



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INVENTORY RESOURCE 2017

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DISCLAIMER

The material compiled in this inventory of municipal school programs is not comprehensive and is meant to serve as a starting point to increase awareness and access to programs across the Clean Air Council membership base that engage schools and the community on environmental programs. If your jurisdiction is missing from this inventory and would like to be added into inventory updates, contact Clean Air Partnership and the contact information below.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Clean Air Partnership (CAP) would like to thank the members of the Clean Air Council for their financial support, as well as their input into the development of this material. CAP would also like to acknowledge the ongoing financial and in-kind support provided by the City of Toronto.

ABOUT THE CLEAN AIR PARTNERSHIP

Clean Air Partnership (CAP) is a registered charity that works in partnership to promote and coordinate actions to improve local air quality and reduce greenhouse gases for healthy communities. Our applied research on municipal policies strives to broaden and improve access to public policy debate on air pollution and climate change issues. Our social marketing programs focus on energy conservation activities that motivate individuals, government, schools, utilities, businesses and communities to take action. Clean Air Partnership's mission is to transform cities into more sustainable, resilient, and vibrant communities where resources are used efficiently, the air is clean to breathe and greenhouse gas emissions are minimized.



CLEAN AIR PARTNERSHIP AND TORONTO, YORK, PEEL, DURHAM AND HALTON REGION - 20/20 THE WAY TO CLEAN AIR

The goal of 20/20 The Way to Clean Air is to help your school and the students reduce their energy consumption by 20 percent at home and on the road. 20 percent, or one tonne, is a fifth of what the average Canadian produces each year in greenhouse gas emissions. Reductions in these pollutants will improve local air quality and lessen the impact of smog and climate change on the environment and your health.

[20/20 The Way to Clean Air Planner](#) provides teachers and their students with step-by-step tips to reduce home energy` and vehicle use by taking actions that save energy without sacrificing comfort or convenience.

The 20/20 The Way to Clean Air campaign has numerous school resources for teachers and students to help deliver energy conservation curriculum in a fun and engaging way and participation in 20/20 can provide support towards [Ontario EcoSchool](#) certification.

20/20 School Resources include:

- 20/20 The Way to Clean Air School Planner ([English](#)) ([French](#));
- [20/20 The Way to Clean Air Teacher's Guide](#);
- 20/20 The Way to Clean Air In-Class Lesson Plans ([English](#)) ([French](#)); and

[20/20 The Way to Clean Air Classroom Animated Slide Show with Instruction](#) (can be used within the classroom to introduce and describe how to participate in the 20/20 The Way to Clean Air Program

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TOWN OF AJAX

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Every Minute Counts Campaign

The Town of Ajax introduced an Anti-idling Strategy in 2010, focused on reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions within the Town. The new strategy includes a by-law, a public awareness campaign, and idle-free zones. The town promotes the adoption of the Every Minute Counts Campaign by providing anti-idling zone road signage for schools and businesses to install on their property, alongside education campaign material (bumper stickers, brochures, and a training video) to encourage everyone to pledge not to idle. Schools are encouraged to urge parents to turn off their vehicles while waiting to pick up their children.



This campaign spreads awareness on the amount of pollution emitted by cars and the benefits of small behavioral changes that benefit the well-being of overall human and environmental health.

[More information](#)

Adopt A Park Road Trail

Schools are invited to adopt a space in Ajax—it may be the local park or playground, a section of trail, or a roadway adjacent to the property where they would be cleaning up any garbage littered around.

Schools are to commit to clean their adopted area at least twice a year for a minimum of 2 years and follow all health and safety guidelines outlined in the safety video provided. The schools have to appoint a representative to act on behalf of the participating group, the town needs to be notified with at least 48 hours prior to the clean-up event. This program provides the schools with a Health and Safety video, a sign at the adopted area, a certificate of appreciation and basic safety equipment needed to clean the adopted area i.e. bags and gloves.

[More information](#)

Annual School's Tree Planting

Each year, as part of Green Living Days, Ajax hosts a planting event during school hours to encourage students to get outside and experience nature and the importance of trees. Planting takes place on Town or Conservation Property and all supplies are provided.

[More information](#)

Tap Into It! Bottled Water Campaign

The “Tap into it!” campaign is aimed at encouraging residents, schools, businesses, and staff to adopt the principle and philosophy of choosing tap water over bottled water. Schools can support the initiative by promoting the campaign and placing signage (large windows stickers provided by the Town) in areas of the school.

[More information](#)



Anti-Litter & Recycling Program

In 2014, Ajax launched an Anti-Litter Campaign which sees a staff member from the Town going out to individual schools and discussing the impacts the littering and the benefits of recycling. The municipality offers three presentations for age groups ranging from JK- Grade 11. This program is offered from April-May each year, an invitation is sent through the school boards in Ajax.

Active and Safe Routes to School

Active and Safe Routes to School (ASRTS) is a program that encourages Ajax students to get active and walk or bike to school. Facilitated by Green Communities Canada and promoted by the Town of Ajax, the Active and Safe Routes to School Program provides opportunities for school staff to promote and encourage active travel among students while also promoting healthy lifestyles.

[More information](#)



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Forests Ontario “TREE BEE” Program

Tree Bee is an education tool used by teachers to encourage students to learn more about forestry, tree identification and general forest knowledge. Resources include fact sheets, lesson plans, tree identification drills, and forest literacy quizzes.

Tree Bee features a friendly competition during which students work collaboratively to identify tree species using images of prominent features such as leaves, bark, buds and fruit—Teams are challenged to answer a series of multiple-choice questions related to forests and forest management. This Tree Bee competition has been running for over 60 years with volunteer support!

[Tree Bee Coordinator’s Guide from Grades 1-8](#)



Further Resources: Focus on Forests

Tree Bee is incorporated under the Forests Ontario education program that includes topics like biodiversity, climate change, forestry careers, and the benefits of Canadian forests.

(Teachers are encouraged to select categories of interest to generate a program/ activities within the Focus on Forests database. Any new ideas that teachers might have, the site provides the opportunity to accept the input)

[More information](#)



Further Resources: Forests Ontario

Forests Ontario is the voice for Ontario's forests. They are a provincial resource and authority for those seeking to invest in the future of our forests—through donations, sponsorship, volunteerism, tree planting, community awareness events and forest management.

[More information](#)



Yellow Fish Road

This program has been developed by Trout Unlimited Canada and is being offered by the TRCA. It starts off with an interactive presentation about stormwater pollution that teaches students from Grades 2-12 how storm drains are linked to local water bodies without any purification. The students are then taken to local storm drains to paint yellow fish symbols and distribute educational leaflets to homes in the nearby neighborhood.

This program is aimed to spread awareness about storm water pollution and is offered for half-day programs running from mid-April until the end of October each year.

[More information on the program and booking](#)



Bring Back the Salmon

It is a restoration program for the Lake Ontario's Atlantic salmon population. It consists of four components: fish production and stocking, water quality and habitat enhancement, outreach and education, and research and monitoring. The program is structured in five-year phases.

Schools have participated in through The Atlantic Salmon Classroom Hatchery Program. It is a five-month hands-on lesson on Atlantic salmon and the biodiversity of the Lake Ontario watershed. Salmon raised in the hatchery become part of the overall number released into streams annually.

Currently, the classroom hatchery program is full and maintains a waiting list for schools interested in participating. From time to time, schools and other facilities able to provide their own funding are able to join the program.

[More information](#)



Community Gardens

St. Andrew's Community Garden is a 5,000 square-foot parcel of land made available to residents who wish to grow their own fruits, vegetables, and flowers. The space is managed by two volunteer coordinators and a garden committee and there are plans to open a second community garden in the near future.

These gardens promote the growth of local, organic produce; provide the tools for people to learn how to grow and sustain their own food; and provide a place for the community to get together and make connections.



There are not any programs to involve schools but this area has potential—at least for a field trip.

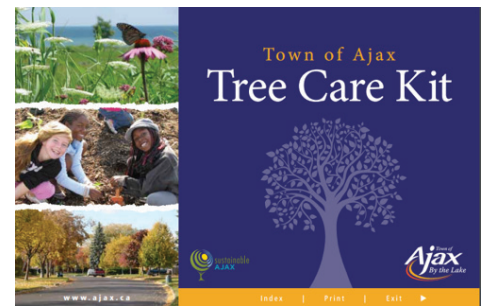
[Limited information](#)

[St. Andrew Community Garden Blog](#)

Tree care Kit

A resource provided by the municipality for anyone interested in part-taking in the care of the local Urban Forest. The kit provides a compilation of various brochures that include topics such as:

- Ajax's Urban Forest Brochure: a general overview of new tree care and the current state of Town's Urban Forest.
- Made for Shade Brochure: created by the Durham Region Health Department that describes the various types of shade and its importance
- The Landowner's Guide to Controlling Invasive Woodland Plants: 24-page comprehensive information booklet that provides a wealth of information on invasive plant species, habitat, ecological impact and various control recommendations.
- Trees are Good Brochure: contains 18 brochures with a wide variety of topics (from mulching technique to insect and disease problems)
- Brochures on the Emerald Ash Borer: There are plenty more brochures about the awareness/ impact/prevention of trying to contain the impact of the Ash Trees.



[Link to the Town of Ajax Tree Care Kit](#)

FIELD TRIPS

- The municipality provides tree planting events annually which schools are able to take part in.
- The town of Ajax takes one school to release Atlantic Salmon into a target stream and provides them with a tour of the forest in the conservation area.
- In conjunction with the TRCA and local schools, planting of large scale pollinator meadows has been possible.
- Common field trips have typically involved the Yellow Fish Road Program.

CITY OF PICKERING

In the City of Pickering, they stake sustainability as a priority. They are oriented in increasing public participation in environmental events and awareness in which participants can take what they have learned home to generate further discussion. The community, in turn, has been very receptive which has led to the success of the following programs:

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

20-Minute Makeover

A clean-up event at a local park in which the community/schools are able to take part in, the municipality provides bags, gloves, and water pick up. This event usually happens around Christmas time

Pitch in Parties

This is a clean-up event that happens anytime throughout the year. The municipality provides the bags, gloves and trash pick up locations.

Adopt a Park

Most schools face a park making this program feasible for most of the schools in this area. This program is a long-term clean-up commitment in which schools have to dedicate time three days out of the year to clean the requested park.

In return, the city provides a sign in the park that informs the community of the school that has adopted the park. They provide the school/classroom with the basic necessities (gloves, bags, and waste pick-up)

The city of Pickering holds a recognition event at one of the clean-up days where the whole school gets invited.

Tree Planting

The City of Pickering provides tree planting events, this is made possible through joint-ventures with the Conservation Authorities.

Film Screening (example: World Water Week Film Screening)

Around March, local schools organize a film screening of a film with an environmental/sustainable message. They usually partner with a filming organization such as the Warner Bros which provides them with the license to the film for the event.

Bring Back the Atlantic Salmon

The City of Pickering partners up with schools, local hunters, fisheries and libraries for this program.

This program is aimed at increasing the wild salmon population.

It started out with a pilot program with a class of grade 5 students. The students were then responsible for taking care of salmon eggs in “fish condos” located at their local library. During the spring time, the grade 5 class is able to go to a local creek where the fish eggs are then released.

The city spent \$1200 to provide for the tanks and other resources needed for this program for the first year. The following year, the program will only cost \$30 to continue. Through creating public and private partnerships, this additional funding covered the cost of the bus that transported the grade to the creek in order to release the eggs.



Celebrating Sustainable Neighbourhoods

This program is open to the entire City of Pickering community, schools are welcomed to participate. In the 5 years, this program has been running, four schools have participated and two schools won the \$10,000 community enhancement prize. This program allows community members to come up with a variety of activity, programs, initiatives they would like to organize within their community that is based around the theme of sustainability on the municipal website (here) Activities include:

- Fundraising events
- Yoga Night
- Raised Vegetation Garden
- Pollinator gardens

When all the events have taken place, the City of Pickering organizes a celebration event where each participating group does a six-minute presentation on their event/activity/initiative. At the end of the presentations, the community members (the municipal staff are not permitted) then vote for the best group effort. The winning group then is able to use the above mentioned \$10,000 for a community enhancement project.

2014 Community Enhancement Project

- Dunbarton High School (Has been identified as Canada's Greenest School and soon after was certified as one of the Greenest schools in the world). Their initiative was to create a survey that was distributed throughout their community to find out what the community would like to improve.
- The result was to incorporate a pollinator garden within their local park, to replace the dying Ash Trees with 120 plants representing 2 varieties of native species.
 - Grade 12 Tech class: participated in building benches for the park
 - Grade 10-11 Craft class designed plant identification rocks
 - Grade 9-10 class was responsible for planting trees, in total they planted 30 trees in which 18 were donated by the community (the municipality initially bought 12 natives trees)
 - The garden continues to be maintained by the students and local organizations that have a background in gardening and native species identification.
- Signage was placed throughout the pollination park to spread awareness and provide information about the importance of pollinators within the community and the subsequent donors that were involved in this project.



Figure 1: The bench which the Grade 12 Class built and designed for Ernie L. Stroud Park.



Figure 2: The City of Pickering Staff donated this 192 year old Ash tree that was turned into a bench, a plaque was assigned to bring awareness to the Emerald Ash Borer.

