

# 2017 Year in Review

Thanks to you, we're **ready** to make a difference.

## Thank you for your continued support

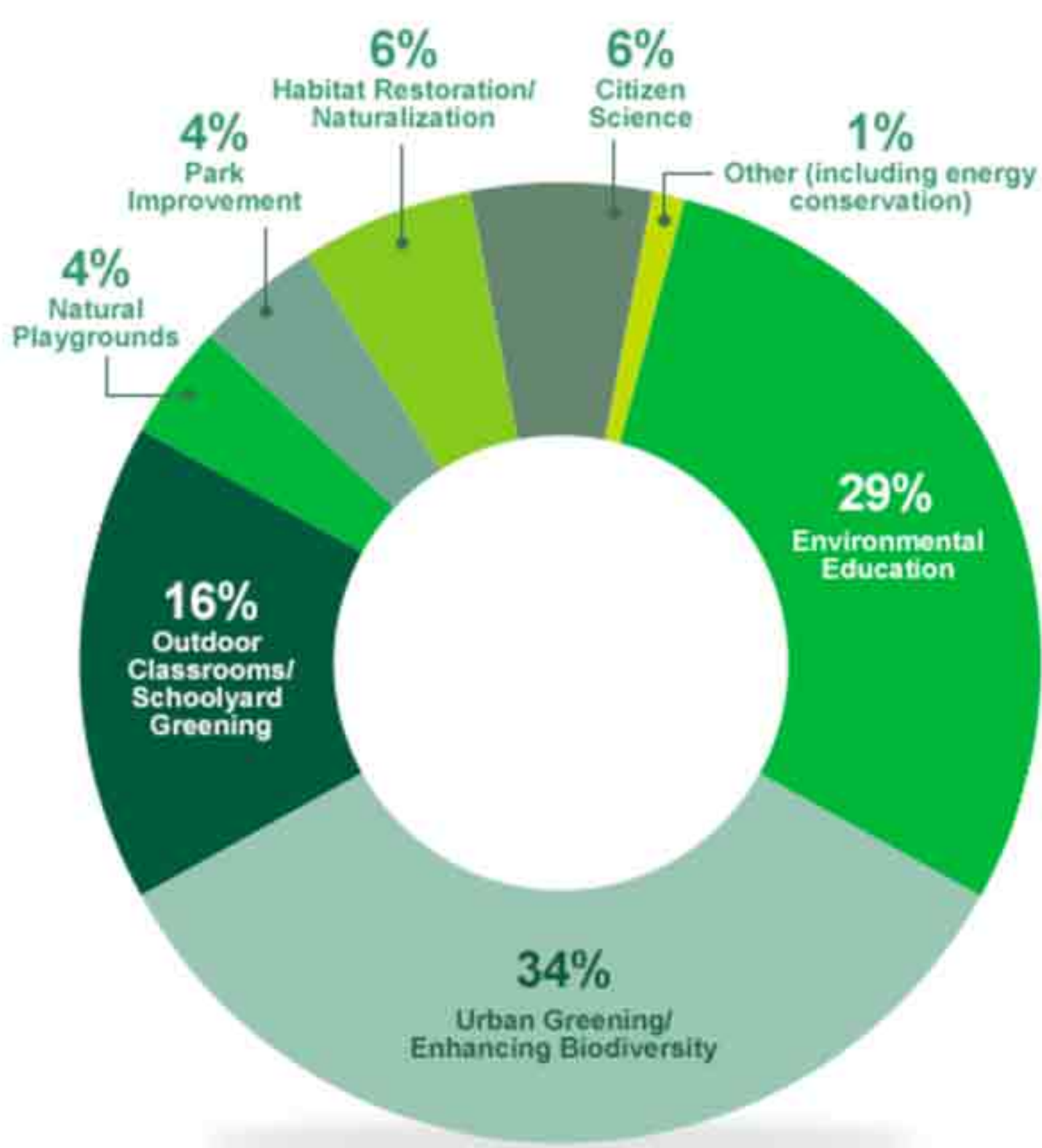
Your generous support has helped us green where you live. In 2017, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) has supported more than 600 local environmental projects across Canada. Many of those projects focus on local green spaces – places where we come together to relax, play and find common ground.

