

# Wonderful Watershed Moments!

SEPTEMBER 2018

## Heart Lake CA, Medicine Wheel Garden (MWG) Maintenance with Central Peel SS Students



**LOCATION:**  
Heart Lake Conservation Area, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

**DATE:**  
Wednesday September 19, 2018

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
Region of Peel, City of Brampton

**PARTNERS:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Four Colours Drum Circle, Central Peel Secondary School Students and Teachers

TRCA hosted a group of very enthusiastic students from Central Peel Secondary School at TRCA's Medicine Wheel Garden (Gitigaan Mashkiki) located in Heart Lake Conservation Area, to perform maintenance of the garden and surrounding pollinator plots.

For several years TRCA staff have been working with local community partners to create pollinator plots to assist in providing habitat for native pollinator species. Local residents, community groups, corporate groups and students have planted a variety of native wildflowers which bloom from May to October providing food and shelter for native bees, hummingbirds and butterflies.

Members of Four Colours Drum Circle welcomed the group, performed a drumming ceremony and provided information about the garden and significant features. They also spoke on origin of the Medicine Wheel Garden and efforts to keep it well maintained throughout the year.

After a brief health and safety talk, the group began extracting weeds from the plots and additional mulch and soil were added. Students also removed invasive buckthorn from the surrounding area and used this material to create barricades through the informal paths leading from the forested area to help protect sensitive ground cover vegetation.

By participating in these types of stewardship activities, students contribute to enhancing natural areas and gain a better understanding to the importance of providing habitat for pollinators and wildlife.



### Positive Environmental Impacts

Plots Maintained	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
6	30	40	120

