

# Wonderful Watershed Moments!

MAY 2018

## Heart Lake CA, Pollinator Plot Maintenance



**LOCATION:**

Heart Lake Conservation Area, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

**DATE:**

Wednesday May 2, 2018

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**

City of Brampton, Region of Peel

**PARTNERS:**

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Sierra Club Peel

Members of Sierra Club Peel met at Heart Lake CA to assist TRCA staff with maintenance of the pollinator areas located throughout the park.

For several years, TRCA staff have been creating pollinator plots to assist in providing habitat. Local residents, community groups, corporate groups and students have planted a variety of native wildflowers which bloom from May to September, providing food for many types of pollinators including: native bees, hummingbirds and butterflies.

In the fall, plant material is left in situ (in position), as stems provide areas for insect larvae to be laid and once the stems fall or bend over from snow weight, provide shelter for nesting animals.

Each spring, staff and participants attend the site to clear away previous years growth to allow plants to emerge and flower. The group carefully assess the plots for nests made by wildlife before walking through, raking, and/or removing vegetation. In this instance, efforts were rewarded with the discovery of a nest with juvenile cottontail rabbits. Vegetation was carefully placed back over the nest to allow the kits to reach full growth .

Working together, this group were able to perform maintenance on several plots allowing new growth to be exposed to sun and will soon be in full bloom with pollinators in abundance.

By participating in these types of stewardship activities, local residents and community groups contribute to enhancing natural areas and gain a better understanding to the importance of providing habitat for pollinators.



### Positive Environmental Impacts

Plots Maintained	# of Tarps Filled	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
6	21	4	15

