

**HUMBER
ARBORETUM**
+ CENTRE FOR URBAN ECOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



LEARN



EXPLORE



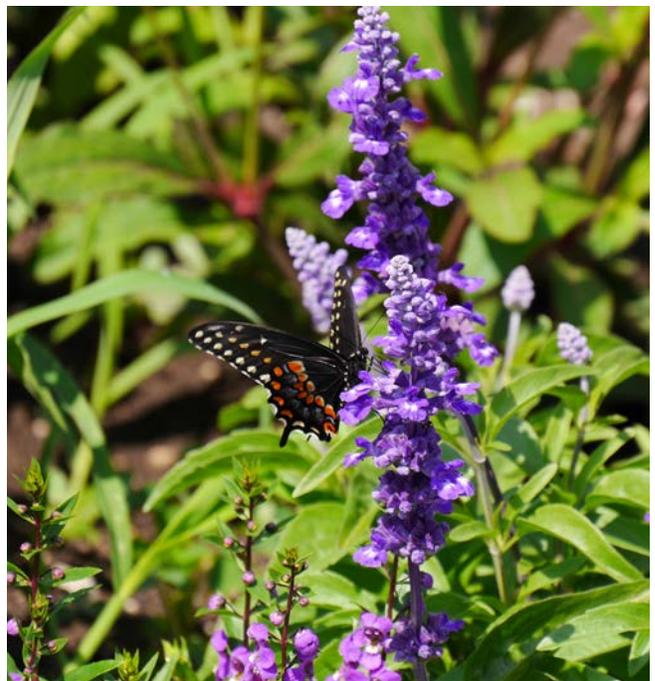
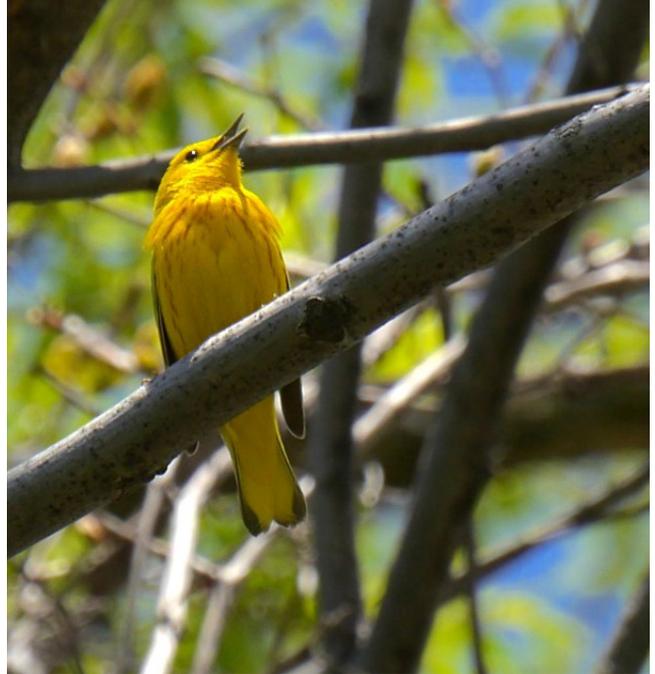
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GRAPHIC DESIGN: Nina Paul

Message from the Director

I'm proud to present the Humber Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology's 2018-19 Annual Report. This document highlights our work this year revitalizing and nurturing our natural environment and learning spaces, enriching Humber College student's education, and connecting our community with the natural world. I'm pleased to share that we have been successful in accomplishing 90% of the ambitious goals set forth in our 2018-19 Business Plan.

This was a year of transition for our organization as we underwent numerous strategic, organizational, and programmatic changes. For the first time in the Humber Arboretum's history, we embarked on a strategic planning process with the aim of developing our first vision, mission and strategic plan. I'm excited to share that our Strategic Plan will be launched in September 2019! We thank everyone who contributed their time, ideas, and energy toward its creation.

A notable achievement this year was the expansion of our experiential learning program for Humber College students. The Learning by Leading™ program is designed to build students' knowledge and skills through innovative, hands-on projects in the natural world. The program was also integrated as a pilot to test Humber College's new Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs). This was an engaging partnership that enabled us to bring our program to the next level for the benefit of our students.

In 2018-19, we put the final pieces in place to begin construction on the Humber Pond Revitalization Project. This visionary partnership between Humber College, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Humber Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology, and City of Toronto Parks, Forestry, and Recreation will create new, innovative learning spaces for Humber College students, build social gathering spaces for our community, and improve the health of the Humber River.

This year we prepared for an organizational restructuring within Humber College to support its new Strategic Plan. This saw the Humber Arboretum become part of the College's new Faculty of Health Sciences & Wellness as of May 1st, 2019. We're excited for this new relationship, especially to create and strengthen nature-based experiential learning opportunities for our Faculty's students.

