

Wonderful Watershed Moments!

JUNE 2018



LOCATION:

Heart Lake Conservation Area (CA), Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:

Friday June 1, 2018

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:

Region of Peel, City of Brampton

PARTNERS:

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and Local Community Residents



Heart Lake Conservation Area, Medicine Wheel Garden Interpretive Sign Relocation

Heart Lake CA's Medicine Wheel Garden (Gitigaan Mashkiki) came as a vision from a male elder of the Anishnawbe Nation and was created in 2009, with the opening ceremony May 2010.

Staff from TRCA's Archeology Department sampled areas around the site prior to establishing the garden and found over 300 artifacts, primarily stone pieces that were used to create stone tools.

Interpretive signs were created and placed adjacent to the Medicine Wheel Garden (MWG) to highlight the archeological significance, purpose of the garden and history of this area.

TRCA engages hundreds of participants each year from; schools, community and corporate groups and local residents to perform maintenance, plant native wildflowers and establish pollinator habitat structures at the garden and surrounding pollinator plots.

More recently, a learning circle was established where Aboriginal ceremonies and educational activities take place. TRCA's Watershed Champions Four Colours Drum Circle, have actively maintained the garden and perform ceremonies each week.

The interpretive signs were recently relocated closer to the road and a path is being created using native shrubs to guide visitors to the area. The native shrubs were planted with the help of local community volunteers

This feature at Heart Lake CA attracts numerous visitors and provides a unique point of interest to explore when either walking or cycling the numerous trails throughout the park.



Positive Environmental Impacts

Vegetation Planted	# of Pieces Planted	Signs Relocated	Path Length
Native Shrubs	120	2	~80 metres