- The City Staff donated a bench that was made from a 192-year-old ash tree that had been devastated by the Emerald Ash borer, subsequently, this bench also has a plaque to provide more information about the invasive species. After this, the municipality has been able to continue giving various schools dead Ash trees for their shop class. This has been a neat way of reusing all the dead wood gathered.
- Additionally, the school came together to raise funds to pay for the interpretative sign for invasive species in general.
- Through partnerships with the Rotary club, they added “sponsor plants.” In 2016, the area in which the tree planting had occurred was expanded to include a total of 110 trees!
- It was taken into account that the pollinator garden is aesthetically pleasing since there was a communal hesitation towards it due to the belief that the pollinator gardens were perceived as ‘messy.’ With the help of the Rotary, it was understood in the design phase of the project that it would be kept organized.

2015 Community Enhancement Project

- This is the second school that was selected to win the community enhancement prize. High Bush Public School decided to incorporate a pollinator garden in Amberlea Park.
- In total, there were 700 hundred plants planted representing 28 different species
- This park has been certified by Monarch Watch (In which Pickering has 5 official sites)
- The High Bush Public School's Eco-club in collaboration with the grade 8 classes designed and created identifying rocks.
- Within the park, there is an interpretative sign that informs the public of the Monarch migration, the financial benefits of the monarchs
- Additionally, with the assistance of the ten thousand dollars, the school was able to hire a local artist that made an art piece illustrating the lifecycle of the Monarch butterfly out of recycled metal
- Once again, the Rotary helped with additional funding that helped continue supplying plants for the pollinator garden for each subsequent year.
- The school requested shade trees near their sport fields
- A native plant expert was hired in the process to provide educational services for the students
- During the unveiling event, the children participated through presenting poetry, singing songs and talking about the importance of the pollinator

Bi-centennial Arboretum

In commemoration of the City's 200th year, The Town planted a total of 27 trees (each one being a different species of plant) on unused land. The schools then came together and decided to adopt one tree each. The schools nearby have been able to benefit from this rejuvenation of land by incorporating “outdoor classroom” teaching possibilities.

A neighboring school participates in a “Tree-bee” club, which is similar to Envirothon, in which students are challenged with identifying different types of tree species.

A part of the Highbush City Enhancement money went towards a tree trail in their park, each tree has been labeled and tours are provided by the students to discuss the various types of species of plants. The City of Pickering paid for an app that provides community members a sub-guide of the trail.

This project has increased the public's awareness of biodiversity, different species of trees.



Figure 3: Artwork made from recyclable metal used to illustrate the life-cycle of the Monarch butterfly.

This program provides community groups an inside scoop on how projects are executed at the municipal level.



Maple Ridge: Tree and shrub planting

Participating grades had to submit “leaf drawings” which was later made into the Park’s main sign.

Since the school was French immersion, the tree identification signs were translated in both English and French.

During the unveiling event, once again, children were encouraged to express what they have learned from the projects through presenting poetry and artwork.

Lessons learned: These programs have been able to reach out to schools due to leaders within the teaching community. It is through the passion and interest of certain teachers that the municipality is able to present projects and have the children be involved.

Some resources for teachers can be found on the Earth Day Canada’s EcoKids website. The website provides information relating to food, energy, water and waste. Teachers are able to access information about potential student speakers available, environmentally related magazines, grants, etc.,

The City of Pickering recently held a meeting with the School Boards to discuss how the municipality would be able to reach out to more schools. The School Board suggested that it would be best for the municipality to pass the information down to the School Board, in which then the School Board would be able to direct to the Principals of the school. The principals are the necessary link needed to connect the information from the municipality to the leader-type teacher needed to take on the additional initiative. In the city of Pickering, the teachers/schools are able to communicate directly with staff. This has fortified this inter-relationship.

Mayor Monarch Pledge

Created by the Wildlife Federation

Participants have to complete three actions throughout the year that deal with issues leading to the decline of monarch populations. Likewise, the city of Pickering has promised to undertake eight actions that would assist in supporting the monarch population.

Nuclear Power Plant Tours

Please contact Sheryl Johnson 905-839-1151 ext:7467 For more information. It would be best to call her to see if she would be able to provide more information.

The barriers faced when implementing these projects is time and financial resources. Corporate sponsorships have been helpful in various projects the City of Pickering has helped organize.



REGION OF HALTON

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Halton Children's Water Festival

The Halton Children's Water Festival combines Ontario curriculum requirements and offers fun, hands-on learning activity centers that are displayed throughout the event in a natural outdoor setting. Nearly 60 interactive activity centers teach children in grades two to five about water conservation and protection, water health and safety, water science and technology, and water and society.

Note: many high school students are recruited each year for each of the four days that the festival runs to lead the activities.

[More information](#)



Owl's For Climate Change

A set of three picture books for children between 5-8 years old that educates children on barn owls, air quality, and Climate Change. The books are available on their website as an eBook in five different languages besides English—Spanish, French, Polish, Cantonese, and Punjabi.

The first book, "A farewell to Featherwagons" published in 2011, takes the reader on an expedition alongside three barn owls to their favorite Great Lake. The three owls decide to take their featherwagon to the Great Lake where they get stuck in traffic and become introduced to the concept of air pollution. At the end of the book, the owls find a better and environmentally friendly way to get to their destination without polluting the air in the process.

[Book 1](#)

The second book, "Wings and Thingamajigs" published in 2012, continues to build on the themes of air quality and climate change as the book uncovers facts about Eastern Screech Owls, considers the consequences of idling vehicles, highlights health-related impacts of air pollution such as asthma, and explores alternative modes of transportation to school.

[Book 2](#)

The third and final book in the series, "Ka-Pow to Powerjams" published in 2013, discusses the safety precautions needed to prepare for and be aware of when faced with a power failure event. The book discusses the increased likelihood of experiencing severe weather events brought on by climate change, the importance of preparing an emergency kit and what it consists of, what to prepare for during hot and cold weather alerts, and discusses the importance of decreasing overall energy use.



[Book 3](#)

Additional activities and facts were added to the second and third books that include seek and find games, fun facts, tips, ‘build your own thingamajig,’ a complementary memory card game and even some parent guides.

Halton Forest Festival

The Halton Forest Festival runs yearly in the month of October. During the educational days, the festival welcomes students in grades six and seven from the Halton Catholic District School Board, the Halton District School Board, homeschoolers, and Halton’s private elementary schools. The festival aims to engage students through fun programming with links to the current curriculum to create a memorable and educational field trip, fostering young forest stewards. The outdoor activities relate to at least one of six educational themes: Forest Resources, Forest Ecosystems and Interactions, Climate Change, Biodiversity and Species at Risk, Stewardship, and Conservation, and Urban Forestry.

[More information](#)

Stream of Dreams

The Stream of Dreams program is delivered to local schools by Conservation Halton staff. Students are inspired to make a difference by creating public art with your group for the community. Learn about the importance of water, threats to it and actions we can take in our communities to protect it. Participants can then paint their fish in a relaxed, inspiring workshop. Following the workshop, the fish will be installed on a fence to be enjoyed for 10 years or more.

[More information](#)



Tools for Schools

Currently being updated and should be available by mid 2017. It has been a resource for schools with information pertaining to Heat warnings and idling. It had also contained a lot of information from AQHI (Air Quality Health Index) where posters, brochures, and fun facts were readily available.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Kids Go Green

For more information refer to City of Burlington Community Programs--“Kids Go Green” Section.



Eco- Film Festival

The Burlington Public Library & Halton Green Screens presents the Eco-Film Festival where citizens are welcomed to watch, learn, and take action. The festival provides the opportunity to learn about global environmental issues by viewing award-winning documentaries. The event provides a film presentation, complimentary refreshments by Goodness Me!, an eco-prize raffle, and an audience discussion on how the global issues could be solved at a local level. The films being presented are listed on their website.

[More information](#)



Green Cart Program

Participants in the GreenCart School Program include all Halton Catholic District School Board and Halton schools. Halton District School Board principals can contact Halton Region Representative (John Watson: johnwatson@halton.ca) to indicate there is administrative, staff, custodial and student support for the GreenCart program at their school. Interested schools can begin the program during the current school year. The GreenCart Material is collected once every week during normal collection days.

[More information](#)

Halton Region School Workshops

Students will learn the processes involved with waste and recycling. The school workshop focuses on waste management, recycling, composting and landfill operations. The workshops last 45-mins, they are run by Halton Region and can be presented for individual classes or for the school's environmental council.

[More information](#)

Halton Green Screens

Halton Green Screens offers free, curriculum-based programs, always tied in with an environmental-themed film. Programs consist of a movie and a lesson or activity, with topics such as waste reduction, habitat conservation, water, and more. Halton Green Screens come right to your classroom and can fit the programming into your schedule.

(Contact Heather Govender: Heather@HaltonGreenScreens.ca)

FIELD TRIPS

- Willow Park Ecology Centre
- Royal Botanical Garden Teacher Portal
- Halton Region Museum: Particularly Jeff's Home which discusses the Niagara escarpment; the formation, history, challenges, and conservation. There is also a virtual hike through the escarpment.

THE CITY OF BURLINGTON

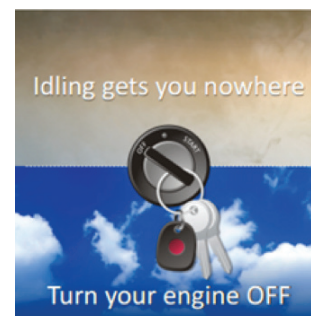
MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Idling

The City of Burlington has an idling control by-law for unnecessary idling. This bylaw is enforced by the city parking enforcement officers—tickets for idlers are \$100.

The offer bookmarks, posters, stickers free of charge along with loaning out our Idle Free Zone outdoor vinyl banner for awareness. We also sell outdoor metal signs at cost.

[More information](#)



Yellow Fish Road program

The City of Burlington provides the kits and necessary paperwork and groups run campaigns on their own. The staff at Conservation Halton used to offer presentations but stopped offering this recently due to staffing limitations.

[More information](#)



School Tours at City Hall for Grade 5 students

Students learn about the history of Burlington through a tour outside city hall via various monuments (there is also a quick video about this indoors). The tour takes students indoors to learn about municipal responsibilities (different departmental roles), tour the digital copy center (a favorite), go to council chambers to learn about what happens in that room, learn about voting. They have a mock council meeting with students acting out the mayor, councilors and delegations to the council.

Take your kid to work day for Grade 9 students

Involves planned activities such as visiting the fire station, animal control or other city buildings in the morning and spend a couple of hours shadowing a parent or staff member.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Kids Go Green

Offered to school and community group children ages 4 to 12 that "provide practical ideas that help children make greener life choices and reduce their impact on the environment." There are three steps to their workshop; the first step is to provide children with interactive presentations that consist of team challenges and games with props to aid in their learning. In the second step, the children get to apply the lessons learned from the previous step in the form of designing their pledge button. The final step is to follow-up on the "Go Green Challenge" where children decide which eco-



actions they would commit to either as a team or individually. The children then have to record their activities on-line or on paper which would then be assigned points based on the amount of greenhouse gas emissions it prevents.

[More information](#)

BurlingtonGreen Youth Network

The Youth network connects youth from across the City with each other and with local opportunities to make a positive impact on the environment. The aim is to create the next generation of local eco-heroes through youth mentoring youth, environmental leadership opportunities and participation in tree planting, event greening and more.

[More information](#)



Community Clean-up Green-up Event

To protect the city's green space and restoring natural areas Our Healthy Habitat program is designed to help community members to organize their own stewardship activities. The city's spring green-up events provide a fun and rewarding opportunity for citizens of all ages to participate in tree planting projects.

[More information](#)



Grow to Give Program

The Grow to Give garden is located at the Central Park Community Garden. Volunteers help plant, maintain and harvest seasonal organic fruits and veggies. Each harvest is delivered to Food for Life which distributes this healthy, locally grown fresh food to Halton food banks and community agencies.

[More information](#)



Event Greening

This impactful program links volunteers to waste diversion projects in the City, resulting in meaningful, measurable benefits to improve the health of the environment. Since the agency's inception in 2009, they have provided the Event Greening services to a whopping 39 events, resulting in an estimated 57,500 kg (57.5 tonnes), of waste diverted from the landfill.

This agency works together with citizens, businesses, schools, governments, and event planners.

[More information](#)



[Green Living tips for Community Groups](#)

FIELD TRIPS

[Water treatment plant tours](#)

[The landfills located within our boundaries also offer tours and workshops](#)

Students in Burlington attend the Halton Water Festival – registration is mandatory. Students are charged \$5 each to cover the cost of transportation.

TOWN OF OAKVILLE

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Waste Not Watt Not

A program run by the Town of Oakville and the Oakville Public Library which allows residents to borrow energy meters to test their home appliances for energy usage. Residents are able to borrow a meter from any of the Town's five libraries free of charge and return it to any branch.

[The participant is able to fill out a survey on their website.](#)

Take home message: Conserving energy reduces the need to produce energy from non-renewable sources and improves our air quality.

Organize an Anti-Idling Campaign

The Anti-Idling campaign organizes students to educate parents and school visitors with the importance of not idling.

[Anti-Idling Campaign Kit](#)

The kit includes speaking notes, curriculum links, newsletter inserts, idling tracking sheets and anti-idling badges for the kids to decorate and wear. Participants are encouraged to email environment@oakville.ca in order for the town to provide you with posters, outdoor banners, safety vests, and anti-idling window decals free of charge.