This year's achievements are possible because of the ongoing commitment and contributions of our three founding partners—Humber College, the City of Toronto, and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority—as well as the many other partners and individuals that support our work. Our sincere thanks goes to every one of them. We are also grateful to our students and community members; it is your belief in us that inspires us to lead and create a positive future. As you read this report, I invite you to join us in celebrating all that we have achieved together!

Sincerely,



Alexandra (Alix) Link

Director, Humber Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology

Highlights

Nature-based experiential learning for over **4,300** Humber College students



Environmental education programs for **6,400** GTA schoolchildren



Access to the benefits of nature for **500** local community members through the *Nature for All* initiative



Humber Food Learning Garden

launched through Humber College's Centre of Innovation in Health and Wellness



Over **1,075** participants in Arboretum-based events



Nature camp for **300** children and youth



Nature-Based Experiential Learning



Enhancing Curriculum¹

The Humber Arboretum serves as an outdoor classroom and living laboratory for academic programs across Humber College. This year, the Humber Arboretum improved the education of 4,300 Humber College students from across six schools and over 40 courses. Highlights include:

School of Media Studies & Information Technology

- Students from the Film and Television Production advanced diploma program and Bachelor of Film and Media Production program used the Humber Arboretum for class projects.
- Media Studies students used the Centre for Urban Ecology to host “Emerge Above the Stigma,” a student-oriented event aimed at opening up a conversation about the importance of mental health.
- Bachelor of Journalism and Journalism advanced diploma students covered Arboretum events and drew on Arboretum staff expertise for assignments.

The Business School

- Arboretum staff delivered five workshops on natural cosmetics for the Cosmetic Management diploma program.
- A meeting with the Arboretum director and a guided tour of the gardens helped students from the Marketing program complete a Marketing Plan assignment about the Humber Arboretum.

¹ Numbers are approximate.

School of Health Sciences

- Over five different Early Childhood Education courses used the Arboretum for class learning on an ongoing basis.
- As part of Humber College's Forest Nature Program (FNP), children from Humber's Child Development Centre visited the Arboretum on an ongoing basis. The FNP is incorporated into ECE courses and practicum placements.
- Paramedic diploma program classes used the Arboretum for simulated rescue scenarios.

School of Applied Technology

- Urban Arboriculture—Tree Care certificate program and Arborist Apprenticeship students used the Arboretum's plant collections for tree identification, training exercises, and practical exams.
- Landscape Technician diploma program and Horticultural Technician Apprenticeship students used the Arboretum for plant identification, surveying, and landscape construction projects.
- Civil Engineering Technology advanced diploma program students used the Arboretum as part of their surveying classes.
- Environmental Engineering students used the Humber Pond for water quality testing with the intent to continue the testing throughout the Humber Pond Revitalization project and contribute their results to final evaluations of the project.

School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- For the degree breadth course "Extinction: Biodiversity and Human Action", many students used the Arboretum to identify and record local species for an assignment using the *iNaturalist* citizen science database.
- For the General Education course "An Introduction to Arts and Sciences", the Arboretum provided a tour on the relationship between time in nature and happiness.

School of Hospitality, Recreation & Tourism

- Classes from the Culinary Management diploma program, Cook Apprenticeship certificate program, Certified Master Chef (CMC) program, and Culinary Skills certificate program visited the Humber Arboretum's edible garden to identify and gather herbs, vegetables, and edible flowers. Maple syrup from the Humber Arboretum's sustainable urban sugar bush was used in course labs and as part of The Humber Room's menu.
- Students from the Event Management program partnered with the Humber Arboretum to host their faculty-aimed event "Sustainability... Due Tomorrow! Building Sustainability in the Classroom" inside the Centre for Urban Ecology.



Developing Core Skills & Mindsets

Humber College students' core skills, knowledge and mindsets are developed through meaningful experiential opportunities at the Humber Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology.

Co-Curricular Record

The Humber Arboretum is part of Humber College and the University of Guelph-Humber's Co-Curricular Record program. This program provides graduating students with a second transcript demonstrating their service learning, enabling students to have an official record of their learning outside the traditional classroom. This year, 13 students were recognized for the transferrable skills they gained through their experiences at the Arboretum.

Learning by Leading™ Program

This innovative program, developed by University of California Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, is based on the fundamental premise that students learn best by leading. It uses a ladder approach to skill and knowledge development that prepares students to take on a leadership role in real world projects under the guidance of staff mentors.

The Humber Arboretum was the only organization in Canada selected by UC Davis to participate in a pilot to bring the Learning by Leading™ model to public gardens connected with post-secondary institutions across North America. With support from UC Davis, five staff members from the Humber Arboretum participated in training sessions to learn to become program advocates and staff leaders under the Learning by Leading™ model.