Through the **TD Common Ground Project**, we also invested in community green spaces to bring even more people together. In recognition of Canada's 150th birthday, in 2017 we granted more than \$3 million to over 280 community environment projects, from outdoor classrooms and park revitalizations, to citizen science projects and bioblitzes. With your support, we will continue to grow and care for our environment, by helping to make Canada a greener place.



### Every dollar counts

TD FEF puts 100% of every donation to work for the environment. How? All of TD FEF's administrative costs are covered by TD Bank Group.



### Where your donations go

Take a look at the difference you helped make in 2017.



**200 K+**

Donors

**603 +**

Projects

**6 + M**

Funding

## TD Common Ground: A legacy of 150+ green spaces

Here's a sampling of some of our **TD Common Ground Project** projects.

### School ground greening

**154**

#### SCHOOLS WERE SUPPORTED

in implementing naturalized areas, natural playgrounds and outdoor classrooms.



### Citizen scientists

**48**

#### PROJECTS CONNECTED

hundreds of local community members to parks and green spaces through hands-on participatory data collection, including bioblitzes.



### Parks and trails

**39**

#### TRAILS THROUGH PARKS AND GREEN SPACES WERE CREATED

or enhanced through surfacing upgrades, boardwalk construction and the addition of educational signs.



## Local project highlights

The 603 grassroots projects funded by TD FEF in 2017 have turned your donations into positive change by greening communities like yours from the ground up.

From tree plantings and outdoor classrooms to environmental education and restoration efforts, these local projects brought together people of all ages who are committed to protecting the environment in their own backyards and across Canada.

## 2017 TD FEF-funded projects by region

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>National Programs</b><br>\$863,745*<br>2 PROJECTS | <b>Prairie</b><br>\$927,175*<br>95 PROJECTS                  | <b>Western Ontario</b><br>\$1,069,840*<br>136 PROJECTS      | <b>Quebec</b><br>\$335,391*<br>41 PROJECTS   |
| <b>Pacific</b><br>\$693,528*<br>100 PROJECTS         | <b>Ontario North &amp; East</b><br>\$672,606*<br>91 PROJECTS | <b>Greater Toronto Area</b><br>\$1,161,545*<br>107 PROJECTS | <b>Atlantic</b><br>\$300,787*<br>31 PROJECTS |

\*Total rounded up to the nearest whole dollar amount.

From creating community gardens to improving the accessibility of nature trails, our local projects are helping to enrich the environment in communities like yours across Canada.



## TD Tree Days milestone: 300,000th tree planted

Healthy forests and urban green spaces are important to maintain healthy, vibrant and inclusive communities. That's why TD Tree Days has been committed to greening communities across Canada since 2010, with the help of TD employees, their friends and families, and community volunteers across the country.

### Milestone planting: 300,000<sup>th</sup> tree

This year, a significant milestone was reached for TD Tree Days with the planting of the 300,000<sup>th</sup> tree in Brookside Park in London, Ontario.

London was chosen as the location to plant this milestone tree because of TD's long history in the community.

Since 2010, with the help of more than 1,750 volunteers, the London community has added more than 15,000 native trees and shrubs to the local tree canopy. Here are some of the other plantings that happened as part of TD Tree Days' milestone year:

### Greening Fort McMurray

The 2016 Horse River wildfire devastated Fort McMurray, Alberta, and much of the area's green spaces, including Vista Ridge Park. To help reforest the all-seasons park, TD Tree Days planted 315 trees and shrubs in September, following the national FireSmart guidelines – a program designed to reduce the risk of wildfires to homes and neighbourhoods.