Student Freedom PRESTO Monthly Pass

Students are encouraged to practice sustainable transportation while saving money. Students, aged 6-19 can purchase the pass for \$15 and it is valid for unlimited rides after 4p, on weekday evenings, all day Saturday and Sunday for the month indicated. The pass is not valid for unlimited rides during March Break, Christmas week and statutory holidays. The regular terms and conditions apply during these time frames.

Changing Currents

Introduced by EcoSpeak, this program introduces Grade 8-12 students from the Greater Toronto Area to their area's watersheds and gives students the unique opportunity to put on hip waders, explore a local river or stream, and learn about its importance and quality. Interested teachers must attend a training session September 17th, 2016 at Terra Cotta Conservation Area.



Halton Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours

To arrange an individual or group tour to see how Wastewater Treatment Plants operate, please contact the Supervisor of the facility you are interested in. Casual clothes and comfortable shoes or boots are recommended for tour participants.

Halton's Wastewater Treatment Plants

Location	Supervisor	Extension
Burlington		
* Skyway WWTP, 1125 Lakeshore Rd. view map	Mukesh Patel	7936
Oakville		
South East WWTP, 2477 Lakeshore Rd. E. view map	Bill Crumblehulme	7713
South West WWTP, 1385 Lakeshore Rd. W. view map	Mike Di Iorio	7715
* Mid-Halton WWTP, 2195 North Service Rd. view map	Benny Seminerio	7544
Milton		
* Milton WWTP, 161 Fulton St. view map	Ron Turner	8146
Georgetown		
* Georgetown WWTP, 275 Mountainview Rd. S. view map	Wendy Derjugin	905-873-0515
Acton		
Acton WWTP, 202 Churchill Rd. S. view map	Wendy Derjugin	905-873-0515

[More information on what the tours include, information on predicting odor, phosphorous loading, how Halton's wastewater treatment plants work etc.](#)

Great Canadian Shore Cleanup

Classrooms, if they are walking distance to a river or the shores of Lake Ontario, are encouraged to join the tens of thousands of Canadian participants from September to December in the annual Great Canadian Shore Cleanup. The goal is to spread awareness about the importance of water quality and conservation and get people empowered to take action against shoreline litter through cleanups. On the [website](#), an interactive map demonstrates the areas in which public cleanups have assembled and where the areas are of most need for a Site Coordinator.

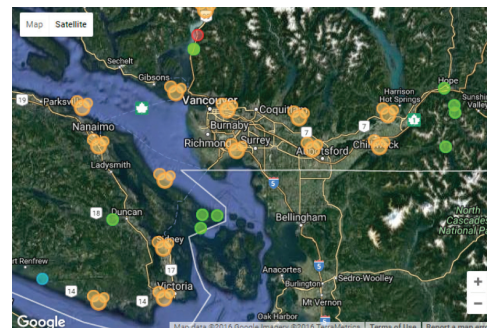


Project FLOW (For the Love Of Water)

Project FLOW (For the Love of Our Water) engages elementary and secondary students to address local water issues and concerns. FLOW provides resources that allow students to interact with hands-on experiential projects preparing them to be stewards of our water resources as the program engages them to address local water issues and concerns.

Resources

- Top R4R Picks—a compilation of lesson plans, action recipe kits and outdoor activities that are designed for grade K-12, which will guide you through the steps of implementing a sustainability action project. You can access all of these resources FREE by clicking on the resources under Top R4R Picks on the right.
- Water Docs @ School Action Projects Program is an 8-month, hands-on, interdisciplinary learning program for Grade 8 classes, delivered in partnership



with Ecologos. Through Water Docs @ School, students explore local water issues through study, action and film.

The goals of the program are:

- To teach the curriculum expectations through a unique Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) format, providing authentic opportunities for making positive change in the local community
- To provide action experiences focused on water, which cultivates the attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary for students to take action on future environmental issues
- To foster an appreciation for water
- To inspire students to be agents of change and stewards of water in their local community, acting as 'Waterkeepers for Life'.

Awards (available for the top submissions in the following categories):

- Best Film: High-end laptop for classroom
- Best Project: High-end Laptop for classroom

All participating teachers and their classes will receive:

- Free interdisciplinary curriculum-tied lesson plans and supporting resources
- An opportunity to speak with the TVO's The Water Brothers
- Class admission to Water Docs@ School Action Projects Recognition Day
- Two adult passes to the Water Docs 2018 Film Festival in Toronto (Valued at \$100)
- Copy of films from all participating classes
- Recognition Certificates and plaques for participating students and schools
- Filmmaking and story-telling guidance
- Awards will be presented for Best Project(s) and Best Film(s)
- ... and more!

Participating students will:

- Research water issues affecting their local communities;
- Develop action projects to address a local issue;
- Capture their project initiatives and success in a short documentary film;
- Compete for an opportunity to showcase their film and project at the Water Docs @ School Action Projects Recognition Day in Spring 2017.

[For more information, check out their website \(see the videos from previous years\)](#)

Park Ambassador Program

The Park Ambassador program offers opportunities for schools to maintain over 140 Kilometers of trails Parks within the Town of Oakville. Interested groups are encouraged to adopt specific trails and keep them litter-free on a year-round basis or to clean up specific areas on a one-time basis for a two- year period. For more information: <http://www.oakville.ca/culturerec/park-ambassador-program.html>

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Oakvillegreen's School Programs

Oakvillegreen comes to your school and delivers a free-of-charge, environmental presentation based on the Ontario Science Curriculum to compliment your course work or to contribute to your EcoSchool certification. Topics for all grades from JK to grade 12. They make it easy to get students outside by leading nature walks and exploring trees, trails, creeks and natural spaces in your schoolyard or within walking distance of your school. Oakvillegreen also offers assistance (and tools) for schoolyard re-naturalization or creation of outdoor classrooms. Need more shade in your schoolyard? Contact Oakville Green and find out how they can do to help you.

Beatriz Gomez: programs@oakvillegreen.org



MULCH FEST!

October 24-28, students are encouraged to participate in taking care of the trees within their community. Mulch helps to conserve water, provide nutrients to the soil and discourages weeds. Oakvillegreen Conservation Association provides buckets, shovels, gloves, guidance and anything else one might need for a successful mulching day. The Town of Oakville will provide the Mulch for the registered school ([register here](#)). Schools have an opportunity to win a schoolyard greening cash prize.



Earth Rangers

Teachers can register their class online and complete missions to reduce water consumption, waste, protect wildlife, clean-up shorelines, and more. Teachers can access scientifically grounded classroom activities to integrate into lesson plans and teach students about nature and conservation. New members receive a ranger's card with their name on it.

Halton Food for Thought

Halton Food for Thought provides healthy food to students so they can achieve academic success. In fact, one-third of elementary and one-half of secondary students arrive at school without the proper nutrition they need to reach their full potential. Based on Halton's belief "no student goes hungry at school," all Halton Student Nutrition Programs offered in partner schools are universally accessible and completely stigma free.

Call2Recycle

Call2Recycle collects batteries and cell phones in a no-cost recycling program in Canada. They convert the waste into a variety of re-usable products and meet or exceed the most rigorous recycling standards in the world. For a school to become a participating collection site, [fill out the form here to receive more information](#).

FIELD TRIPS

Mountsberg & Crawford Lake Conservation Area

Offers hand on, curriculum linked environmental education programs for students from JK to Grade 12. Using Nature Play to inspire wonder in the smallest students to Climate Change SOS (a citizen science-based program) for youth, the program at these two parks aims to create a life-long love of and care for our natural world.

- There are three Field trip groups: Preschool, Primary/Junior, and Intermediate/Senior

TOWNSHIP OF KING

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

The Township of King currently completed an educational program guide that encompasses Nature education, history, culture and recreation.

Nature Education Programs:

Maple Syrup

During the Spring, students explore Cold Creek's sugar bush to experience the maple syrup making process, while participating in demonstrations. The ½ day program includes a hike to the sugar bush to collect the sap.

Students from JK/SK and Grades 1-6 are exposed to subject matter relating to Science and Technology, Mathematics, Social Studies, Language, Personal and Social Development respectively.

Our Five Senses

During the spring, summer and Fall, students rely on their five senses to explore Cold Creek through interactive games that aim to isolate specific senses. The aim is to further student's understanding of the natural world. The ½ day program includes activities focused on how different animals rely on their senses for survival.

Students from JK/SK and Grade 1 are exposed to subject matter relating to Science and Technology-Exploration & Experimentation respectively.

Animal Games

Throughout the entire year, students learn about various animal behaviors and habitats by participating in interactive simulation games that demonstrate various animal behaviors, habitats, abilities, and specific characteristics. This is a half day program. Students from JK/SK and Grades 1-5 are exposed to subject matter relating to Understanding Life Systems—focusing on either Needs and Characteristics of Living Things, or Growth and Changes in Animals respectively.

Junior Explorers

During the Spring, Summer & Fall, students explore Cold Creek by going on guided hikes being equipped with "explorer's pack." Throughout the hike on this ½ day program, participants will use various tools (magnifying glass, binoculars, map, notepad, and pencil to explore and gather information on the natural environment around them). Students from JK/SK and Grades 1-3 are exposed to subjects relating to Science and Technology-Exploration & Exploration, Understanding Life Systems Needs and Characteristics Of Living Things, Understanding Life Systems Growth And Changes in



Animals, Understanding Earth and Space Systems Air And Water in the Environment respectively.

Nature's Art Class

Throughout the year, the program introduces the basics of art design while exploring Cold Creek Trails to find the principals reflected in nature. Principals learned include; colour composition, textures, shapes, space, and lines that are found in the natural setting. These principals are then incorporated into their own creations using materials students have collected on their explorative hike.

Students from JK/SK and Grades 1-8 are exposed to subjects relating to Visual Arts-Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing, and Visual Arts-Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts. For the older students, they will be tasked to recreate their interpretations of their famous works, using natural materials respectively.

Map Masters

Throughout the year, the program focuses on learning to read and interpret spatial maps in an interactive and fun way—students will be given a map of Cold Creek and will be challenged to a mapping activity that includes identifying points of interest in the designated grid field.

Students from Grades 3-6 are exposed to subjects relating to Universal Map and Globe Skills, and Universal graphing skills respectively.

Diversity

Throughout the year, students would be able to visit three unique communities and identify the plants and animals living there and observe how they interact. Each student will have a chance to use binoculars, tree keys, and invertebrate identification sheets. The program is modified to focus on the grade level's core topics.

Students from Grade 4-8 are exposed to topics relating to Understanding Life Systems Habitats and Communities, Understanding Life Systems Biodiversity, Understanding Life Systems Interactions with the Environment, Habitats and Communities, Biodiversity, and Interactions in the Environment respectively.

Pond Study

Through the spring, summer and fall, students have the opportunity to explore a wetland ecosystem. They will learn about the various animals and critters that call this place home. Participants will get to dip in the pond and learn to identify invertebrates they find.

Students from Grades 4, 7 & 8 are exposed to topics relating to Understanding Life Systems Habitats and Communities, Understanding Life Systems Interactions in the Environment, Understanding Earth and Space Systems Water Systems respectively.

River Study

During the spring, summer and fall, students learn about the Oak Ridges Moraine and its role as a water source, and how river systems affect our daily life. They will visit a



river ecosystem where they are to collect data and determine discharge and water quality measurements.

Students from Grades 7 & 8 are exposed to topics relating to Understanding Life Systems Interactions in the Environment respectively.

Orienteering

During the Spring, Summer & Fall, students learn the basics of orienteering and explore Cold Creek as they navigate through interactive orienteering course. With a compass and map, students will set out on a challenge course that will test and improve their navigational skills.

This program is also offered as a 1-hour course, the students will play games to get them familiar with a compass.

Students from Grade 7-12 are exposed to topics related to Universal Map and Globe Skills and Universal Graphing Skills respectively.

GPS

Throughout the year, students learn about the basic function of a GPS (Global Positioning System) where they will be introduced to the outdoor sporting activity of geocaching. Students will apply what they have learned and explore Cold Creek's trails with the GPS.

This program is offered as ½ day, ¼ day or a 1-hour course.

Students from Grades 7-12 are exposed to topics relating to Universal Map and Globe Skills, and Universal Graphing Skills respectively.

Ultimate Survival

Throughout the year, students participate in a physically active program that focuses on the connections within a food chain of a given ecosystem. Students will learn about Cold Creek's food chain and how their relationship among each other is crucial to sustaining a healthy ecosystem.

This program is offered as ½ or ¼ day course.

Students from Grades 4-8 are exposed to topics relating to Understanding Life Systems Habitats and Communities, Understanding Life Systems Biodiversity, Understanding Life Systems Interactions in the Environment, and Understanding Earth and Space Systems Water Systems.

Sustainable Art in the Forest

During the Spring, Summer, and Fall, students will participate in a guided nature hike to collect natural materials from the trails to create a sustainable art piece (land art) to take home. The program will provide participants with several innovative sustainable crafts that can be made from natural materials. Participants will be engaged in artistic activities that involve site specific wilderness art creations along the forest trail including bird feeders, picture frames, walking sticks and seasonal decorations.



In the two-hour program offered, students from Grades 1-8 will be exposed to topics relating to Visual Arts-Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing, and Visual Arts-Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts.