Humber Arboretum Ambassadors

The Humber Arboretum Ambassadors (HAAs) launched as the first pilot under the Arboretum's Learning by Leading™ program in December 2017. The goal of the pilot was to develop students' skills through active engagement in Arboretum initiatives. The pilot was so successful that this year the program was expanded. Highlights include:

- Six student Ambassadors gained valuable knowledge in topics such as citizen science and biodiversity and took part in tree plantings, bird box and bee home building, and outreach events.
- Two students were hired as Co-Coordinators to help plan and facilitate group activities, moving up the leadership ladder within the Learning by Leading™ program.
- A Co-Coordinator devised a research project comparing the collected sap and processed syrup of a black walnut tree with that of the sugar maple.
- The Arboretum Ambassadors team received a World Wildlife Fund Canada Go Wild at School grant to run a **Building Biodiversity – Student Workshop** as part of Humber College's Earth Week. The students gave presentations at the public event and led participants in stewardship activities including the construction of bat and bird boxes and planting native shrubs in the Arboretum's Tranquility Bird Garden.



Institutional Learning Outcomes

Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) describe the attributes—knowledge, skills, competencies and values—that all students will possess upon graduation from an institution. Humber College is in the process of developing an ILO framework for the college as a priority goal identified in Humber’s 2016–2021 Academic Plan. The Arboretum’s Learning by Leading™ program served as one of seven pilot projects to test the ILOs, exploring how they can be integrated into nature-based experiential learning.



Diagram 1: Humber College's Institutional Learning Outcomes (Draft 2018-19)



I was in the Recreation and Leisure Services program and then this year I'm switching over to the Landscape Technician program, which is very exciting. That all came about from working here [at the Humber Arboretum]... There's a role here for everybody. If you love kids, it's the camps. If you love nature and just learning more about plants and what they can do, it's the horticulture side, and then if you love building stuff, definitely the construction side.

– Nickie, Humber College
Landscape Technician student



Work-Integrated Learning

Ontario's work-study program provides post-secondary students in financial need with the opportunity to work on campus while completing their studies. The Arboretum employed 27 Humber College and University of Guelph-Humber students in positions providing real world experience related to a variety of academic programs:

- Students in Humber College's Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Child Youth Care Worker programs gained experience working with children and youth in a natural setting as Junior Nature Interpreters and Nature Camp Counsellors.
- Horticultural Assistant positions offered hands-on opportunities for students in horticulture and landscaping programs.
- Students from the School of Business and the School of Media Studies gained work experience in office and events assistance, social media, and videography.
- A nursing student combined her program knowledge with her leadership skills to expand the role of Camp Health Care Coordinator.
- One paid internship was provided for a student in the Multimedia Design & Development program. The student was mentored by a professional graphic designer at the Arboretum.

The Humber Arboretum Scholarship

Every year the Humber Arboretum provides the Frances Thompson Entrance Scholarship to support ten first year students who demonstrate commitment to environmental stewardship. This scholarship is offered in honour of Frances Ethel Thompson, an avid supporter of the Humber Arboretum's positive impact on the natural environment.

Continuing Education

Sustainable Urban Beekeeping Certificate

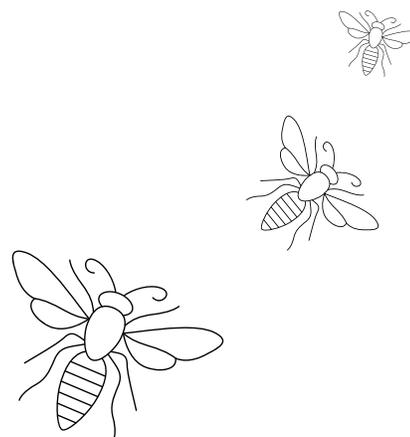
Entering its third year, this Adult Education Certificate has enjoyed increasing popularity. Offered in partnership by the Humber Arboretum and Humber College, the program prepares learners to sustainably keep honeybees in an urban environment. Highlights include:

- The first Certificates of Completion were awarded to 13 participants.
- Two new electives were created for the 2019 Certificate Calendar year.
- 24 beekeeping courses were provided for 275 participants.
- Full certificate registration was filled to capacity with a waiting list.
- In response to the growing popularity of the program, construction has begun on a larger experiential learning space, “The Honeybee Hub”.



Most enjoyable class in a beautiful setting, interesting, fascinating, very knowledgeable, experienced instructors. Can't say enough about this class. I recommend these workshops to lots of people. Thank you to [the instructors] for tips and sharing invaluable experiences.

– Sustainable Urban Beekeeping workshop participant



Inspiring Innovation

Centre of Innovation in Health and Wellness

Humber's Centre of Innovation in Health and Wellness (COIHW) brings together multidisciplinary teams to catalyze innovation in health and wellness. The Arboretum is a core part of the COIHW and is also a member of the Steering Committee. This year, the Humber Arboretum and the COIHW officially opened the Humber Food Learning Garden (learn more in the 'Learning Spaces' section) and provided outreach events and activities to bring together students and experts from diverse industries and backgrounds.

