

Ground Level Sustainability

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This article is about a four-minute read.

When you enter either of Humber's campuses, one of the first things you will notice is the beautiful display of greenery and nature.

Lakeshore campus is situated right along Lake Ontario and neighbours Colonel Sam Smith Park, a popular hiking and bird watching destination.



Above: Toronto skyline as seen from Colonel Sam Smith Park

North campus, although surrounded by a more industrial setting, boasts the Arboretum and many gardens that have a hidden benefit – they supply food to native pollinators.



Above: Humber Arboretum

The pollinator gardens at North campus are maintained by the Site Services team. Scott Iles, Site Services Coordinator, says that grounds maintenance is often overlooked when considering sustainability, but plants have a large impact on water, climate and the environment.

Scott started working at Humber over 15 years ago when his father-in-law referred him for a job. With a previous background working at golf courses, Scott was excited to continue to be able to work outdoors with his hands.

Article continued. Scott is most proud of the work done on

transforming Humber College into a more native pollinator friendly environment. This can be seen through projects such as B entrance, bioswale (between parking lot 8 and 10), and the double triangle beds by the old registration building.

Scott and his team work to make sure that the campuses are free of litter, waste is sorted correctly, and they also plant all kinds of vegetation.

Recently, the team was awarded the Toronto Urban Forestry Tree Grant which Scott's colleague, Roman Fuzak, applied for. This grant will allow Humber to plant many different native plants and trees which will be selected to have significant value to Indigenous Peoples to educate the community. Native plants are important as they are better suited for our environment by being more drought, climate and weather tolerant.

"The more gardens we can switch over to native plants, the better, as there will be less maintenance and less diseases down the road."

Over 52 trees and 500 shrubs have been planted this year alone!

Scott believes that sustainability is important because it "helps maintain something that is bigger than you." He also believes in passing knowledge down to his children as his mom did the same to him when he was growing up.

In his spare time, Scott also works on pollinator gardens at his home, and he hopes to eventually get solar panels and start an organic farm with ducks and quails.



Above: Before and after of B Entrance

For anyone wanting to get involved in building pollinator gardens, Scott encourages folks to do their research as he has made the mistake of planting invasive plants that ended up spreading everywhere and were very hard to get rid of!

To learn more about pollinator gardens [click here.](#)