Guided Nature Hikes

During the spring, summer and fall, students hike through different ecosystems to explore the diversity King has to offer. Throughout the hike, the guide will stop along the way to observe nature and make connections. Learn about the ecological importance of native plant communities, tree identification and wildlife present throughout the property. Participants will gather information on the natural landscape and finish the hike feeling connected with the surrounding natural environment. This program is offered as a 2-hour program, teachers are able to adapt the program to fit any curricular requirement.

Terrestrial Invasive Species Mapping Program

During the spring, summer and fall students help in taking an inventory of the distribution of terrestrial invasive plants growing within King Township using mapping software. The objective of the program is to identify which invasive species are growing throughout king and the severity of the infestation. Students will get to explore vegetative communities growing along trails in different ecosystems. They will learn how to identify a variety of terrestrial invasive species through an interactive guided nature hike exercise. Prior to the guided hike participants will be given an introduction on how to conduct an inventory and audit of the different invasive species growing in a variety of ecosystems.

This program is offered as a 2-hour program, students from Grades 4-12 will be exposed to topics relating to Universal Map and Globe Skills, and Universal Graphing Skills respectively.

Clean Up Program

During the spring, summer and fall, participants identify areas that require clean up within the King Township and work together to collect waste. The participants will learn how to think sustainably and reduce waste consumption by repurposing waste into something reusable. The Clean Up program educates participants on how to reduce waste sent to landfill by exploring new ways to reuse the materials. This program is offered as a 2-hour program from Grades 1-12. Teachers are able to adapt the program to fit any curricular requirement. The municipality provides gloves, garbage bags, and trash pick-up locations.

[More information](#)

Greening Your Grounds

This program teaches participants how to install and use a rain barrel—they are a simple, inexpensive way to make use of the rainwater that falls on the property. Rain barrels are available for purchase through the King Township.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The environmental stewardship coordinator works in conjunction with the TRCA for programs like Hoot & Howl guided hike, Snowshoes, and Snow-Clues. TRCA is also trying to promote the Yellow Fish Road Program, as well as the Aquatics plan program.

Hoot & Howl Guided Hike

Occurs once a year at Rouge Valley Mennonite Church 7452 Reesor Road, Markham, the program is free with limited space to children ages 7 and up. Parks Canada and Toronto and Region Conservation Area provide a short presentation on owls and coyotes which prelude a hike in the future Rouge National Urban Park in the hopes to call on these animals.

[More information](#)

Snowshoes and Snow-clues

Participants discover the wonders of winter wildlife by putting on snowshoes and hiking Cold Creek to identify tracks and signs of local animals. Registration is free and is dependent on adequate weather conditions. This is a two-hour program that is usually organized for February.

[More information](#)

Wildflower Planting

A community event that invites people to plant wildflowers to create a pollinator garden that would help restore the Tall Grass Prairie at Cold Creek.

[More information](#)



Frog Night Out

Participants are to come out from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm to Cold Creek to explore a variety of frog species and sounds. It is a night to listen and learn how to identify a few species and their calls.

[More information](#)

Garlic Mustard Pull

An event made for community members to come out and help in hand pulling garlic mustard and learn about terrestrial invasive species growing throughout King Township.

[More information](#)



Earth Hour

Participants are encouraged to turn off their lights and come to a candlelit dinner at one of the following local restaurants to support King Township's Earth Hour initiatives. Participating restaurants include Hogan's Inn, Summerhill Resto Pub & Patio, Raffaele and The Schomberg Pub & Patio. The Dufferin Marsh Nature Connection will be hosting a lantern workshop, lantern walk, and bonfire at the Dufferin Marsh in Schomberg. In addition, an Astronomy Moonlight Hike will take place at Cold Creek Conservation Area beginning at 8:00 pm.

FIELD TRIPS

Cold Creek Conservation Area – is a TRCA owned property that is managed by the Township of King. We run nature education and recreation programs for schools and community groups. The programs have been listed and described above.

[More information about Cold Creek](#)

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

20 Minute Makeover

Every year the municipality provides bags and gloves to registered schools so that students can take 20 minutes to clean up litter in their yards in celebration of Earth Day. Each Councillor selects a “host” school and then the department organizes 5 separate launch events for Council to attend.

[More information](#)



Earth Hour Vaughan

Schools are encouraged to participate in Vaughan’s Earth Hour. Every year Vaughan has a handful of local schools participate in a banner competition (the EHV committee provides the materials) where students are asked to provide creative messaging around climate change, energy, or other environmental issues. Select schools in the area are also provided with materials to create lanterns during school to bring to the EHV even where they can participate in the lantern walk. They also host Earth Hour Jeopardy for interested secondary schools.

The Grade 5 Civic Class field trips or “Take Your Kid to Work Day” Vaughan offers tours of City Hall, highlighting the environmental features of the building. These tours are offered as requested, often coupled with Take Your Kid to Work Day

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Seeds for Change / York Region Food Network – Lynne Koss

Seeds for Change is a grassroots community organization that partnered with the York Region Food Network to create healthier neighborhoods through school and community gardens/outdoor classrooms. Students learn about cultivation methods and food production while also promoting health and wellness.

Seeds for Change has become a resource hub providing information in all aspects of cultivating urban/suburban arable land into gardens. They are able to provide related workshops, joint funding opportunities, how-to manuals, curriculum and lesson plans, training, seed exchanges, sharing resources and volunteer coordination.



Earth Rangers for Sustainable Technology – Sonia Albertini

Earth Rangers the Kid’s Conservation Organization dedicated to educating children and their families about biodiversity , inspiring them to adopt sustainable behaviours and



empowering them to become directly involved in protecting animals and their habitats-
-they provides live shows in schools about biodiversity, conservation, and sustainability
and facilitate various tours of their Earth Rangers Centre for Sustainable Technology
(ERC) Certified LEED Gold for New Construction in 2006 and more recently Platinum
under LEED for Existing Buildings.

[Visit this link for on-site tours and online resources that provide access to live monitoring and real-time performance of all our systems.](#)

FIELD TRIPS

Vaughan City Hall (LEED GOLD) Tours and more than likely to include the new Vaughan Civic Centre Resource Library which I believe is targeting LEED Platinum.

[Vaughan Community Gardens:](#) In 2011, the City of Vaughan partnered with [Seeds For Change](#) and [York Region Food Network](#) on a two-year community garden pilot project at Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service Station

TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Walks on the Wild Side (WOW's)

Is a package of activities and information developed to complement the Richmond Hill's trail System, and is it free upon request. The information covers a range of topics; from ecology to first nations, to conservation and restoration. It was first issued 10 years ago so needs to be updated. This interpretive program was developed through a strategic alliance between the Optimist club of Richmond Hill and the Town of Richmond Hill. The goal is to inspire learning about nature, environmental protection while promoting recreational activities that benefit health and well-being. For more information contact naturalenvironment@richmondhill.ca or call (905) 771-8800

[Additionally, there are also free online information brochures on native species found on their website that is found as pdf files in which community members could download and print.](#)

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

TRCA- Watershed on Wheels

There is a total of 17 programs underneath the Watershed on Wheels program. All the programs vary depending on the difficulty level and the subsequent targetted grade. All the programs aim to develop scientific investigation skills by using a science and technology approach to observing and interpreting raw data collected from various watersheds. The aim is to teach students to use various field tests to learn about the environmental processes taking place, learning how to interpret the data and then make recommendations on how to improve/maintain the site in question. All these classes are half-days.

Yellow Fish Road

Is a program developed by the Trout Unlimited Canada to spread awareness of stormwater pollution to students in Grades 2-12. It begins with an interactive presentation about stormwater pollution that shows how storm drains are linked to local water bodies without any purification. The next proactive step taken is to paint local storm drains with yellow fish symbols and distribute educational leaflets to homes within the neighborhood. All these classes are half days.

Conservation Youth Corps

Offered by two organizations—Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). They take a group of volunteer students to work in Conservation Parks and public lands within their communities. The program provides



students with team building opportunities and basic skills to develop an appreciation for the natural world. The tasks can include building and maintaining trails and fencing, building bird boxes and creating habitat structures. Students are picked up and dropped off at the same time every day within that one week of volunteering, in total, they receive service hours needed to graduate high school.

[More information](#)

FIELD TRIPS

National Public Work Week: The Richmond Hill's Operations Centre is open to grade 5 students every May to participate in a guided tour of various water areas within the; water & wastewater systems, sign making, public works vehicles, and environmental programs. In 2016, high school students also took part in the tours.

Community Steward Program: Partnered with Evergreen Brickworks, participants are welcomed to participate in tree planting and water monitoring activities.

- This includes Earth Day tree planting event in which hundreds of local students participate

TRCA Lake St. George Field Centre: Participants can come with their schools, as Scouts, Guides or adults for a two- or five-day residential program taken either on weekdays and weekends. This center provides an exciting array of activities and programs available to meet the needs of all learners.

- School programs are designed to meet elementary and secondary level Ontario Curriculum expectations. They are connected to a variety of subject areas, including science and technology, social studies, geography, history, mathematics, health and physical education and the arts. The community living experience helps students to develop responsibility while gaining invaluable group skills that are easily transferred back to school and everyday life.

[Click here for more information.](#)

TOWN OF AURORA

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Healthy Kids Community Challenge Aurora

The Healthy Kids Community Challenge is Ontario's new drive to support children's health—promoting active lifestyles and a balanced nutrition. New ideas and programs have been developing into the 3, rolling into 4, year program. It is not limited to schools and involve community centers and other public facilities.



Through this health-based program, Aurora has been able to indirectly spread awareness of environmental issues i.e. clean transportation, schools garden, workshops on how to grow your own food. Windfall Energy Centre helped the municipality apply for this provincial funding. The funding was able to provide an event coordinator that works under the municipal and Windfall Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives representative to help develop and promote these health-based programs and awareness events.

[Research on Current State of Health and Well-being in Aurora](#)

Water Festival

In November 2016, representatives from schools (teacher and parent representatives) was invited to participate in workshops to learn more about water; more specifically, ingestible water. These representatives are then released back into the communities and encouraged to share what they have learned into community action.

The School Boards have encouraged schools to have a Healthy Schools committee run by students, the representatives that attended the water festivals would be reporting back to this committee in order to develop some sort of school-based initiative.

Earth Week Community Fair

Last April, the Town of Aurora held their very first environmental fair and resulted in the municipality receiving a community education award from the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority. The municipality was able to attract 26 vendors to participate and over 600 people attended (parents and children).

Any local organization groups within the York Region area was invited to attend: PowerStream, the local solar provider, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, were some of the few attendees.

The town had their own booth: waste related games, EV test drive opportunities, talk about municipal initiatives (water bottle filling stations, 3 solar projects, LEED lighting) –there is an opportunity for municipal representatives to go into schools to talk about municipal initiatives.

Windfall Ecological Centre

Has developed a co-relationship with the Town of Aurora, the town pays them to develop environmental programs, with the money received by the municipality, Wind Fall Energy Centre pays the corresponding collaborators.



Windfall Ecology Festival

They are planning this event every other year, usually in July. [Link to list of 2015 Vendor Directory](#)

Environmental Designation

School board

The Schools have been motivated to become net zero through the encouragement of the School Board designations. They have suggestions for schools in which the schools have to select which initiatives to follow through with.

Parks

If schools are located near a garden or have their own flower/vegetable garden, the municipality uses the tree trimming/chopping residues from park maintenance practices and provides the schools with the mulch by-product- a supply they look forward to every year.

In-time De-paving Event

In co-operating with Windfall environmental suggestions and specific school requests, municipal members occasionally get asked to attend and assist in the de-pavement of the children's play areas. De-pavement is the process of removing sections of the children's playground dominated by concrete floors in order to naturalize the space (specific to the interest of the school). This increases the intensity of play, while also increasing water absorption from the exposed ground.

FIELD TRIPS

The Joint Operation Centre—Infrastructure and Environmental Services Tour

- This municipally owned facility had been certified LEED Gold, to gain points for the certification, the municipality has to facilitate at least 6 tours throughout the year to promote LEED certification. The Town of Aurora is thinking about adding a touch screen for visitors.
- This facility holds all the necessary equipment needed to maintain the roads, water, waste, and parks within the town. This is where their greenhouses are located.

PUBLIC HEALTH – HEALTHY LIVING DIVISION

Schools can earn up to 8 points for Active Transportation under environmental stewardship. Public Health Services & Public Works link this to our [Active & Sustainable School Transportation \(ASST\) Certification](#) program or they can also participate in our event days ([Wear Yellow Day & Bike to School Day](#)). There is also involvement in school gardens and depaving project.

Green Venture which receives funding from Clean Air Hamilton has an on-site location called EcoHouse that students and schools visit for various programs from water, energy, gardening, to air quality, climate change, and transportation:

Here is a list of all the programs provided by CAH and Green Venture that can potentially earn schools EcoSchool points.

EcoStar Challenge

Green Venture, with the support of Clean Air Hamilton, would like to invite your class to join them to learn, create, engage and make practical changes around the issues of climate change. To celebrate students taking up the EcoStars Challenge, they will be giving away 7 free school tours to participating classes!

They have created 32 Challenges, each of which can be adapted to a wide variety of grade levels and subjects. Challenges range from one-time event to fact-finding projects to school-wide change. Your class is free to take on all the Challenges that excite them.

Is your class up for the challenge?