International Development

The Humber Arboretum has been sharing its best practices in environmental innovation and experiential learning as part of the Kenya Education for Employment Program (KEFEP), a five-year, \$20.6 million project that is an initiative of Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) and funded by Global Affairs Canada. Humber College's International Development Institute (IDI) is leading the Program with the goal of helping equip Kenyan youth with the skills and qualifications required to compete in the country's workforce and supports the country's vision of transforming to a middle income country by 2030.



Research Projects

The Humber Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology supported several research projects this year. These include:

- **American Chestnut Propagation:** The American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) is listed as endangered under the Ontario Endangered Species Act due to a Chestnut blight that threatens the survival of this native tree species. Humber Arboretum staff supported a member of the Canadian Chestnut Council in their project to pollinate chestnut trees on the Arboretum grounds in an effort to expand the population and research which trees may be resistant to the blight. As a result, 18 seedlings are growing in the Humber College Greenhouse for future planting.
- **Climate's Sake Community Research Plots:** Climate's Sake, a charitable community education organization, has a long-standing relationship with the Humber Arboretum. The partnership includes an Experimental Biodiversity Research Plot in the Arboretum devoted to studying the effects of climate change on the growth rate of trees. There is also a Planting 4 Change (P4C) plot planted and monitored by youth volunteers.
- **Native Pollinator Plant Research:** Led by Humber College Faculty Igino Teolis and assisted by instructor Lynn Short, this continuing research project being conducted in partnership with the TRCA investigates how fertilizer, salt, and cover crop affect native pollinator plants.
- **Mason Bee Study:** Along with the Toronto Botanical Garden, Humber Arboretum staff supported University of Toronto PhD candidate Charlotte de Keyzer in the collection of specimens for her research into the synchrony between mason bee emergence and tree flowering time.
- **Positive Psychology in Nature:** In this research project by Humber College faculty member Christine Zupo, it was discovered that happiness significantly increases when positive interventions—activities reliably shown to increase a person's subjective sense of happiness—are done in and with nature. Student participants were taken for a guided walk in the Humber Arboretum and asked to make three loving connections to non-human living things, savour nature, practice awe, and write a gratitude letter to nature. Their experiences were compared to those of control groups. Researchers found that just being in nature increased a student's sense of happiness, but that the sense of happiness increased significantly when interventions were implemented.
- **Public Greenspaces *Phragmites* Control Project:** In partnership with the Humber Arboretum, City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division, and EcoSpark, Humber College faculty member Lynn Short is testing an innovative technique to protect public greenspaces from *Phragmites australis*. Originally from Europe, this highly adaptable reed can crowd out native species. The project follows a multi-year study using Humber Arboretum lands with funding support from Humber College's Research and Innovation Department.



Learning Spaces

From designing unique learning gardens and structures to the installation of interpretive signage, the Arboretum creates engaging spaces for learning and innovation.

The newest addition is the **Humber Food Learning Garden**, a demonstration garden and outdoor classroom that provides a space for students and community members to learn about sustainable urban agriculture, local food security, and how to grow and harvest their own fresh, healthy food. The garden was officially opened with a party that included appetizers created from the garden harvest by Humber's Culinary department, prominent speakers including the local city councillor, and a live performance by graduates of the Humber College music program.

Construction began on the **Honey Bee Hub**, a learning apiary which will allow for the expansion of the Sustainable Urban Beekeeping certificate program while creating observational learning opportunities through a public viewing area.

With an eye to both the near and far future, a new **Fruit Orchard** was planted to support culinary education at Humber College. If all grows well, soon student chefs will have access to fresh raspberries and blueberries, with lingonberries, goji fruit, currants, cherries, and kiwi fruit to follow. In years to come more plants will mature, offering harvests of apple, pear, persimmon, and medlar.

The Humber Arboretum and its three founding partners have re-imagined the pond that holds the north campus' stormwater through the **Humber Pond Revitalization Project**. The vision created by Humber College, the City of Toronto and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority will improve the pond's natural features while increasing natural habitat for wildlife, providing new social gathering spaces for the community, and creating outdoor classroom and living laboratory spaces for Humber College students. This year the final designs and tri-partite agreements were completed, enabling construction to take place in 2019.



