes (optional)



What's provided

- Water jugs for bottle refilling
- Light snacks
- Work gloves, lifejacket and waders
- Safety equipment (first aid kits, etc.)
- Tools
- Hand sanitizer & toilet paper

Sponsors and partners

This event will be co-hosted by NCC and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).



Healthy Watershed, Healthy Communities

General Information for visitors to NCC properties

When accessing Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) properties please note:

1. You may be hiking/walking on terrain that may be steep, uneven, slippery, or jagged, or where solid footing is obscured by vegetation. Be sure to have good walking shoes with ankle support and treads.
2. Since you will be visiting rich natural areas, you will encounter many types of plants and animals, on land and in the water, some of which may be dangerous or poisonous to humans. It is your responsibility to learn about the environment you'll be visiting, and how to avoid natural threats, especially in areas inhabited by large carnivores.
3. You must help keep these areas beautiful by packing out everything you bring in, including garbage.
4. You will be enjoying the outdoors in all kinds of weather, from bright sun to rainy conditions. Be sure to bring sunscreen, preferably waterproof with a high protection factor, and apply it frequently. Bring rain gear. Wear layers of clothing that will allow you to be warmer or cooler during different parts of the day.
5. Black flies/mosquitoes and other biting/stinging insects may pose a problem at certain times of the year.
6. Many of the habitats on Nature Conservancy of Canada properties are ecologically sensitive. Be aware of your impact: do not pick flowers, avoid crushing plants and do not feed or harass wildlife.
7. Some Nature Conservancy of Canada properties are fenced and use cattle or other livestock for grazing. As these animals may be unpredictable, refrain from approaching or harassing them.
8. Some Nature Conservancy of Canada properties contain abandoned buildings and/or mineshafts. If encountered, do not enter or approach any of these structures due to unknown hazards and risks.
9. Fires of any sort are absolutely prohibited on Nature Conservancy of Canada property.
10. Even with appropriate precautions, accidents can happen. The Nature Conservancy of Canada does not provide any trained medical professionals or any hazard or emergency evacuation facilities.