Smoothie Bike

Get your students excited about eating healthy, staying active and saving energy all at the same time with our smoothie bike. They will bring their smoothie bike (actually what it sounds like - a bike that powers a blender) to your breakfast programs, Eco Fairs, and classrooms.

Rangler Program

Green Venture and Bay Area Restoration Council are partnering to bring this new program to engage youth and schools in Hamilton through a hands-on, experiential stormwater management education program. The program will educate students about the natural water cycle and demonstrate how stormwater is managed in their City, as well as install a rain garden, at their school.



Sustainability Action Kit

Green Venture has developed a Sustainability Action Kit that teachers can bring into their classroom to learn about climate change, sustainability and stewardship. By sharing the simple items and activities in this package with your students, you can discover easy ways to decrease the consumption of natural resources and reduce your impact on the environment.

The Sustainability Action Kit is meant to be used by a variety of classrooms, school situations and grade levels as an addition to the environmental curriculum. Teachers can expect the kit to contain items, activities, and games centered on climate change science and understanding climate change, water and energy conservation, air quality, resource consumption, and taking action locally. All activities are curriculum linked

Totally Transit

Our Totally Transit Program provides a FREE chartered Hamilton (HSR) bus to transport students to and from the EcoHouse, while also educating them on the “How To’s” of transit riding, and sustainable transportation.

The Totally Transit Program helps link our transportation choices to our health and energy conservation, while also providing a ride to and from the EcoHouse. The program is offered to grade 5’s and above and is free with the booking of an EcoHouse tour.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE

Provide storm water outreach through in-class presentations. There is also an flyer that was developed in partnership with Eco-Schools.

- Personal emails are recorded and archived when teachers reach out to the municipality inquiring over the YFR program.
- Flyer on wastewater treatment is attached to the email response
- The municipality also organizes weekend activities with Eco-schools contact?

Presentations are available to grades from Kindergarten to Grade 12, Monday to Friday of each week during school hours. Subjects include:

- Municipal storm water management
- Water quality and environmental health
- Water conservation and Low Impact Development Features
- Surface and Groundwater protection
- Yellow Fish Program (Presentations are also available in the evenings)

Municipal representatives work alongside educators to design custom presentations to curriculum requirements

[PDF Information regarding presentations](#)

[More information](#)

Yellow Fish Road

In partnership with the TRCA, to education students regarding storm water management and the detriment associated with dumping household hazardous wastes into roadside and backyard storm drainage inlets called catch basins. There are in-class presentations, demonstration using a fish stencils on curbs to promote community-wide awareness—all materials are provided by the municipality. Free programs available from Monday to Sunday, including evenings.

Issues: Principals are weary about children going outside near the road to work on the art activity. There is a mandatory 6:1 ratio between children and teachers that must be met for health and safety concerns. This program focuses on the curriculum established for grade 5.

Teach Green in Peel

Is an online database directed towards teachers to find locally-relevant environmental education enrichment resources and programs aligned with Ontario's Curriculum



Expectations. Database is organized by Grade, Subject, Resource type, availability, fees and school location. There are a total of 103 education resources and programs available.

[More information](#)

Don't be a litter Bug

Similar to Adopt a Park program, where classrooms are asked to volunteer three separate times a year to go to their local park and pick up any garbage. Participants do not exclude family members, friends, and co-workers for a volunteer basis.

[Check out their promotional video!](#)



Anti-Idling Bylaw Program

Expanding to include an idling blitz. The idling limit is 3mins. Schools are encouraged to post signs, which students can compete for the winning design

Forestry Planting

Tree planting opportunity which the municipality provides all the materials. The city hosts a National Forest week in partnership with [TD Tree Days](#) that usually occurs from September 18 to 24 across Canada. This outdoor event also includes information booths, guided tree tours, and activities for children of all ages. The event usually starts from 9 am and lasts until noon.

This event promotes the awareness of the City's Urban Forest Management Plan that supports the city's 2.1 million trees.

[One Million Trees](#) Mississauga program was launched and the goal is to add one million trees by 2032. This website provides a plethora of resources relating to planting and maintaining healthy trees on a variety of different properties. Here are some resources that might be of use:

- [Tree Planting Estimator](#)
- [Planting Guide](#)
- [Native Plant Database](#)
- [Native Tree Ideas](#)
- [Bird Gardens](#)
- [Alternative to invasive species](#)
- [Deer and Rabbit Resistant Plants](#)
- [Planting Wisely](#)

[More information](#)



LARGE ORGANIZATION

City of Mississauga	169167
Credit Valley Conservation	49087
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	30412
Evergreen	7016
Scouts Canada	4400

Community Garden

In partnership with Ecosource, groups are able to rent a plot to plant their desired vegetables. Participating schools must be within walking distance from the plots. There is a mandate to have one community garden within each ward. There are a total of five community gardens.

Ecosource is an Ontario-based environmental education non-profit serving youth, adults, and families to promote community-based organic gardening and stewardship programs. Currently, ecosource works with over 30,000 youth and adults within the Peel community.

[More information](#)



The Earth Market

An event that showcases everything green on September 23, 2017, which schools from both Public and Catholic School Board are eligible to participate. It contains over 40 environmental exhibitors and vendors, local and sustainable food, family friendly activities, sunset screening of the winners from the secondary school climate change video challenge, stage performers, live music, an “escape climate change” escape room, and hourly giveaways. A video challenge was promoted with the question: what to do about climate change? That needed to be answered. The minimum age requirement to enter the video competition was 14 years old. The winning video will win a documentary screening by Steven Sehike called “Time is now” with a Q&A follow up. Second place and third place winner will be recognized through the municipality’s social media platform. Promotion regarding this event occurred in April with the propagation of posters.



MiWay Plan A Trip

[MiWay transit Plan a Trip application used to promote active/public transportation](#)

MiWay Ambassador Program

(My Way—is what the public transportation is called in Mississauga) promotes sustainable transportation practices. High school students interested in applying must submit a resume in the beginning of the year for a chance to win free bus rides for the entire year. They are responsible for working with MiWay Staff to educate their school community during school hours about the benefits of public transit and promote the use of MiWay in a fun and creative way. The My Way Ambassador is eligible to compete and win to have their sustainable transportation design on a bus wrap!

[More information](#)



MiWay Student Ambassador Program



Active Transportation (update):

Freedom Pass is available for all My Way student commuters between the ages of 12-14, whom can use the transportation system and swimming pools for free between the months of July and August. In order to advocate and support a commutable city, Updating Bike Lanes-Plan: search up "Cycling Masters" and "Mississauga Moves"



COMMUNITY LEVEL

Eco-Source

Eco-Source is an innovative environmental organization specializing in fun, hands-on programs that focus on how each of us can change our daily habits to become better environmental citizens. Their work generally focuses in Mississauga and has expanded throughout the Region of Peel. They work with over 30,000 students and teachers in waste education programs. Mission statement to inspire and empower the community to become more environmentally responsible through creative public education.



[More information](#)

PEYA

PEYA unites students across Peel working to improve the environment in their schools and neighbourhoods through monthly networking meetings, and an online community. We provide a forum for students to learn from one another and form relationships with local environmental organizations. They are a catalyst for youth participation in environmental policy-making and is committed to exploring best practices for youth-adult partnerships (with Ecosource). PEYA organizes fun and effective educational events, engaging students across the Region, including leadership and skill-building workshops as well as our popular annual EcoBuzz Conference and Region-wide Stewardship Day.



[For more information](#)

Backyard Farmers Market

The Daniels Corporation is leading the urban food revolution through incorporating urban agriculture opportunities such as container balcony gardening, community garden plots, greenhouses, food box pick up programs, edible landscaping and farmer's markets. It allows for opportunities in education, urban greening and a platform for residents for all ages and backgrounds to come together and develop a deeper sense of community. It includes volunteers, community members, entrepreneurs, parents, kids, students, farmers and grower.



[More information](#)

ACER: Tree monitoring program

The Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER) is a charitable community education organization. Their mission is to build an army of citizen scientists who can monitor, measure, mitigate and adapt to the local impacts of climate change in their own communities. Programs provided:



Planting for Change (P4C)

Helps your class create a schoolyard planting site that acts as a mini-climate change outdoor classroom/lab—a teaching tool to complement climate change, geography, math, science, and world studies curriculum. To learn how Planting for Change is implemented, please see our [Steps and Responsibilities guide](#). If you'd like to have Planting for Change at your school, click [here](#) for an application form.

Citizen Science

A citizen science training program with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The training is based on Participatory Action Research where the citizen scientists are concurrently acquiring knowledge, participating in hands-on stewardship, and conducting research. Community volunteers will increase their scientific literacy on topics such as ecosystem functions, weather and climate. The program is set for a spring 2017 launch and will be available to everyone across Ontario.

Community Mapping

Community mapping is at the center of a large and growing movement that draws upon existing community strengths to build stronger, more sustainable communities for the future. Currently, there is a 3-year pilot study in the Niagara Region. Results indicated a desire to understand the local impact of climate change and sessions also put local impacts of climate change on the radar of local municipal authorities. Pilot ended in February 2016.

Map Legend

Schools marked with blue: P4C sites planted 2008-2015

Schools marked with yellow: P4C sites planted 2016



Riparian Rangers with the City of Mississauga

Through funding from the Great Lakes Guardian Community fund, ACER worked with the City of Mississauga to restore and naturalize the northern part of the Lake Ontario Watershed. ACER's Riparian Rangers, a group of citizen scientists, came together to improve and protect the habitat of native species, enhance riparian buffer zones, and mitigate flood risks in the urbanized Lake Ontario Watershed.

Go Global

Is a network of one-hectare plots, which demonstrate the effectiveness of local monitoring and reporting of environmental change in long-term biodiversity monitoring programs using Smithsonian/Environment Canada Protocols. These activities involve the community in understanding the consequences of climate change and human impact on our ecosystems and enable comparison with global forests.

[More information](#)

CEA (Community Environment Alliance)

CEA is a national and provincial award winning, innovative, non-profit, community based organization focused on providing holistic programs addressing digital insecurity and food insecurity.



Community Environment Alliance
Educate / Empower / Enable

Shape the Future (STF) Youth Leadership Initiative

The Shape the Future youth leadership initiative was a five-year project that was designed to develop eco-consciousness and sense of responsibility among youth. The program consisted of two primary components—the EnergySmart Youth Ambassador Initiative and the Shape the Future Youth Leadership Certification. CEA worked with elementary, middle and high school children in Peel Region on how to become global citizens and initiate positive change. More than 150 youth participated in the EnergySmart program and over 20 students completed the STF Leadership program.

[More information](#)

Riverwood Conservancy

The Riverwood Conservancy is a volunteer- and member-based charity that provides programs and services to the community in nature and environmental education, stewardship of Riverwood, and gardening and horticulture.



Teacher Resources include:

E-books on Then and Now (Story of how various baby animals change from their birth to when they become older for grade 1 classes) and the African Waterhole (story that illustrate the various types of animals dependent on the water hole).

Series of Short videos developed to support Ontario's science curriculum under the name Senses of Wildness. Teachers are able to email the TRCA to gain access to teaching ideas, exercises, and sample questions and answers for students.

Scotiabank Eco-living Principles provide simple activities that children are able at their own homes, at school, at Riverwood, and trips to learn more about the environment and promote sustainable living.

Educational Links: there are nine links available for teachers that are all oriented around science and environmental process: Children & Nature Network, Soil Science for Teachers, Soil Science for Kids, Budburst Buddies, Project Budburst, Nature Watch, Cheap Science Experiments, Food Webs: Who Eats What/Who? Dave Taylor's Wildlife Blog, Videos and Teaching Resources.

[More information](#)

Credit Valley Conservation: Conservation Youth Corps

Branch Out! Program: enhances the secondary science and geography curriculum and raises awareness about local climate change issues. Students are inspired to discover and restore nature in their community by participating in tree planting and other stewardship projects.

Frontline: is a leadership program for high school students where they can stay involved in environmental activities, such as peer to peer training, workshops, and job-shadowing events throughout the school year. Frontline empower youth who are passionate about the environment to make a difference in their schools and communities.

CYC Summer Program

Conservation Youth Corps is directed towards high school students that could earn up to 35 hours of volunteer hours in one week during the summer by participating in environmental stewardship activities. Students eligible to sign up must be within the Credit River watershed, from Orangeville to Mississauga.



[More information](#)

FIELD TRIPS

- Every year Peel, Brampton, Mississauga, and Caledon participate in the Water Festival that spreads awareness of storm water festivals
- Waste Water Treatment Plants tours

PARKS EDUCATION: TEACHER PREPARATION PACKAGE

Grade One – I Like Trees!

Through this workshop, students explore the benefits and characteristics of trees and plants. Using samples found in Brampton Parks, students will assess and compare the similarities and differences of a variety of plants, insects, roots and trees. Students will investigate the life cycle of plants and animals and gain a better understanding of their importance to our everyday lives. Students will investigate the problems that could result from a loss of habitat and explore the impacts of our choices.

Grade Two – What’s in Our Parks?

Everything depends on us! Through this workshop, students will learn about the circle of life in Brampton’s parks. Physical examples of plant species, insects, and a wasp’s nest will be brought in for student investigation. Students will travel with “Billy the Bee,” to understand the life cycle and importance of pollinators in our environment. Students then assess the positive and negative impacts of human activity and take on a variety of challenges that have an effect on our environment.