The Forest Nature Program

The Forest Nature Program pilot began in June 2016 as a collaboration of different Humber College entities: the Early Childhood Education department, the Child Development Centre and the Humber Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology. This Early Years program brings young children outdoors to engage in unstructured inquiry and play-based learning, allowing them to discover the natural world as they explore the grounds of the Humber Arboretum. This year 3 groups of preschoolers (45 children ages 2.4 to 4 years) plus Early Childhood Educators, ECE students in placement, and families—as well as increasing numbers of infants and toddlers—continued to engage and explore the Arboretum’s sensory-rich environment. Highlights include:

- Research completed by Louise Zimanyi and Olga Rossovska was submitted to Humber’s Journal of Innovation in Polytechnic Education (JIPE).
- Humber Arboretum staff member Lynn Short accompanied groups to the Arboretum, providing Indigenous teachings and storytelling based on the teachings of Elder Jim Dumont and Shelley Charles.
- Ongoing research considers how learning from and with the land might contribute to re-imagining nature-based Early Childhood Education programs.



Nature for Better Health

In recognition of the essential link between a healthy environment and healthy people, the Humber Arboretum was re-organized into Humber College's new Faculty of Health Sciences & Wellness as of May 1, 2019. As part of this process, the Arboretum developed new programming and partnerships to assist Humber College in realizing its commitment to the Okanagan Charter.

The Okanagan Charter

With the signing of the Okanagan Charter in October 2018, Humber College set a goal to become the healthiest campus in Canada. The Humber Arboretum recognizes its fundamental importance in helping make this goal a reality. Highlights include:

- A seasonally-themed series of **Campus Mood Walks for Mental Health** as a part of a larger event series with partners from UofGH Kinesiology, Humber Athletics, the Humber Student Wellness and Accessibility Centre and the Humber Libraries.
- Arboretum staff facilitated an outdoor **Mental Health and Nature Workshop** as part of Humber's Mental Health Symposium organized by the School of Social and Community Services in partnership with the Rexdale Community Legal Clinic and funded by the Humber College Community Partnership Fund.
- A free **Nature Rx workshop** for students and staff offered in partnership with the Humber Office of Sustainability during Mental Health Awareness Week.
- An 8-part **Nature Rx series** of natural mindfulness sessions with yoga acharya and life coach Harold St. George from Project Soul.

Healthy Food

Part of nurturing a healthy campus and a healthy community includes healthy food. From an apiary that is managed for the welfare of the bees to a maple syrup harvest that puts the health of the trees first, the Humber Arboretum has a long-standing tradition of contributing to healthy food on campus. This year, the Humber Arboretum:

- Supported Humber College's **Soup Bar** initiative, which provides pay-what-you-can meals to students, with the donation of fresh ingredients from the Humber Food Learning Garden.
- Harvested 19.2 litres of honey from the Meadow Apiary and 12 litres of maple syrup from the Sustainable Urban Sugar Bush.
- Provided maple syrup and fresh veggies for culinary students to use in meals served at the on-campus restaurant **The Humber Room**.
- Provided **Backyard Chicken workshops** with Four Legs or Wings Pets to provide information on the proper housing and care of chickens raised to provide eggs on a family scale.
- Incorporated the Humber Food Learning Garden and Sustainable Urban Sugar Bush into camp and school programming.
- Host site for **Humber College's Annual Fun Run**, a student organized 5km Fun Run/Walk that raised funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada.

Collaborating for Well-being

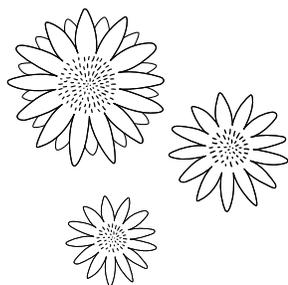
The Humber Arboretum is proud to work with a variety of departments at Humber College to advance health, learning, and well-being.

Aboriginal Resource Centre (ARC)

Humber's Aboriginal Resource Centre ensures Aboriginal students are supported and connected to their learning environment—academically, culturally and socially. ARC and the Arboretum have a long-standing partnership through Camp Choice's **Indigenous Plant Restoration Program**, designed to introduce young Aboriginal students to college life and (re)connect them with the land. ARC has several gardens located in the Arboretum including the Medicine Wheel Garden and Grandmother Squash Garden.

Office of Sustainability

The Arboretum is a core member of the College's Sustainability Steering Committee, a cross-institutional advisory body to the President and Executive Team that provides integrated, collaborative, evidence-based advice to ensure Humber's commitment to sustainability is reflected in planning and decision-making. This year, the Arboretum also partnered with the Office of Sustainability to provide a **Nature Rx** session for students during Mental Health Week.



Student Success & Engagement

The Department of Student Success and Engagement (SSE) supports students' active participation on campus, promotes student health, wellness and inclusivity, and offers a variety of educational and career-related support services. This year, the Humber Arboretum offered a variety of wellness opportunities for students including workshops, tours, and **Mood Walks**, a province-wide initiative led by Canadian Mental Health Association that promotes physical activity in nature, or "green exercise," as a way to improve both physical and mental health.