The Vista Ridge event focused on planting fire-resistant trees and shrubs, such as lodgepole pine, larch tamaracks, white spruce and balsam poplar.

### Living tribute to Canada's veterans

The section of Highway 401 that stretches from Glen Miller Road in Trenton, Ontario, to Toronto's Don Valley Parkway is known as the Highway of Heroes, as it is often travelled by a convoy of vehicles carrying a fallen soldier's body.

The goal of the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute, launched in 2015, is to plant two million trees – one "service tree" for every Canadian who has served our country. Of these trees, 117,000 "hero trees" are being planted to recognize those Canadians who sacrificed their lives in war.

This year, TD Tree Days organized two Highway of Heroes plantings in Downsview Park in Toronto. Over 100 volunteers of all ages came out to plant 500 service trees and learn about the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute program. To date, almost 8,000 hero trees and 9,000 service trees have been planted along the Highway of Heroes.

### TD Common Ground Project: 150+ green spaces that bring us together



Canada's forests and green spaces are home to countless species, produce oxygen, filter the air and moderate temperatures. These natural areas are not only essential to a healthy environment but also bring us together to find common ground.

In recognition of Canada's 150th birthday, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) held a special funding round that supported more than 150 local community-driven environmental initiatives across the country to create a legacy of greener communities for future generations.



## Prairie

Prairie region is home to 95 community initiatives, which were supported with \$927,175 in funding. Here are highlights from three grassroots projects that made a difference in the region.

### Westgate School: Sowing Seeds of Sustainability, Calgary, Alberta



Students at Calgary's Westgate School – where half the classrooms have no windows or natural light – now have an outdoor classroom where the 665 pupils in grades one to six can study and explore nature firsthand.

With the support of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), raised planter boxes were installed and pollinator beds were planted, maintained and harvested by students. Native shrubs and trees were also planted to further naturalize the space, and a natural covered seating area added to provide space for teaching, as well as neighbourhood gatherings.

All 31 classes at the school will pitch in to take care of the gardens and engage in lessons and discussions on plant life and Alberta's diverse landscapes and ecosystems.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ Thanks to the grant provided by TD FEF, Westgate School was able to transform the front of the school yard into a vibrant outdoor classroom. The outdoor space has provided many opportunities for rich learning for students in our school and has provided a space to gather as a community. ”

### University College of the North: Rosie Mayne Nochemek Trail, The Pas, Manitoba



The Rosie Mayne Nochemek Trail in The Pas runs close to an elementary school, the University College of the North (UCN) and the First Nations community of Opaskwayak. But students and community members hadn't been able to explore the trail in recent years, because it had been neglected and become unsafe for visitors.

With TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) funding, however, the 3.3-kilometre trail was made safer and more accessible to visitors of all ages and levels of mobility, by clearing fallen debris, downed power lines, fallen trees and 10 years' worth of overgrowth.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ The TD FEF grant has helped us create connections not only between children and the environment by educating them on the importance of green space, but also the connection between us at University College of the North, community groups, including the Rotary Club and H4 club, and Kelsey Community School. The team that is working on creating this education space has brought like - minded educators and community groups together. Everyone benefits! ”



# Western Ontario

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) supported 136 environmental programs throughout western Ontario this year, with \$1,069,840 in funding. Here are two projects that made an important impact in local communities.

## Conservation Halton Foundation: Restoring Significant Ecosystems, Hamilton, Ontario



When 24 hectares of agricultural land were acquired by Hamilton’s Conservation Halton Foundation, a restoration plan was developed to restore 0.5 hectares of wetlands and 13 hectares of Carolinian Upland forest, along with a number of creeks and wildlife habitats.

The land, now called the Pleasant View Natural Area – Hopkins Tract, helps provide a natural corridor link between Lake Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment. More than 250 local community volunteers pitched in to clean up garbage, and plant oak, hickory and walnut tree nuts as well as seeds for native shrubs, trees, wildflowers and grasses. Volunteers also installed nesting boxes throughout the property to bring birds back to the area.