Grade Three – Parts of a Plant

Through this workshop, students will explore the major parts of a plant and how they are important to humans and other living things. Physical examples of plant species, insects, and a wasp’s nest will be brought in for student investigation and inquiry. Students will conduct an experiment that simulates the function of the plant stem. Then, students will travel with “Billy the Bee,” to understand the life cycle and importance of pollinators in our environment. Students will investigate the food and drinks pollinators produce and what a grocery store would look like without pollinators.



Grade Four – Aliens Invade! (Invasive Species)

Through this workshop, students will identify a variety of invasive species in Ontario and assess their impact on the environment. Students will focus on the Emerald Ash Borer’s effect on Brampton’s ash trees and investigate methods to sustain further damage. Students then take on a variety of challenges that compare the environmental impact of various invasive species. They will then create a public service announcement using the information provided. A wide range of physical samples of the ash borer’s impact is provided.

Grade Five – Brampton’s Climate and Trees

This workshop focuses on the diverse climate of Canada and its effect on tree and plant species. Students will locate their research community on a map of Canada, determine

the forest region and common trees found and make conclusions based on the climate of the region. Students will work in groups using a variety of research tools to study the weather and climate of their own community (Brampton) and climate of communities in forest regions across Canada.

Grade Six – Save Our Wildlife!

In this workshop, students explore how human activity can impact species that rely on swamps and ponds for survival. Students examine the real life case study of wildlife surrounding Heart Lake Road area in Brampton. The staff at the Toronto Region Conservation Authority became aware that many of these animals were being killed while migrating from their homes to breed. A road was constructed in the middle of their route and they are being run over by passing cars. A partnership between TRCA and the City of Brampton developed, resulting in a proposed road closure during the migration of the wildlife.

Students will assume various roles of concerned community members and write a brief statement summarizing their perspective on a proposed road closure to protect the wildlife. The class will then engage in a Town Hall Meeting and debate the road closure while in character. Ultimately, the students decide if the road closure is in the best interest of all concerned. Finally, students will examine media pieces from the real life case study in the City of Brampton and discover how the community reacted to the road closure.

(Adopted from: Water and Biodiversity: Cleaning Up Our Act. Produced by Conservation Halton for the Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network. May 2013.)



Grade Seven – Aliens Invade Part II (Invasive Species)

Through this workshop, students will examine the characteristics of invasive plants which make them a threat to native species and native crops. They will then identify a variety of invasive species in Ontario and assess their impact on the environment. Students will focus on the Emerald Ash Borer's effect on Brampton's ash trees and investigate methods to sustain further damage. They will then create a "Most Unwanted Species" fact sheet, using the information provided. They will create a plan and make decisions about what methods they would employ to prevent the further spread of invasive species. A wide range of physical samples of the ash borer's impact is provided.



Grade Eight – Storm Water Management

Where does stormwater go? Through this workshop, students will explore runoff in Brampton's urban landscape. After assessing different types of stormwater management, students investigate Brampton's stormwater management ponds. Students will then take on a variety of challenges that compare traditional stormwater management techniques with more innovative approaches and gain a better understanding of the positive and negative effects of water pollution and treatment. Students learn the City of Brampton's role in maintaining stormwater management ponds by participating in role play activities and a neighborhood case study.

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Community Climate Change Action Plan

The Community Climate Change Action Plan was initiated primarily to meet the Town's Partners for Climate Protection membership commitments. With an objective to effectively engage and represent all sectors within Caledon, the project included the establishment of a Community Working Group; a Key Stakeholder Workshop; a project specific website (www.caledonclimateplan.ca) and two community information sessions in partnership with the Caledon Public Library, ecoCaledon, Green T Environmental Awareness and other community partners. Town staff also attended Caledon Day and the Caledon Farmers' Market opening day to solicit input on the Plan's proposed actions via a survey.

The Community Working Group consists of representatives from the school board, developers, utilities, Region of Peel, conservation authorities (Toronto Region Conservation and Credit Valley Conservation), agriculture, transportation, waste management and small business. A representative from the Caledon Environmental Advisory Committee, the Town's Development Approval and Planning Policy Department, Town Council and a local community environmental group are also in the Working Group. Genivar Consultants were retained to assist with this work.

School Focus:

- Local Curriculum materials: the municipality ran two pilot programs for **Protector Academy program and Water Doc@School Action Projects** (more information listed below)
- In-School Presentations: Municipal members go to schools to advertise the **2017 School Green Fund**, and present **Ad-hoc Presentations** by programs implemented by other schools within Caledon.
- Provide funding mechanisms: **2017 School Green Fund** (see below)
- [More information](#)

Reduction of School Bus Idling

The school is to conduct a school anti-idling campaign to foster student engagement; parent education; education sessions with bus companies and operators via a week long anti-idling blitz.

2017 School Green Fund

The Fund assists with local school environmental projects that have a climate change reduction impact. The successful applicants are eligible to receive a grant for up to \$2,000 which could be used in partnership with other forms of funding (ex: TD Friends of the Environment). In 2016 the number of applicants increased from 7 to 12 schools submitting school programs relating to either:

- Active Transportation
- Anti-Idling
- Habitat Restoration
- Energy Tracking and Monitoring
- Greening and Eco-Gardens
- Education and Awareness.

The programs/initiatives that get the approval of the Environmental Committee are rated using a Funding Matrix that evaluates the program/initiative out of 10 points. Depending on the points the program/initiatives receives determines the amount of funding granted (programs/initiatives can receive either partial/full funding).

Past School Green Fund Projects

Palgrave Public School: Bring Back the Salmon

Working with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers (OFHA), **students in grades two, four and six** at Palgrave spent the school year learning about the restoration of Atlantic salmon in Lake Ontario as part of a program called “Bring Back the Salmon”. **With the money they received from the School Green Fund, the school purchased three chilled tanks and watched their eggs hatch and grow into fish a few inches long. Starting with 300 eggs, the project had over a 90% survival rate, ending up with approximately 280 fish to release.** The students gained valuable hands-on knowledge of the need to respect their surrounding environment and plan on continuing to use the tanks to raise salmon as long as they are needed in the area. The release took place on Tuesday, May 28 when the students were met at the Humber Valley Trail by two conservation officers from OFHA. The three grades took turns releasing their salmon, hiking around the trail and learning about invertebrates that live in the surrounding habitat.



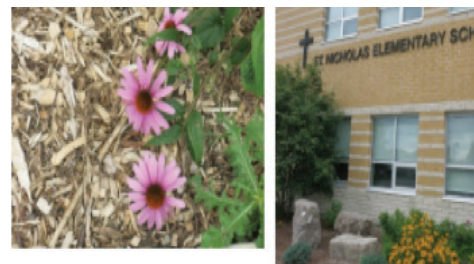
Southfields Village Public School: Butterfly Garden and Vermi-Composting

Southfields' garden and composting projects are exemplary of the teamwork and community engagement that the School and Community Green Funds aim to foster. Many students helped out in what project manager and teacher Sophia-Marie Carew described as “Days worth of hours” of work. They also leveraged the momentum created by the School Green Fund to reach out to other sources of funding. Their Vermi worms were donated by a private seller who saw merit in the initiative and were excited to help. Due to the amount of tools purchased, Home Depot donated three indoor greenhouses. The success of Southfields in engaging both students and outside contributors, despite only opening their doors for the first time in September 2012, demonstrates the ability of the School Green Fund to supply the push needed to get a project off the ground.



St. Nicholas Elementary School: Learning Garden

At the end of the 2013 school year, the Bolton elementary school made great progress on its learning garden, featuring low irrigation native plants on what was once a grass bed, for students and visitors to enjoy. The Town was able to provide the school with mulch in the last week of classes, allowing students to have a hand in preparing their garden before they broke for summer vacation. The garden will also feature signs identifying a variety of plants, allowing students and the community to gain valuable hands-on knowledge of native species.



Herb Campbell Public School: Community Gardens and Wildlife Field Guide

Recipients of the Community Green Fund multiple times, Herb Campbell's dedicated Environmental Council members have enabled the development, growth and maintenance of a large community garden and an accompanying wildlife field guide. Their picturesque community garden offers curriculum-integrated learning and allows residents to share in the natural space.

Herb Campbell's projects have been driven by their dedicated Environmental Council. Putting together a team of 'green' thinking teachers, parents and students is a great way to get a project moving.



Belfountain Public School: Wildlife Corridor, Butterfly Garden, Vegetable Garden, Vermi Composting, Garlic Mustard Festival Awareness Event

With environmental stewardship built into their school values, Belfountain has taken on a variety of projects. The school has focussed on preserving their surrounding natural attributes in the Credit River watershed by incorporating various environmental features across their school, such as: raised garden beds; an outside classroom space; and a rainwater collection system.



St. Cornelius: Eco Garden and Active Transportation Initiative

As a recipient of the Community Green Fund, St. Cornelius was able to construct and expand an eco-garden, which also serves as an outdoor classroom, and put in bike racks to provide students who might otherwise be driven with the opportunity to use active transportation. The goal of the eco-garden is to educate students and the community about the importance of taking care of the environment. Complementing this initiative, the bike racks target air quality through the reduction of greenhouse gasses and encourage students to form great habits from an early age. These projects have allowed the school to upgrade their ecoSchools certification and take pride in the natural attributes that surround them in Caledon East.



Allan Drive Middle School: The Jan Scott Outdoor Classroom

With the goal of connecting the school curriculum and the environment, Allan Drive's outdoor classroom is designed to support six daily instructional periods. The project was funded with the support of multiple grant programs and a campaign that engaged local business. An opening ceremony honored the school's first principal and introduced the gold certified ecoSchool's latest project to the community.

Allan Drive launched a community engagement campaign alongside their grant applications to seek volunteers, resources and donations of money and/or supplies. This approach is a great way to gain further support for your project and to generate excitement in the community.



Future Projects in Development-Movie Preview

Schools were encouraged to participate in a competition to create their own infomercial on Anti-Idling/Climate Change. The infomercial of the winning team will be presented in the previews at Bolton's cinemas. There is interest to develop this project with the help of EcoSchools.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Planet protector academy program

The Planet Protector Academy (PPA) program is aligned with Ontario Curriculum for Grade 5 students. It is a 6-week fun, interactive, arts-based online curriculum resource. The PPA program consists of a media model that engages with students through videos that inspire collaboration, creativity and action. Children go home on four (4) real-life missions to drive and measure behaviour change with their families, and then report back their results to the PPA website to receive fun rewards. The Planet Protector Academy program has been successfully piloted in Caledon's Alloo Public School during the 2014/2015 school year.

Please see the Planet Protector Academy information poster and the links below for more information:

- [VIDEO-Welcome to new 'apprentice' Planet Protectors, from program hosts](#)
- [VIDEO-Peek inside the classroom which shows the different arts-based activities in action](#)
- [VIDEO- Overview video especially for teachers](#)

WATER DOCS @School Action Projects

The Water Docs @School Action Projects is a hands-on learning program for Grade 8 students developed by Ecologos and supporting partner Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF). The Program provides students with an opportunity to realize the importance of water as a vital resource and strategize action plans to address local water issues. Water Docs @School allows for schools to submit a documentary that captures their classroom initiatives and success.

[See the 2016 Program Guide here](#)
[Register for the free program here](#)

THE CITY OF WINDSOR

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

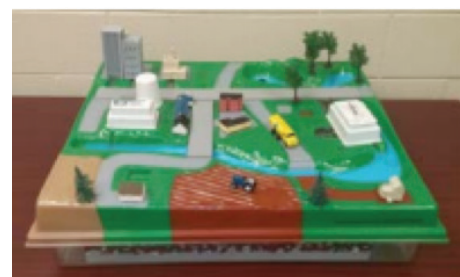
All presentations done by the municipality are flexible and are tailored to the needs and requirements of the Teachers—they get to decide which presentation they would like the children to know more about and set the range of time available for each presentation. Usually, the presentations run anywhere from 45 min - 1 hour and 15 minutes.

If the schools are not able to pay for the busing fees to the wastewater treatment plants, these presentations are a cost-effective option.

Presentations on City EnviroScape

Teachers book two city environmental sustainability representatives to come in and then the class gets split into two groups, which alternate between two activities.

The first activity involves Cityscape—an interactive activity used for Grades 3 to 5 (picture on the left) to educate children on the water cycle in Windsor, point source and non-point source pollution, the difference between combined and separate sewers and how each gets treated/not treated. The children become aware of; how the water can become polluted in their own homes; how the sewers become affected by unflushable substances; and, what the consequences are to the Detroit River.



The second group watches a video that goes more in-depth into the sewage collection process, the issues that arise when sewage does not get treated, and the consequences of clogged sewage.

Presentation on Wastewater Treatment Plants

The presentation on Wastewater Treatment Plants is usually presented to Grades 6-8 and involves a presentation/video on how the process of water treatment plant works—mainly, from the Lou Romano Water Treatment Reclamation Plant. Participants learn the importance of water treatment because of the water released (treated and untreated) gets released back to the Detroit River—the city's main source of drinking water.

Currently, the Detroit River is still considered an Area of Concern under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1972.

[YouTube video \(8.43min\)](#)

These presentations are offered if schools don't have the financial means (buses) to book a free tour at the Lou Romano Water Treatment Reclamation Plant.



