

# Wonderful Watershed Moments!

**MAY 2018**



**LOCATION:**  
Heart Lake Conservation Area, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

**DATE:**  
Saturday May 26, 2018

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
City of Brampton, Region of Peel

**PARTNERS:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF), Four Colours Drum Circle

## Heart Lake Conservation Area (HLCA), Medicine Wheel Garden (MWG) Native Shrub Planting

In 2017, a learning circle seating area was created adjacent to HLCA's Medicine Wheel Garden (Gitigaan Mashkiki). This area provides visitors with a space to observe and participate in ceremonies at the MWG and have the opportunity to learn about the garden, its significance to Aboriginal beliefs of the sacred medicine wheel and its symbolisms and teachings.

Teachers from Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation and family members, gathered to create a path by planting native shrubs to guide visitors to the learning area and garden. Four Colours Drum Circle welcomed the group, provided an overview of the garden and engaged the group in a smudging and drumming ceremony. An offering of fruit was placed on the Grandfather and Grandmother stones at the center of the garden.

The group planted 30 native shrubs, placing a mulch mat around each piece and ensuring all plants were well watered.

Due to the very hot and humid weather, one participant created an impromptu water feature to allow the group to cool off.

In addition, participants assisted with a litter cleanup around the area and maintenance of the pollinator plots adjacent to the MWG. These pollinator plots have been put in place to provide much needed habitat for native pollinator species. The group thinned out some of the native wildflowers placing them in pots to take home to plant in their gardens.

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



### Positive Environmental Impacts

Vegetation Planted	Area Enhanced sq.m	Garbage Collected	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
30 Shrubs	45	~10 lbs	15	45