### FUNDING IMPACT

“ With support from TD FEF in 2017, Conservation Halton and community partners restored nine hectares of forest and wetland in Hamilton at the Hopkins Tract to connect a vital ecological corridor between Lake Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment. Over 320 kgs of native seed were planted and several wildlife habitat features installed, laying the foundations for this new important natural area. ”

## University of Waterloo: Urban Forest Revitalization and Research Project, Waterloo, Ontario



The University of Waterloo is home to more than just classrooms, students and professors. Situated on its campus is also a 5.3-hectare urban forest, parts of which may date back to Canada’s Confederation in 1867.

With support from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), the University is making efforts to revitalize this urban forest and combat invasive species that are affecting the biodiversity of its ecosystem and the chemical makeup of the water and soil. A key part of this revitalization effort is a “tree census,” which will provide baseline data for future stages of the restoration.

The vision is to restore the forest and turn it into a “living lab” for experiential teaching and learning, while engaging the community.

### FUNDING IMPACT

“ Previously, progress for the University of Waterloo Urban Forest project was slow and uneven. This past summer, TD FEF’s support allowed us to hire two students in the University of Waterloo co-operative education program, to work on the project for four months. This allowed us to complete phase 1 of this project, involving a census of more than 1,300 trees. We now have good knowledge of the vegetation in the Urban Forest, specifically the existing values and threats to ecological health. We can use this knowledge to plan future project phases, emphasizing more community, education and social outcomes. ”



## Quebec Region

The Quebec region is home to 41 programs, which were supported with \$335,391 in funding. Here are some highlights from two of the province's community-based environmental programs.

### Éco-quartier Louis-Riel/Comité de surveillance Louis-Riel: Development of trails at Boisé-Jean-Milot Park, Montreal, Quebec



Discovering a park in the middle of a busy city can be like finding an oasis in the desert. Both bring visitors joy and respite. Boisé-Jean-Milot is one such park, situated in Montreal's Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve borough and bounded by highways and heavily congested roads.

More than 20,000 people visit Boisé-Jean-Milot Park each year and now, thanks to funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), these visitors can enjoy both a new and an improved trail system. Improvements include the development of a new 200-metre trail, the planting of 50 trees and shrubs in the heart of the woods and the maintenance and restoration of all existing trails – including the removal of invasive plants and laying down mulch.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ There are few green spaces that are still wild in the city such as Boisé-Jean-Milot park, and the ones that do exist deserve to be protected. We believe one way of preserving them is by opening them up to the public by adding trails to the space. ”

### Héritage Saint-Bernard: Educational community ecological garden, Île Saint-Bernard, Quebec



Île Saint-Bernard (Saint Bernard Island), 20 minutes outside of Montreal, has a long, rich history. For more than 200 years, the Gray Nuns of Montreal lived on the island, planting an orchard and growing wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat and vegetables.

Now, with support from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), fresh, healthy food will once again be grown on the island, in a 266-square-metre ecological garden to be used as an open-air environmental classroom. The garden will also give local families in need access to affordable, fresh, healthy food.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ The garden project exceeded our expectations in its first year when it gained some impressive visibility from 230,000 visitors who came to explore Île Saint-Bernard every year. The garden never fails to impress. With support from TD FEF we were able to design a detailed development plan for the garden and purchase the necessary material and some interpretation panels. ”



## Pacific

Thanks to the generosity of West Coast donors, the Pacific region supported 100 projects this year with \$693,528 in funding. Here are some highlights of the exciting environmental work being done in communities throughout British Columbia.

### Habitat Acquisition Trust: Trincomali Nature Sanctuary Habitat Restoration, Galiano Island



Canada’s giant old-growth forests are environmental treasures, home to a range of diverse species and a rich forest canopy. British Columbia’s Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is helping to protect these ancient trees with a Coastal Fir restoration program at the Trincomali Nature Sanctuary on Galiano Island.

