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





# Your support connects Mississaugans to nature and advances reconciliation

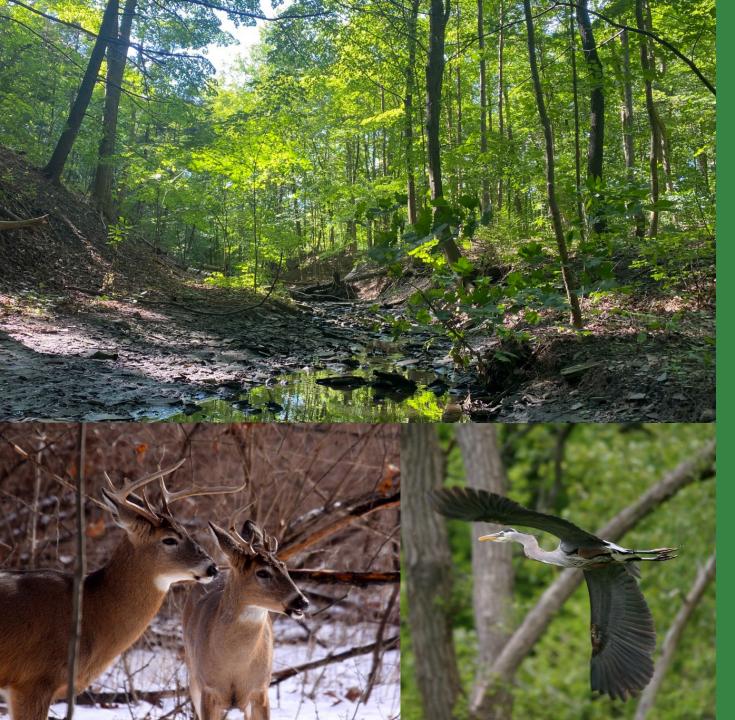
From public programs to school field trips to conservation initiatives to supporting Indigenous-led events and programs, our work would not be possible without the generous support of the Mississauga City Council and City staff.

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



**Registered** Community Group

theriverwoodconservancy.org



#### 3 km west of downtown

150 acres of forest, meadow, ravine, creek habitats

7.1

3.5 km of trails

1.5 km of Credit River shoreline

One of the most diverse ecosystems in the Credit River watershed

<u>Challenges</u> 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

6,108

Discovery programs delivered 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 7.1



#### **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**

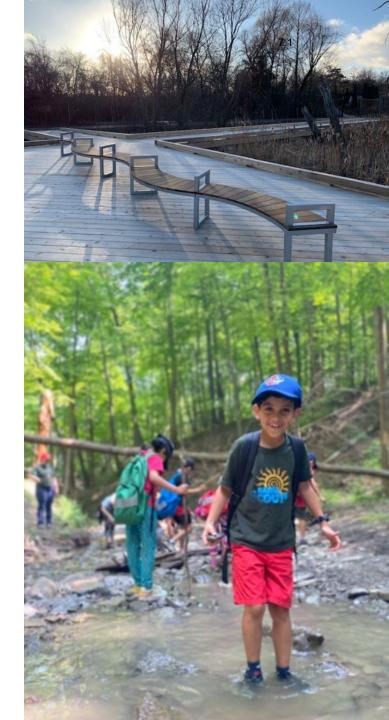
- Challenges with granting income have led to innovation
- Reduced expenses by amalgamating some staff functions
- Strengthening fundraising programs
- First annual Great Riverwood Hike \$25,000 raised
- Considering program fees through an equity lens
- Winner of MBOT's Not-for-Profit of the Year Award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