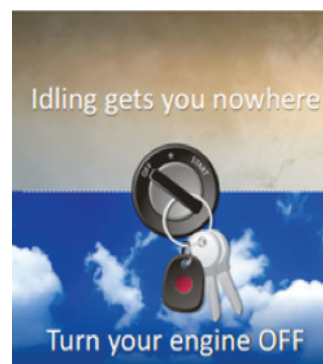
Toilet on Wheels

Literally, a toilet on wheels! It is used to demonstrate the consequences of flushing various types of “flushable” products down the toilet vs. traditional toilet paper. Children are taught that; besides Number One and Number Two, TP (Toilet Paper) should be the ONLY other product being flushed down the toilet because it is the only product that disintegrates entirely when flushed. This information is important to know because it reduces the risk of sewage pipes getting clogged and causing flooding.



Idle Free Campaign Windsor, Anti-idling Presentation, and Banners

Posters, banners, and campaign materials were initiated by the Clean Air Partnership as part of their Clean Air Council program, Windsor used these resources and created an additional presentation to go along with the Campaign for Grades 7-12. For more information about the campaign, go to the City of Burlington section.



Presentations on Climate Change and/or Energy Use

These presentations have been used mainly for public events but it will slowly be introduced into school presentations for Grade 7-10. They have focused around what Climate Change is; what the current trend is; adaptation and mitigation strategies that would be specific to the City of Windsor based on the major GHG culprits in the region.

Windsor Essex County Health Unit

Stay Cool Windsor Essex

Windsor-Essex Country Health Unit will implement a new Harmonized Heat Warning and Information system for dealing with heat events in Windsor and Essex County. The community is able to access the notification online at the below website.

It provides consistent processing and issuing heat warning in Ontario and also provides evidence-based heat warning triggers which are based on the association between temperature, humidex, and mortality due to heat illness—people most susceptible are seniors, young children, people taking certain medication and people with chronic conditions.

[More information](#)

Vector Borne Disease Awareness

West Nile Virus

The City of Windsor-Essex has a webpage dedicated to informing the community about the West-Nile Virus, its symptoms, the implications of standing water, and who to report if any information arises about West Nile Virus.

[More information](#)

Lyme Disease

Information and recommended precautions to take on Lyme Disease are available on their website link below. The municipality provides tick keys and lunch bags for promotional items. Through the program, 121 ticks were tested; 11 were black legged ticks; 4 tested positive and 7 tested negative.



[More information](#)

Safe Water

There is fact sheets on; blue-green algae blooms; swimming recommendations; drinking water recommendations; precautions arising fish consumption; how to prepare an emergency water supply.

[More information](#)

When emergencies or severe weather occur, knowing how to prepare safe drinking water for these events is crucial. In an emergency event, it is recommended that residents should have enough drinking water for at least 72 hours, two litres per person per day. Usually, a boil water advisory is issued, to learn more about what this entails go to the website [here](#).



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Parks Canada/ Point Pelee National Park

Grade 1-8 life in a Great Marsh

Students become nature detectives looking for evidence of life in the marsh. Participants take a 1km tour with a park interpreter where they will have the opportunity to touch, feel and smell the life around them. From the safety of a stable platform, they would be able to scoop water looking for bugs, hunt for turtles, find carnivorous plants and listen for animals hiding in cattails. Tours are tailored to specific grade levels.

[More information](#)



The Visitor Centre and Trip to the Tip

The participants will be guided by a park interpreter throughout the exhibits focusing on the diorama of life in the park. The children will then watch a film on "Keep the Songs Alive" (a bird documentary) and then be taken on a shuttle to the Tip--the Class would have time to explore on their own and get back to the Visitor Centre when they would like, the shuttle buses run on a regular schedule. Contact 519-322-2365 ext 0 for more information.

Nature Conservancy of Canada

The Best Classroom- Connecting Urban Children with Nature

Nature Days transform Nature Conservancy Canada's protected areas into classrooms. These are one-day events that take urban elementary students into natural areas across Canada where children learn first-hand about nature—the students made native seed bombs to restore a meadow on the property, explored the canyon and learned about Alberta's native plant and animal species.

Citizens Environment Alliance

Enviro Achiever

FedUp! Windsor is a community gardening network which promotes sustainable food production. The goals of FedUp! are: reclaiming the urban landscape; rebuilding food skills and knowledge; producing food collectively and democratically; and strengthening the local food system. They are always looking for enthusiastic participants to help them grow as an effective organization, and to keep their programs relevant and accessible.

Carolinian Canada Coalition

Grow Wild

A focus on biodiversity, Go Wild Grow Wild features resources and connections you need to develop your Grow Wild Projects--Pledge to help nature by committing to a Habitat Action to slow the loss of biodiversity within the Carolinian region in southern Ontario. Also a great opportunity to share your story!

Save Local Nature: Explore, hike or paddle an EcoTrail and get to know your rare and wild neighbours.

Steward Your Landscape: Connect to habitat help for your urban or rural backyard or your community.

Seed a Native Plant: Grow Habitat for local pollinators and other wildlife.

[More information](#)

Ojibway Nature Centre School Programs

The school programmes at Ojibway Nature Centre complement the objectives set out by the Ministry of Education and Training and the Ontario Curriculum. These programmes were developed with the aid of Environmental Youth Corps, funded by the Government of Ontario through Jobs Ontario Summer Employment.

CREEPY CRITTERS

Bats, bees, snakes, and spiders are really our friends! Students are introduced to one of the Nature Centre's resident snakes, they visit a beehive, and check-in on a bat house. These are only some of the fun activities to help students learn more about misunderstood animals.

JK/SK - 2 hours - \$2.50/student

SENSATIONAL NATURE

Seeing, touching, smelling, and listening help students explore and enjoy the wonders of Ojibway's natural environment. A wide variety of activities includes a Sensational Slideshow, a Crazy Colours Nature hike, and a Smelly Jars Guessing Game.

JK/SK - 2 hours - \$2.50/student

Gr. 1 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student

SEASONS

Students learn to appreciate the uniqueness of individual seasons at Ojibway by discovering such signs as: the brilliant leaf colours of fall, the busy bird activity of winter, and the awakening of insects and flowers in spring. Attending all three sessions will help students better understand the seasonal cycle of nature.

Fall Session: September to November

Winter Session: December to February

Spring Session: March to June

JK/SK - 2 hours - \$2.50/student

Gr. 1,3 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student



LITTLE NATURALISTS

An investigative hike, a simulation game, and bird feeder watch are some of the activities to introduce students to the plants, animals, and relationships found within Ojibway's forest, pond and prairie communities. Students develop ideas as to how we can be better friends to the plants and animals that share the earth with us.

Gr. 1 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student

CHRYSLIDS AND COCOONS

Whether they're bumblebees, butterflies, or mosquitos ... insects play an essential role in the continuous cycles of life. At Ojibway, many varieties of insects are readily available for students to observe in a special field study. The young entomologists learn of the many amazing characteristics, adaptations, and life cycles of our six-legged friends through an interactive slideshow and "signs of insects" hike.

Gr. 1,2 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student

SECRETS UNDER THE SNOW

Temperatures are low, weather can be severe, and the food is scarce, but hibernating beneath our feet are many animals, cozy and warm, while other animals live happily in the frosty conditions. Students investigate Ojibway's plant and animal communities with an investigative hike looking for plant and animal signs, interactive survival slideshow, strategy game, and field study, to determine how they survive the winter.

Gr.1,2,3 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student

POLLYWOGS 'N FROGS

Students become acquainted with the wetland dwellers of the Ojibway area through a super slideshow, live exhibits, and a hike to the pond boardwalk. Sporting boots and buckets, students search for aquatic life and experience first hand the unique adaptations found within the water.

Gr. 1,2,3 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student

PRAIRIE, POND, AND FOREST

Ojibway Park is a fantastic location with many different ecosystems in a close vicinity. Recording observations as they go, students hike through the forest, search amongst the tallgrass prairie, and peer into the pond; experiencing what each habitat has to offer. Using these three diverse examples they learn how the components of nature interrelate, and why certain species are suited to each of these different habitats.

Gr. 3 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student



Junior

DYNAMIC DISCOVERIES

Students explore Ojibway's forest, pond and prairie communities to discover how plants and animals relate to their environments. Through discussion and interactive activities students investigate the positive and negative impact of human activities on natural environments.

Gr. 4 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student

WET AND WILD: LIFE IN A POND

Students delve into the depths of a pond with hands-on scooping and identification of aquatic life. Amazing adaptations and fascinating life cycles are waiting to be discovered.

Gr. 4,6 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student

REACH OUT TO WILDLIFE

The who, what, where and why's of local reptiles, amphibians and mammals are discussed in an interactive slideshow, snake talk, and investigative hike. Students learn how to deal with local wildlife when they encounter it in their own backyard, at school or camping. Highlighting the rare Massasauga Rattlesnake and Fox Snake, students work out how endangered spaces (like Ojibway's tallgrass prairie), habitat loss, and misinformation can lead to the depletion of a species. Closing the program, students use their new insights to design a preventative poster to save rare snakes.

Gr. 4,6 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student

PRAIRIE, POND, AND FOREST

Ojibway Park is a fantastic location with many different ecosystems in a close vicinity. Recording observations as they go, students hike through the forest, search amongst the tallgrass prairie, and peer into the pond; experiencing what each habitat has to offer. Using these three diverse examples they learn how the components of nature interrelate, and why certain species are suited to each of these different habitats.

Gr. 4,6 - 3 hours - \$3.50/student

SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Students explore the variety of adaptations of Ojibway's plants and animals which enable them to reproduce and survive in changing environments throughout the year. They participate in an interactive slide show, habitat hike, and simulation game. By designing their own animal to suit a particular ecosystem, students have the opportunity to creatively demonstrate what they have learned.

Gr. 5,6 - 3 hours - \$3.50/student

A CLOSER LOOK AT BIRDS

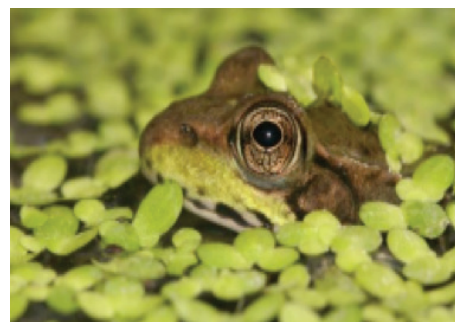
Ojibway Park is a wonderful place to view a multitude of birds both in their natural setting and at birdfeeders. "A closer look at birds" includes observing birds in a detailed fashion, both with respect to their biology and identifying features. Students will learn that birds have interesting adaptations which enable them to live in different ecosystems. While describing the birds they see at Ojibway, students practice observation, listening, and writing, as well as skills related to the scientific process.

Gr. 6 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student

SPINELESS WONDERS

Insects astound us every day with their beauty, bold colouration, and complex behaviour. This program highlights the incredible diversity of insects as well as the similarities and differences between invertebrates and vertebrates.

Gr. 6 - 2.5 hours - \$3.00/student



Intermediate

FOREST WONDERS

Especially delightful in the fall, this program highlights Ojibway's unique assemblage of Carolinian trees. Investigation, observation, and practical experience help the students to understand other components and relationships within Ojibway's Carolinian forest. With only 4% of Essex County remaining forested, forests are a part of our heritage to be appreciated. Students learn first-hand the importance of forests locally, and worldwide.

Gr. 7 - 3 hours - \$4.50/student

ECO-PUZZLER

Piece by piece, students investigate the fascinating relationships found within our local ecosystems. Mapping, vegetative analysis, charts, diagrams and an innovative mind all help students puzzle out the components of Windsor's tallgrass prairie, oak savannah, and oak woodland ecosystems during this field study.

Gr.7 - 3 hours - \$4.50/student

EYES ON ECOSYSTEMS

This program highlights the variety of interactions within three of Ojibway's habitats: oak woodland, pond, and tallgrass prairie. Students complete observation sheets, participate in a simulation game and discover how fire relates to Windsor's only endangered ecosystem.

Gr. 7,8 - 3 hours - \$4.50/student



[More information](#)

Essex Region Conservation Authority

For more information on school programs available from or offered by ERCA, [visit their website.](#)

FIELD TRIPS

To any of the above mentioned conservation programs and to the water treatment facilities.

MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

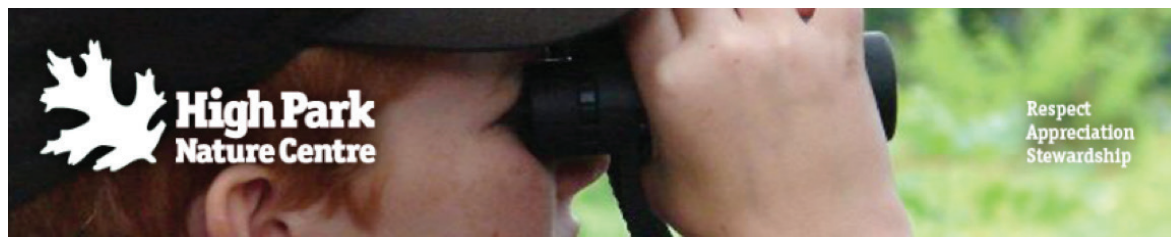
Biodiversity Booklet Series

Includes *Birds of Toronto: 2009*, *Butterflies Toronto 2011 (Revised 2015)*, *Spider of Toronto: 2012*, *Fishes of Toronto: 2012*, *Mammals of Toronto: 2012*, *Reptiles and Amphibians of Toronto: 2012 (Revised 2015)*, *Trees, Shrubs and Vines of Toronto: 2016*, *Bees of Toronto: 2016*, and *Mushrooms of Toronto: 2016*

<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=766a036318061410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

High Park Nature Centre

FALL



SENSING FALL

Kindergarten – Grade 1
September – November

Discover fall's seasonal changes using your eyes, ears, nose, fingers, even your tongue, as well as your sense of wonder! Students will go on a hike through High Park's woodlands and savannah to activate their senses and tune into autumn in the park.