Galiano, which lies between Vancouver Island and B.C.’s Lower Mainland, was one of four locations for HAT green space restoration initiatives, with support from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF).

The other three restoration projects took place on Vancouver Island. More than 200 community volunteers helped with plantings at the Matson Conservation Area in Esquimalt, Oak Haven Park in Saanich and Havenwood Park in Colwood.

Protecting these ecosystems is vital to preserving these lands that provide critical habitat to hundreds of species.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ Thanks to the generous funding provided by TD FEF, 120 HAT volunteers removed over 35 cubic meters of priority invasive plants on ecologically sensitive lands! They also planted 600 native plants to enhance forage, pollinator diversity and abundance on four HAT protected natural areas. ”

### Stanley Park Ecology Society: Canada 150 Bioblitz, Vancouver Island



Vancouver’s Stanley Park is one of Canada’s most well-known and well-loved green spaces, as well as a national historic site. So it’s only fitting that the 400-hectare park was the site of a 24-hour bioblitz event in recognition of Canada’s 150th birthday.

In August, more than 1,000 community members became citizen scientists for the bioblitz – an intense 24 hours of hummingbird banding, bat netting and plant, bird and animal surveying. The goal? To seek, identify and record as many species as possible.

The event resulted in 448 species being recorded and the building of a more comprehensive ecological inventory of Stanley Park that will help the Ecological Society and the Vancouver Park Board manage and preserve the park for future generations.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ Thanks to the grant provided by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), we were able to bring the wildlife of Stanley Park to hundreds of people. This increased awareness of wildlife in our city will lead to appreciation and support for conservation of nature in Stanley Park and beyond. ”



## Ontario North and East

This year, 91 programs throughout northeastern Ontario were supported with \$672,606 in funding. Here, we look at two of the region’s community-based environmental programs.

### Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC): Wetland Centres of Excellence, New Liskeard, Ontario



As our global population increases and urban development expands, wildlife habitats – including wetlands – are increasingly threatened. The Wetland Centre of Excellence – New Liskeard (WCE) not only strives to restore and protect the area’s wetlands but also to use their habitat restoration programs as educational opportunities for local students.

With support from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), Timiskaming District Secondary School students mentored local elementary schools on wetland field trips at Hilliardton Marsh Research Centre (HMREC) through the WCE program. They also helped with trail clearing and banding birds.

Many of the student participants had been struggling in school for a variety of reasons, and the program not only helped improve the wetland area but also empowered students to face and overcome their own challenges.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ The funding from TD FEF helped to bring over 240 students out to experience Hilliardton Marsh and be involved in action projects related to the health of the wetland like bird banding. Students also learned about wetland importance during nature hikes and got up close and personal with the creatures living below the surface during critter dipping activities. This funding is critical to the program as we engage students that might not otherwise have an opportunity to participate in a field trip. ”

### Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board: Restoration of the Nature Trail, Delta, Ontario



A lot can happen to a walking trail over 40 years. For the four-kilometre trail in Lower Beverley Lake Township Park in Delta, Ontario, four decades had reduced the trail to a narrow strip overgrown with trees and vegetation.

With the support of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), the trail has been expanded to two meters in width, with culverts and stone replacing old foot bridges, making it accessible to visitors with mobility issues.

Local high school students volunteered to help plant 20 native trees along the trail, including Hemlock, Elm, Willow and Beech.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ The restoration of the trail is a perfect example of how a few people can make such a vast difference in the lives of so many. Thanks to the combined support of our partners, residents of the community will be able to experience the long-term advantages of the trail for several years. Support such as this has truly made a positive and long-lasting difference within the Delta community. ”



## Greater Toronto Area

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is home to 107 programs, supported by \$1,161,545 in funding. Here are just two of the many grassroots programs that TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) supported in the region.