Cultivating Community

As a diverse ecosystem and social gathering space in an urban area, the Humber Arboretum offers valuable educational, social, and wellness opportunities for the Humber College community as well as surrounding local communities. Natural social gathering spaces, educational programs for schools, nature camps for youth, and free events for all ages are just some of the ways the Arboretum fulfills this crucial role. This year saw greater accessibility to our programs for our local community through the expansion of the *Nature for All* Initiative, the creation of stronger relations with local schools, and a new camp program to fill an underserved age group.



Nature for All

The Arboretum's *Nature for All* Initiative supports our local community's access to the benefits of nature through partnerships, subsidies, and programming. Highlights include:

- Offered subsidized school trips for 105 students to attend programs at Humber Lakeshore Campus/Colonel Sam Smith Park, through continued support from **Citizens Concerned about the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront (CCFEW)**.
- Provided fully fund trips to the Humber Arboretum, including bussing, for 376 local students in partnership with **Rexdale Community Health Centre** and through the support of a Power Off and Play Bright Ideas \$10,000 grant.
- Piloted the *Nature for All* Community workshop series in partnership with **Albion Neighbourhood Services** and the **Albion Boys and Girls Club**, with \$6,000 funding from the Humber College Community Partnership fund. Ten free weekend workshops - which included free bussing from a local community center and a snack for all participants - were provided for local families, offering nature walks and seasonal outdoor activities such as pond dipping, chickadee feeding, and ecology games. Attendance across the workshops included 170 children and youth, with many families attending multiple sessions.
- In partnership with **Kids Up Front** and **Ernestine's Women's Shelter** and through the generosity of a private alumni donor, three children were sponsored to attend a week of summer nature camp.

School Programs

Curriculum-connected school programs at the Humber Arboretum create memorable outdoor learning experiences for students from Kindergarten through high school that encourage independent curiosity for the natural world while supporting and enhancing concepts from the classroom. Highlights include:

- Provided programming for over 6,400 schoolchildren. Popular programs included Art & Ecology, Urban Maple Syrup Harvesting, and Healthy Planet—Healthy Lives.
- Became an **Approved Excursion Vendor** with the Toronto District School Board, opening up new avenues to connect with TDSB educators.
- Provided guidance and in-kind support for the Independent Living students at **West Humber Collegiate Institute** who are learning to grow their own food. Twenty students on the autism spectrum or with developmental disabilities visited the Humber Food Learning Garden and Humber College Greenhouses, and the Humber Arboretum supported them in the creation of their first garden beds at the school. This relationship led to a new, expanded partnership for the coming year through the TDSB Community Connected Experiential Learning program (CCEL).

Nature Day Camps

Camp programming at the Humber Arboretum is designed to foster a personal connection with nature in a fun atmosphere, allowing children aged 5-13 to explore and learn while they make new friends and build confidence and skills in a supportive environment. Highlights include:

- Piloted a new **Junior Naturalist Camp** for curious youth ages 12-13. This camp offers a more in-depth investigation of the natural world and fills a previous gap in programming, keeping young teens connected to the campus until they are old enough to begin the camp's Leader in Training program.
- Refined health care protocol at camp by expanding the role of the **Health Care Assistant** staff position, implementing new best practices, and revamping the health care information section within the camp registration system.
- Successfully re-Accredited with the **Ontario Camps Association** at Level 4 Status for another 4 years. Membership in OCA is voluntary and provides camps and parents alike with a defined set of industry standards that help ensure the best possible camp experience.
- Piloted **special guest visits** to coincide with select weekly camp themes, including programming provided by the Humber Arboretum Beekeepers and serving as an early testing ground for the TRCA's new Monarch Nation program.



We're looking forward to the summer Nature Camp. My kids enjoy the camp very much and we're planning to be part of it for many, many years to come.

– Olivera, parent

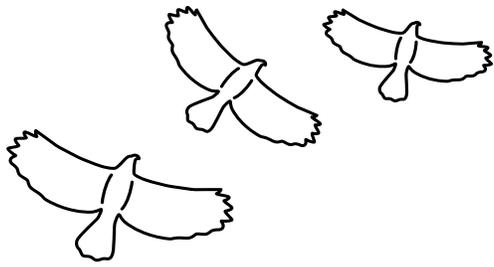
Outreach & Events

The Humber Arboretum offers a diverse slate of free events that give people the skills and inspiration to get out, explore, and enjoy nature at all levels, from Toronto's extensive ravine system to their own back garden. The Arboretum also brings nature to people by hosting tables at events across the campus and the community. Highlights include:

