

JULY 2016



LOCATION:
Heart Lake Conservation Area, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:
Sunday, July 16, 2016

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:
Region of Peel, City of Brampton

PARTNERS:
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Region of Peel, Louise Arbor Secondary School Ecosquad Students



Heart Lake Conservation Area (HLCA) Native Shrub Planting with Louise Arbor SS Students

A group of Louise Arbor SS Ecosquad students and alumni came to the Medicine Wheel Garden (Gitigaan Mashkiki) at HLCA to plant 15 native shrubs.

This activity was organized by the Ecosquad students to honour a classmate who had passed away in spring. Four Colours Drum Circle performed an Aboriginal ceremony and prayer, with students participating by incorporating native musical instruments.

Following the ceremony the group planted, mulched and watered 15 native shrubs to provide habitat for wildlife and honour their friend. They also removed approximately 60 pound of invasive vegetation and created a barrier to prevent pedestrian foot traffic through a series of informal trails surrounding the wooded area. These informal trails damage sensitive understory and compact soil which exposes root systems of vegetation.

These types of community engagement activities provide valuable opportunities to educate the local community on the importance of natural spaces and gain an understanding of healthy diverse ecosystems.



POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Vegetation Planted	# of Pieces Planted	Total Area Enhanced (sq. m.)	Invasive Vegetation Removed	# of Participants	Participant Hrs. Contributed
Shrubs	15	25	~ 60 lbs.	16	50