SAVANNAH STEWARDS

Kindergarten – Grade 6
September – October

Did you know that High Park is home to one of North America's most endangered ecosystems? Students will learn about the web of life in the park's remnant black oak savannah and the importance of environmental stewardship while planting native wildflowers and grasses to help restore this unique and beautiful habitat.

HIGH PARK'S MOST UNWANTED: INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Grade 6 – 8
September – early November

Students will learn to identify and control the invasive species that threaten the health of High Park's woodland and savannah habitats. Participants will get their hands dirty removing buckthorn shrubs and planting native wildflowers in their stead or by making and tossing seed balls in the savannah.

DOWN IN THE DIRT

Grade 3 – 6

September – October

Explore the world beneath your feet! Discover the “recipe” for soil and learn about the vital role that decomposers play in the food chain. Students will collect and compare soil samples to investigate the properties of soil.

POND STUDY

Grade 4 – 8

September – mid-October

Explore Toronto’s Largest Pond and find its tiny inhabitants! Students will investigate and grade the health of High Park’s Grenadier Pond through invertebrate catching and habitat study.

ORIENTEERING

Grade 4 – 8

September – December

Learn how to find your way through High Park using a map and compass to orient yourself. Students will practice their skills by following an orienteering course that highlights the diversity of plants and animals in the park’s woodland and savannah habitats.

NUTS ABOUT SEEDS

Kindergarten – Grade 6

September – October

Search for native plant seeds and experience the rich diversity of the nationally rare black oak savannah habitat! Learn about seed dispersal, collect acorns, make and toss seed balls and discover how plants and animals prepare for the winter.

CHANGING OF THE LEAVES

Kindergarten – Grade 6

October – mid-November

Enjoy beautiful fall colours right in the heart of our big city! Students will learn how to identify trees by their leaves and discover why leaves change colour in the fall through science and folklore.

FALL INTO WINTER

Kindergarten – Grade 3

November – December

As the temperature drops and days become shorter, the plants and animals of High Park prepare for winter in many fascinating ways! Participants will learn who migrates, who hibernates and who has amazing adaptations that allow them to stay put and survive the winter.

URBAN BIODIVERSITY: ANIMAL LIFE IN THE CITY

Grade 4 – 6

November – December

Even in the middle of a big city, wild animals can find everything they need to survive – sometimes, they just need to be creative! Discover the incredible diversity of animals that live in Toronto’s largest urban park and how they travel, find food, communicate with each other and make homes for the winter.

COMPARING ECOSYSTEMS: EXPLORE THE DIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S NATIVE FLORA

Grade 7/8

September – October

Students will investigate and compare the biotic and abiotic features of High Park's woodland and black oak savannah ecosystems, while looking for the effects of human impacts.

KNOW YOUR FOREST

Grade 7/8

September – December

Get to know High Park's Woodlands and ecological principles of forestry. Students will identify native and invasive trees, learn about forest succession and investigate for signs of old growth as well as human impacts.

[More information on Fall Programs](#)

Winter

WONDERFUL WINTER

Kindergarten & Grade 1

January – March

Nothing beats the chill of winter better than a nature hike in High Park! Have fun exploring the wonders of winter, from snowflakes to discovering how plants, animals and birds survive by changing the way they look, eat and live during the winter.

TRACKS AND TALES

Kindergarten, Grade 1 – 6

January – March

Read tales in the snow by learning how to identify and interpret animal tracks! Students will find out how animals have adapted to survive the winter, learn about animal characteristics and encounter tracks made by creatures while hiking in the park.

TREE-MENDOUS WINTER TREES

Grade 2 – 6

January – March

Discover the trees of High Park and learn how they survive the winter months. Participants will determine how to identify trees in the winter, taste pine needle tea and learn how plants and animals depend on each other for survival.

CHARMING CHICKADEES

Kindergarten & Grade 1

January – March

Chick-a-dee-dee-dee! Students will learn about a day in the life of a chickadee, hand-feed chickadees and help these cheerful little birds survive the winter by creating pine cone bird feeders to hang in the park.

FLOCKS AND HAWKS

Grade 2 – 6

January – March

Follow a flock of chickadees, nuthatches, cardinals and woodpeckers and search the sky for soaring hawks. Students will learn about bird adaptations for winter survival, their winter diets and unique characteristics. Participants will hand-feed chickadees and create pine cone bird feeders to hang in the park.

SCREECH AND HOOT

Grade 2 – 6

January – March

Learn about High Park's owl species, explore the unique adaptations of these nocturnal birds of prey and dissect sterilized owl pellets to discover what owls eat for their midnight snack! On a nature hike, learn about owl behaviour and search for owl homes and food sources.

SNOWSHOEING

Grade 1 – 8

January – March

Explore the winter wonders of High Park while discovering the ancient art of snowshoeing. Learn the history of snowshoeing, learn basic techniques and then go on an ecology-themed snowshoe hike. Choose one theme for your class hike: Winter Birds, Animal Tracks and Homes, Trees and Plants or Snow Science.

*This program will run only when ample snow is available.

ORIENTEERING

Grade 4 – 8

January – March

Learn how to find your way through High Park using a map and compass to orient yourself. Students will practice their skills following an orienteering course that highlights the diversity of trees in the park's woodland habitats and learn how to identify trees in the winter.

KNOW YOUR FOREST

Grade 7/8

January – March

Get to know High Park's Woodlands and ecological principles of forestry. Students will identify native and invasive trees, learn about forest succession and investigate for signs of old growth as well as human impacts.

[More information on Winter Programs](#)

Spring

SIGNS OF SPRING

Kindergarten – Grade 2

April – May

Celebrate the awakening of spring in High Park through your senses! Students will search for signs of spring: hungry hibernators waking up, migrating birds returning to nest, and the earliest of plants and the rainbows of colour returning to High Park on this imaginative hike program.

MIGRATION CELEBRATION!

Grade 1 – 6

Late April – May

Discover the incredible feats of migration as birds return from their wintering grounds to nest in Canadian forests. Discover why High Park is an important natural area for spring migrants, go on a bird watching hike and play bird identification games.

DOWN IN THE DIRT

Grade 3 – 6

April – June

Explore the world beneath your feet! Discover the "recipe" for soil and learn about the vital role that decomposers play in the food chain. Students will collect and compare soil samples to investigate the properties of soil.

ORIENTEERING

Grade 4 – 8

April – June

Learn how to find your way through High Park using a map and compass to orient yourself.

Students will practice their skills by following an orienteering course that highlights the diversity of plants and animals in the park's woodland and savannah habitats.

POND STUDY

Grade 4 – 8

April – May

Explore Toronto's Largest Pond! Students will investigate and grade the health of High Park's Grenadier Pond through invertebrate catching and habitat study.

COMPARING ECOSYSTEMS

Grade 7/8

April – June

Students will investigate and compare the biotic and abiotic features of High Park's woodland and black oak savannah ecosystems, while looking for the effects of human impacts.

KNOW YOUR FOREST

Grade 7/8

April – June

Get to know High Park's Woodlands and ecological principles of forestry. Students will identify native and invasive trees, learn about forest succession and investigate for signs of old growth as well as human impacts.

RESTORE AN ENDANGERED HABITAT! SAVANNAH PLANTING PROGRAM

Kindergarten – Grade 8

From May 21 on

Study and experience the richness of a rare natural prairie habitat right in the heart of the city!

Students will gain first-hand experience in protecting habitats by planting native plants in the park's rare black oak savannah ecosystem.

Please select one of the grade-specific themes below as the focus for your planting program.

All program themes include a planting activity.

SENSING THE SAVANNAH

Kindergarten & Grade 1

Go on a hands-on, sensory nature hike through the park's woodlands and black oak savannah.

FLUTTER-BY BUTTERFLY!

Kindergarten – Grade 2

Explore the life of a butterfly and learn about native wildflowers that attract and feed butterflies in High Park.

WILDFLOWER WONDERS

Grade 3 – 7

Learn about wildflowers and edible plants in High Park and make seed balls to distribute in the savannah.

BUGOLOGY

Grade 2 – 6

Students will catch, observe and identify various invertebrates in the savannah.

SAVANNAH STEWARDS

Grades 4 – 7

Students will learn about environmental stewardship by helping to restore the black oak savannah.

[More information on the Spring Programs](#)

The Children's Eco Program

The Children's Eco Programs provide a variety of environmental education opportunities including curriculum based school programs, summer Eco Camps, youth cooking programs, free family drop-ins and free community events. Using Toronto's gardens, parks and ravines, children are able to explore and investigate nature in the City.



Children's Gardens Program

Is available from May to June and September to October—registration is done at a first come first serve basis. The cost is \$6/student for a half day program or \$11/student for a full day.

JK/SK: Little Green Thumbs

Explore relationships and cycles in plant and animal life using all five senses. A fun and active first-time garden experience!

Grade 1: Sun, Soil, Water, Air

Investigate adaptations and environments. A hands-on introduction to the needs of plants and animals.

Grade 2: Garden Critters

Examine the furry, feathered, scaly and slimy creatures that help and harm our garden habitat.

Grade 3: Plant Detection

Learn the systems and needs of plant life in an urban garden setting. Plant ID, gardening and composting are a few of the hands-on activities used in this program.

Grade 3: Soil, Seeds, n' Needs

Whatever you do, do not call it dirt! Discover the wonders of soil and it's relationships to plant growth and change.

Grade 4: Habitat Hunt

Become a green detective and search the garden for habitats big and small. Learn about plant, animal and insect relationships within this unique habitat.

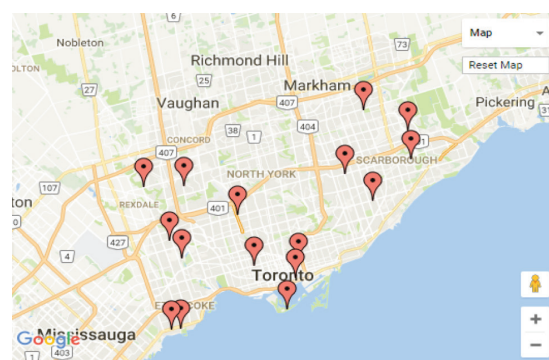
Grade 4: It Came From Space

And your backyard and hundreds of meters inside the earth. Explore the rocks and minerals of our urban environment through soil experiments in the garden.

Grade 6: Biodiversity in the Garden

New investigations of old planting techniques have taught us that biodiversity in the garden is essential to a healthy, organic growing space. Learn more about the diversity above and below the soil.

[More information \(grade 5, 7 & 8 are available upon request\)](#)



Map of Children's Gardens

Exploring Toronto—Little Feet on the Trail

Program Instructors lead classes through Toronto's unique natural urban spaces. Each guided hike through High Park and along Toronto's Discovery Walk Trails educates participants about Toronto's natural environment and history while promoting an active, healthy lifestyle.

JK/SK/Grade 1: Eco Adventures – ½ day, F/W/S

Hands-on adventure exploring plant and animal lifecycles through songs, games and hands-on nature activities.

Grade 2: Amazing Animals – ½ and full day, F/W/S

Discover the amazing and innovative animals in our urban parks, forests and ravines. Games allow students to explore the habitats just like the animals they will identify.

Grade 3: Plant Detection – ½ day,

combine with Ground Beneath Us for full day program, F/S Learn the systems and needs of plant life in an urban park setting. Hiking, plant ID and hands-on experiments included!

Grade 4: Habitat Quest – ½/full day, F/W/S

What is a habitat and why is it important? Identify a variety of habitats and the important features each contain. The Instincts for Survival Game is an outstanding teaching tool for this program.

Grade 4: Map It! – ½ and full day, F/W/S

Map and compass skills are an important and interesting way to find your path in the world. Learn map reading skills, how to use a compass and gain practice with a variety of challenges.

Grade 5: Life Systems – ½ day, F/W/S

Examine the cycles of nature as an alternative approach to understanding human organ systems. Habitat exploration, hands-on observation and experiments make the connection.

Grade 6: Follow in their footsteps – ½/full day, F/W/S

Discover Toronto's Aboriginal Peoples' and early settler's history through exploration and traditional story telling.

Grade 6: Urban Biodiversity – ½ and full day, F/W/S

Why is biodiversity so important? How will the loss of biodiversity affect the environment around us? Learn the answers to these questions through guided nature hikes, learn how to use dichotomous keys to identify plants and animals and take a special look at biodiversity in an urban environment.

Grade 7/8: Ecosystems – ½ and full day, F/W/S

Identify the living and non-living elements of our urban ecosystems, while exploring their interactions.



Grade 9 – 12 Programs

available on request, ½ and Full Day, F/W/S Contact us for programs related to Grade 9-12 curriculum.

[More information](#)

[Resource](#)

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