- **Eco-Garden Community Workshop series** with the Etobicoke Master Gardeners. Four workshops were provided including *Garden Pests and Pathogens* and *Native Plant Gardening 101*.
- **The 3rd Annual Winter Bird Count for Kids** with Bird Studies Canada. This family-friendly introduction to bird-watching taught participants about local bird species and how to use the citizen science database eBird. The group's results of 71 individual birds representing 11 different species were added to tallies from across North America.
- **The Toronto Bird Celebration / Toronto Ravine Days:** Activities for these overlapping annual celebrations included live music in the garden, a bird walk, a gardening workshop, and presentations from Ontario birder and naturalist Jeremy Bensette and from Arboretum partners talking about the Humber Pond Revitalization Project.
- **"Toursdays" and Lunch and Learns:** Monthly tours and talks led by Arboretum staff exploring topics ranging from *Tree ID* and *Bird-Friendly Gardens* to *Nature Photography* and *Winter Tracking*.
- **Nature Connection Family Workshops**, a new programming series for local families under the *Nature for All* Initiative.

- **Touch-table and outreach displays** at various locations and events including the College residence building, the Co-Curricular Record Fair at Humber's North Campus, Showcase Marketplace at Lakeshore campus, and participating for the first time in **The Rexdale Foodie Festival** at the Albion Library.
- **Tree Cookie decorating** station in the University of Guelph-Humber atrium, a new idea proposed and facilitated by students from the Arboretum Ambassador program.
- An **Arb Hike** for new Humber College students during Welcome Week and a **team-building tree planting** session for Humber College's Student Ambassadors.





Visitor Experience

New garden beds, expanded plant collections, and maintenance of our facilities all helped contribute to an on-site experience that allows visitors to discover the beauty and diversity of plant life.

- Planted over 25,000 annuals in the display beds and planters, over 6,500 bulbs for seasonal garden displays, and over 900 annuals in the new Welcome Garden.
- Transplanted over 5,000 daffodils from annual display gardens to perennial beds.
- Added over 100 new perennials to our living collections including the aquatic and riparian collections.
- Rebuilt the staircase at the All American Selections garden, built and installed new benches and garbage cans, and conducted ongoing repairs and health and safety improvements.
- Installed new site map and welcome sign at the Tree of Life Welcome Kiosk.
- Added over 100 new botanical signs to perennial beds.
- Completed the Tranquility Bird Garden gazebo, which will serve as a central location for future bird walks and other events. New plantings were also added to this demonstration garden space.
- Installed interpretive signage at the Humber Food Learning Garden, the Garden of the Rising Moon, and the Tranquility Bird Garden, giving visitors a chance to independently explore the themes of the gardens.



Caring for our Natural Environment

The Arboretum's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship is realized through knowledgeable maintenance, long-term planning and inspiring new projects. Highlights include:

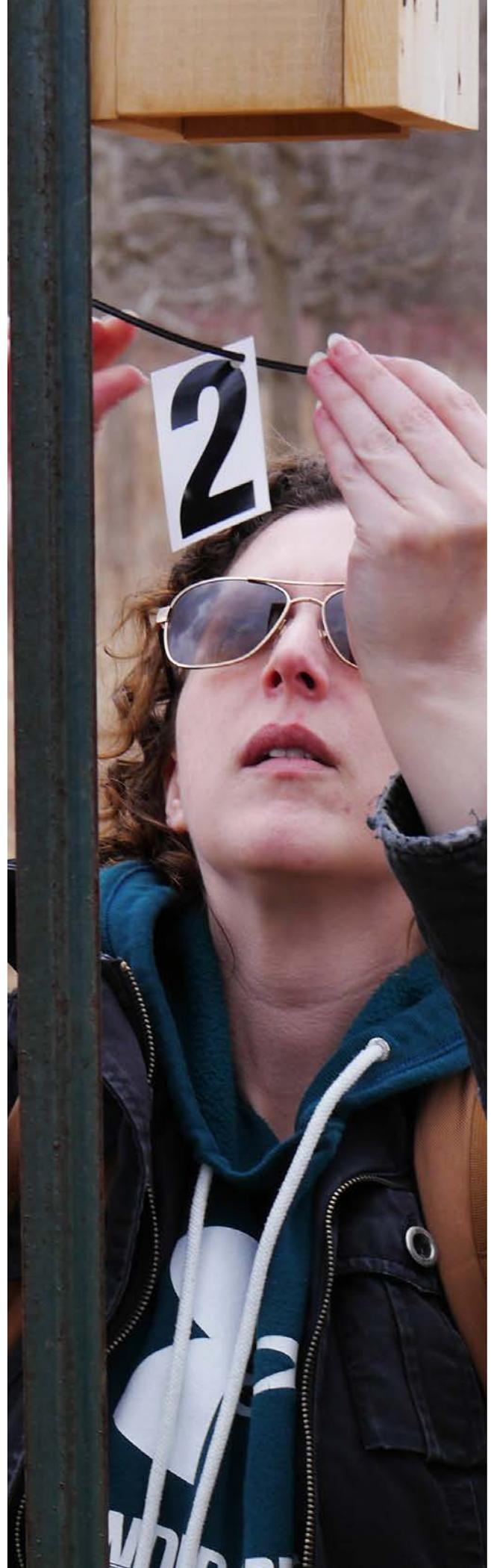
- Hosted one of four public consultation events that took place across the city to collect feedback on the **City of Toronto's draft Biodiversity Strategy**. The evening included a free snowshoe and bird feeding tour of the Arboretum for forum participants.
- Continual removal of invasive plant species: garlic mustard, dog strangling vine, invasive honey suckle, buckthorn, *Phragmites*, purple loosestrife, invasive alder, and goutweed.
- Coordinated with the **Toronto Wildlife Centre** regarding three animals found injured within the grounds; one yellow warbler was successfully rehabilitated and released in time to take part in fall migration.
- Initiated a new partnership with LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) to offer their **Tree Tender Training program** at the Centre for Urban Ecology. This multi-day course prepared 17 community members to be active caregivers and advocates for the urban canopy.
- With Humber College students, replaced and/or built 16 bird boxes, resulting in an increased population of tree swallow hatchlings!
- Created 8 new "mouse houses" to help field mice survive the cold winter.
- With the help of Humber College and local community members, planted 100 native trees and shrubs donated by the City of Toronto Urban Forestry Department.



