

# FOURTEEN MILE CREEK REDSIDE DACE MONITORING & REHABILITATION



## PROJECT GOAL

Fourteen Mile Creek is a cool/ cold water system in Oakville that supports populations of the provincially endangered Redside Dace. The stream is in a valley with steep walls and ground water seepage. Sections in the upper reaches of the stream are ephemeral (seasonal), with permanent pools that support fish year-round due to springs in the stream bed.



Volunteers Tree planting along 14 Mile Creek

## THE NEED

Fourteen Mile Creek is one of the few remaining watersheds in the Greater Toronto Area that continue to support relatively healthy populations of Redside Dace. However, increasing development pressure is threatening the remaining habitat. These threats include:

- The removal of riparian vegetation which causes the loss of habitat and food, an increase in water temperatures, widening of the stream channel, an increase in erosion, and sedimentation of in-stream habitat.
- An increase in impervious surfaces that ultimately affects ground water inputs and leads to increased storm flows. This will result in more erosion on already vulnerable slopes.
- In-stream debris and garbage blocking the flow of the watercourse, leading to sedimentation of upstream habitat and loss of connectivity within the stream.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 2005, Ontario Streams has been working in Fourteen Mile Creek, focusing on monitoring and in-stream rehabilitation projects for Redside Dace. These projects include:



restoration efforts in Fourteen Mile Creek including: Conservation Halton, Halton-Peel Stewardship Council, Hamilton-Wentworth Stewardship Council, and students from Iroquois Ridge High School.

For more information on Redside Dace [click here](#).

#### Reggraded slope along 14 mile creek

- Aquatic habitat improvements and bank stabilization projects over 3km of stream between Upper Middle Road and the QEW. Bank stabilization projects have included techniques such as cabled debris jams and re-grading banks using bioengineering.
- The removal of garbage and debris collected in and around the stream.
- Over 2,000 native shrubs and trees have been planted with the help of volunteers. This vegetation will provide food and cover for species and help to stabilize banks, reduce stream temperatures, and filter runoff.
- In-stream habitat mapping has been completed for over 4km of stream to assess the amount and quality of available habitat for Redside Dace.
- Monitoring has been completed throughout Fourteen Mile Creek.

#### PARTNERS

The Fourteen Mile Creek Redside Dace Monitoring and Rehabilitation program receives financial support from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Aurora District office. Many other partners have provided financial and in-kind support over the years including: The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Species at Risk Stewardship Fund, Shell Environmental Fund, Unilever-Evergreen Aquatic Stewardship Fund, Environment and Climate Change Canada's Habitat Stewardship Fund, Trees Canada, and the Town of Oakville.

Ontario Streams has worked with many agencies, community groups, and businesses who have volunteered their time towards these critical