



**MISSISSAUGA:
A COMMUNITY LIVING IN
HARMONY WITH NATURE**



Your support connects Mississaugans to nature and advances reconciliation

From public programs to school field trips to conservation initiatives to supporting Indigenous-led events and programs, our work would not be possible without the generous support of the Mississauga City Council and City staff.

Thank you for trusting us with your three-year Community Grant funding.





3 km west of downtown

7.1

**150 acres of forest, meadow,
ravine, creek habitats**

3.5 km of trails

1.5 km of Credit River shoreline

**One of the most diverse
ecosystems in the Credit River
watershed**

Challenges

Caring for the land

Population growth pressures

Financial realities



CONSERVATION INITIATIVES - 2024





16,107

*Program
participants*



966

*Volunteers
engaged in
conservation
work*



10,743

*Hours
contributed by
volunteers*

DISCOVERY PROGRAMS



225

*Discovery
programs
delivered*



6,108

participants





A Variety of Inclusive Programming

- Public programs include birding, nature trivia nights, night-time nature walks, and astronomy nights
- Programs held in partnership with the Newcomer Centre of Peel, including on-site nature walks for newcomer families
- Free Qi Gong, yoga, and Forest Bathing programs delivered Mandarin and Cantonese
- 96% of Discovery participants said they would take part again

GARDENS AND GARDENING PROGRAMS



1,550

*Hours of volunteer
service provided*



450 lbs

*Produce donated to The
Compass Food Bank*





Gardens Highlights

- Emphasis on nurturing native plants in our gardens
- Diversifying garden types: pollinator, vegetable, ornamental
- Gardening Naturally program for students in Grades 3 and 5
- Support for the City's Year of the Garden celebrations, Seedy Saturdays, community events



OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS





Connections that last a lifetime

- 6,867 elementary school students in 261 programs
- 1,090 special education and therapeutic horticulture participants
- Junior Naturalist and Mini-Naturalist Clubs
- 100% of teachers said they would bring another class to Riverwood



SUPPORTING THE CITY'S RECONCILIATION EFFORTS





- Programs are led by Indigenous community members and supported by our staff and volunteers
- Jingtamok Indigenous Social in September 2024
- Full Moon Ceremonies for Women
- Additional allyship events in partnership with The Indigenous Network
- Discussion underway for a dedicated teaching/healing space at Riverwood
- Recognized by TIN with the inaugural *Spirit of Reconciliation Award*



VOLUNTEERS

- 290 core volunteers supporting year-round programming
- 656 summer program, Corporate Crew, Youth Corps
- 87% said volunteering positively contributes to their wellbeing
- 89% said they are likely to continue volunteering
- TRC was a finalist in Charity Village's *Volunteer Program of the Year Award* (<20 staff)





New Financial Realities

- Challenges with granting income have led to innovation
- Reduced expenses by amalgamating some staff functions
- Strengthening fundraising programs
- First annual Great Riverwood Hike - \$25,000 raised
- Considering program fees through an equity lens
- Winner of MBOT's Not-for-Profit of the Year Award 2024





Coming in 2025

- MacEwan Pond restoration plantings and opening celebration
- Summer Camp Riverwood – kids grades one to eight
- Updated Sensory Path for school children, special needs individuals
- New wellness programming





Thank You!

The
Riverwood
Conservancy