Citizen Science

Through partnerships with organizations and the community, the Humber Arboretum continues to increase both engagement in on-site citizen science and our support for external projects. These include:

- **eBird:** This year, staff and visitors added 7 new species to the Centre for Urban Ecology eBird hotspot list—including the orchard oriole, scarlet tanager, and ruby-throated hummingbird—bringing the species total to 92. Across the wider Arboretum and Humberwoods grounds, a common loon was reported, bringing the hotspot total to 152 species. Three public walks and an eBird workshop for Humber Arboretum Ambassadors helped build knowledge so more people could contribute to the database.
- **iNaturalist:** A new iNaturalist account was created to share observations gathered by Nature Camp and Jr. Naturalist campers and counsellors (@NatureCamp). The Jr. Naturalists were introduced to iNaturalist as both an ID tool and as a means to contribute to citizen science. So far, ten entries based on campers' observations have been designated as "Research Grade" in the database.
- **Nest Monitoring:** Humber College students in the Learning by Leading (TM) program numbered and mapped nest boxes to support the ongoing monitoring undertaken by an experienced community member. Twenty-one nest boxes exist on site; this year 71 young tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) successfully fledged from 14 nests, an increase from the 65 fledglings the previous summer!

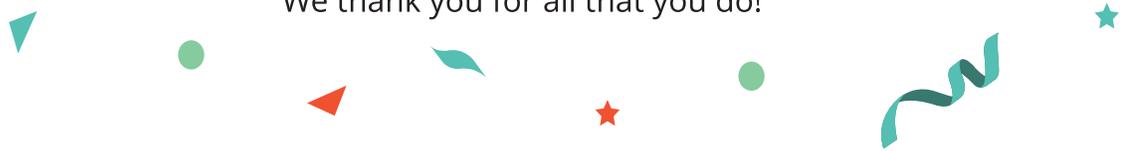


Thank You



Our accomplishments are made possible because of the support of our **founding partners—Humber College, City of Toronto, and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)—as well as our volunteers and community partners.**

We thank you for all that you do!



Our supporters



≥ \$1,000 – \$10,000

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- George Myhal
- Helen Skinner
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- University of California at Davis Arboretum and Public Garden
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- World Wildlife Fund Canada



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- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Healthy Kids Community Challenge Rexdale
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



\$50,000+

- City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- Humber College
- Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA)

Our Partners

- Albion Neighbourhood Services
- Bird Studies Canada
- Climate's Sake / ACER
- EcoSpark
- Ernestine's Women's Shelter
- Etobicoke Master Gardeners
- FoodShare
- Four Legs or Wings Pets
- Friends of Sam Smith Park
- Humberwood library
- IGNITE
- Kids Up Front
- LEAF – Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests
- Project Soul
- Rexdale Community Health Centre
- State Botanical Garden of Georgia
- Sticky Bees Urban Honey
- UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden
- Urban Toronto Beekeepers Association

Special Thanks

Fran Freeman and **John Coffman** for their care of the Arboretum's honeybees

Rob Mueller for his contributions to bird nest monitoring

Urška and **Peter Kreže** for their contributions to winter bird feeder maintenance

Debbie Wood for her contributions to monarch raising and education

Ken MacGillivray for his contribution to chestnut propagation

The Humber Arboretum Ambassadors

Learning by Leading™ students

UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden for their mentorship and support of our Learning by Leading™ program

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This work at the Humber Arboretum is made possible through the support and collaboration of our three founding partners – Humber College, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and the City of Toronto.



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