

Wonderful Watershed Moments!

JUNE 2018



LOCATION:
Heart Lake Conservation Area (CA), Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:
Saturday June 2, 2018

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:
Region of Peel, City of Brampton

PARTNERS:
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Sierra Club Peel, Four Colours Drum Circle, Local Residents



Heart Lake CA, Medicine Wheel Garden and Pollinator Plot Maintenance

Sierra Club members, local residents and Four Colours Drum Circle gathered at Heart Lake CA for the fourth year to perform maintenance at the Medicine Wheel Garden (Gitigaan Mashkiki) and surrounding pollinator plots.

After a welcome ceremony by Four Colours Drum Circle, the group got underway to remove weeds and plant 125 native wildflowers. These ongoing efforts to remove invasive vegetation and weeds have assisted in the success of these plots and provide much needed habitat for native pollinator species.

A new plot was installed at the site for the “three sisters” vegetables; corn, beans and squash, to be planted. Legend states that the combination of these plants help each other in successful growth. Corn requires nitrogen which is produced by beans and squash spreads out to prevent weeds from overtaking the plot.

A learning area has also recently been established adjacent to the Medicine Wheel Garden to provide an area for ceremonies and drumming to be performed. A path is being created using native shrubs to guide visitors to this area.

Engaging local residents and community groups in enhancing natural areas provides a better understanding to the importance of natural areas in urban settings. It also educates on the value of maintaining these areas by performing litter cleanups and identifying and removing invasive vegetation which outcompetes native vegetation.



Positive Environmental Impacts

Vegetation Planted	# of Pieces Planted	Invasive Vegetation Removed	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
Wildflowers	125	~30 lbs	25	75