### David Suzuki Foundation: Butterflyway Project, Markham, Ontario



Butterflies are beautiful to watch, but they also contribute to the health of our planet. They pollinate many types of flowers and play other important roles in the ecosystem. The Butterflyway Project aims to grow “highways” of habitat for butterflies, bees and other beneficial bugs.

With funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the David Suzuki Foundation trained 24 local residents to establish pollinator patches throughout their neighbourhood schools, parks and gardens – even canoe gardens, which turn old canoes that are no longer seaworthy into pollinator-friendly garden planters.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ The David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway Project aims to inspire the creation and enhancement of pollinator-friendly habitat in communities across the country. With TD FEF's generous support we've trained over 200 active volunteer Butterflyway Rangers, established over 250 pollinator gardens, and hosted dozens of events attended by more than 30,000 people. ”

### City of Mississauga: Silver Fox Forest Trail Improvements and Woodland Restoration, Mississauga, Ontario



Urban forests make cities more livable. They provide tranquil green spaces and community gathering areas, while improving air quality and reducing temperatures in the summer. Silver Fox Forest, in the heart of Mississauga, also provides a home for several plant species that are rarely found outside the forest.

Unfortunately, in 2016, this woodland was significantly impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle, which has killed tens of millions of ash trees across North America over the past several decades, and which left Silver Fox Forest vulnerable to other invasive species.

With support from TD FEF, the city's forestry unit engaged community volunteers to help with invasive species removal, replant native woodland species, and lay wood chips along the new, improved trail system. Restoration of Silver Fox Forest is helping to preserve and protect water quality and restore wildlife habitats.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ The Silver Fox Forest project was only a success because of TD FEF funding and the dedicated and passionate students and residents who volunteered their time. We'll be offering ongoing stewardship opportunities at Silver Fox Forest and encourage volunteers to continue to take part activities such as invasive species removal. ”



## Atlantic

This year, TD FEF supported 31 environmental projects in the Atlantic Region with \$300,787 in funding. Here are two initiatives from the region.

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### PEI Farm Centre: Urban Beehive Project, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



You have likely never seen beehives quite like these. Designed by architects Silva Stojak and Shallyn Murray, the Urban Beehive Project uses design as a vehicle to highlight the importance of bees in sustainability and food security. One of the goals of the eye-catching structures is to draw more attention to bees and what they do.

This three-year project, which began in 2016, will develop two demonstration honeybee hives per year at Legacy Gardens at the PEI Farm Centre in Charlottetown. With the support of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), the Centre plans to build an outdoor education area to teach the public about the importance of bees and beekeeping to local food production. This area will offer seating and an area for interpretive display panels during demonstrations, with additional educational signage surrounding the site.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ The TD FEF funding allowed us to develop a learning and gathering platform in the heart of our city where the community, schools and Islanders can come together to learn about the importance of bees and their impact on the environment. TD FEF’s support was essential to the success and growth of the Urban Beehive Project in becoming a key apiary centre in Canada. ”

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### Hanwell Rural Community: Nature Explore Certified Outdoor Classroom Project at Hanwell Recreation Park, Hanwell, New Brunswick



A bug hotel, a 300-year-old white pine tree and lichen are just some of the natural wonders you’ll encounter when exploring Hanwell Recreational Park’s Interactive Outdoor Classroom.

These features, and 14 more, can be found along a two-kilometre trail that winds through the forest. Other interactive areas include a bird and butterfly garden, complete with interpretive signage, a spider web climber, a nature art area, and a natural amphitheatre where music and movement help visitors deepen their connection to the natural world.

#### FUNDING IMPACT

“ Thanks to the grant, we were able to develop an outdoor classroom. This has increased traffic at the park and will ultimately benefit residents of Hanwell and surrounding areas through education and participation, including encouraging nearby schools to take advantage of the outdoor classroom. ”