



# 2018 Year in Review

**Together, we can  
help build a more  
sustainable tomorrow**

## **Your generous support is helping us create a more vibrant planet**

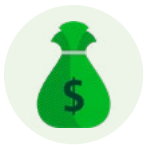
In 2018, thanks to the support of our donors, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) was able to help more than 600 local environmental projects become a reality in communities across Canada. Many of these projects focused on creating or revitalizing green spaces, where Canadians came together to play, learn, relax and find common ground. These green initiatives not only help create a more vibrant planet for people and wildlife, they deepen our connection to our natural world and to each other. These improvements would not be possible without your continued support.

TD FEF is proud to contribute to [The Ready Commitment](#), TD's corporate citizenship platform to help create a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow. We're committed to helping elevate the quality of the environment so that people and economies can thrive.



## Green by the numbers

Whether you donated money to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), helped fundraise, volunteered or were among many grassroots organizations helping drive change in the community, here's what we accomplished together in 2018.



**\$5.1+ Million**

Total amount donated to TD FEF by TD employees and customers



**170,000**

Number of donors who contributed to TD FEF in 2018



**642**

Number of local environmental projects supported across Canada



**100**

Percentage of TD FEF's administration costs covered by TD



**1 Million**

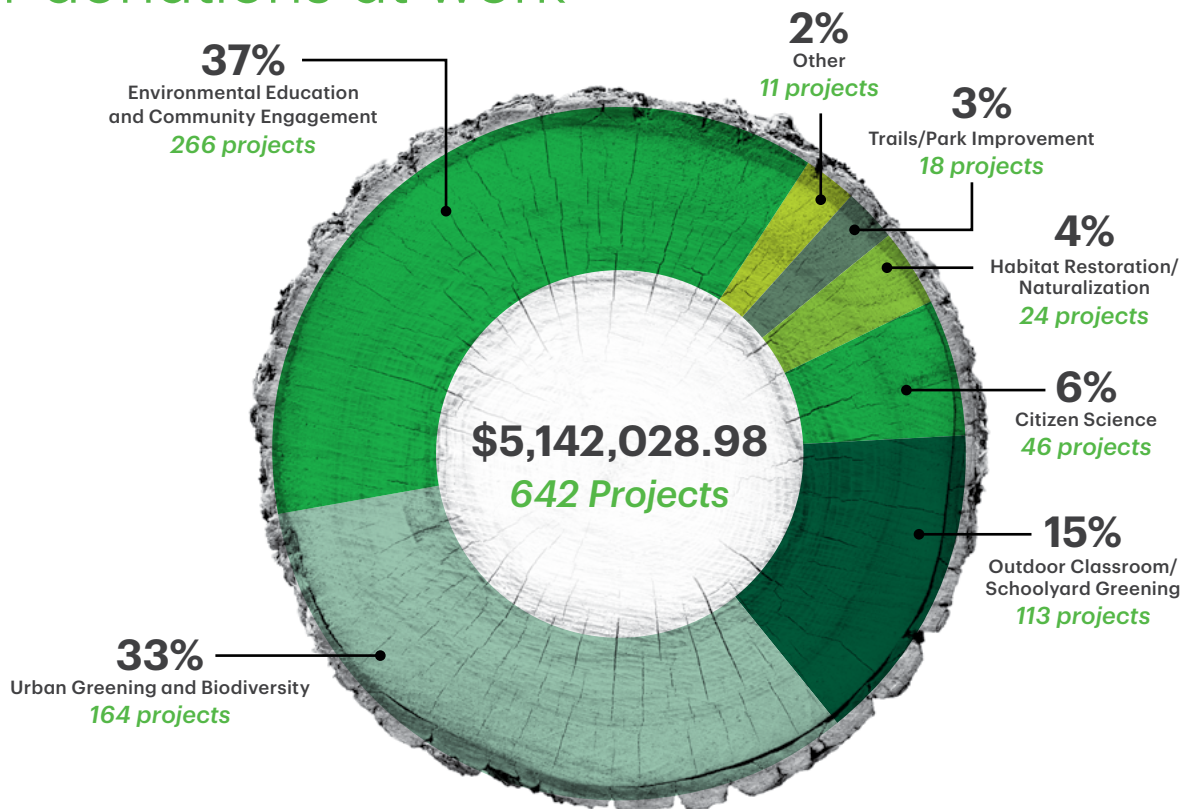
Additional funds donated by TD to support TD FEF grants and programs like TD Tree Days



**100**

Percentage of donations given to local initiatives: every dollar donated goes directly to fund local environmental projects

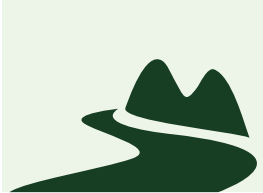
## Your donations at work





## Greening where you live

Here are a few local environmental improvements made possible by your support for TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF).



**18**

Trails created



**113**

Outdoor classrooms  
created and  
schoolyards greened



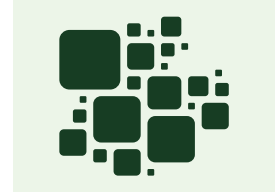
**164**

Urban areas  
greened



**242**

Green spaces  
activated



**541**

Organizations  
supported

## Projects funded in 2018\*

The **642** grassroots projects funded by TD FEF transformed your donations into positive change by helping to green communities from the ground up. From coordinating tree plantings and constructing outdoor classrooms to restoring waterways and building community gardens, these local projects brought together people of all ages to enhance the environment in their own backyards and across Canada.



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



## National program highlights

### TD Tree Days: Working toward our target of helping plant one million trees

Healthy forests and urban green spaces are important to maintaining resilient and inclusive communities. That's why TD Tree Days has been bringing people together since 2010. Trees have countless benefits, from absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and filtering the air to regulating temperature and providing habitats for wildlife. With support from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, TD employees with their families and friends, and local volunteers, we have been able to green more than **798** green spaces, and facilitate the planting of more than **384,000** native trees and shrubs throughout North America since 2010. These trees have absorbed roughly **5,768** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, — equal to the emissions released by 1,235 passenger vehicles in one year. As the trees grow and mature, they will capture even more carbon. With every tree planting event, TD Tree Days grows closer to reaching The Ready Commitment target of one million trees by 2030, growing and enhancing green spaces and helping to bring more people together through the outdoors.



### TD Tree Days by the numbers in 2018



**47,000+**

Native trees and shrubs added to the local tree canopy in 2018 through TD Tree Days



**9,770**

Volunteers of all ages who came together to help



**143**

Green spaces enhanced in 2018 for everyone to enjoy



**100+**

Local community organizations, including conservation authorities, municipalities and Indigenous communities, that supported TD Tree Days with technical expertise to ensure the right tree is planted in the right place



**11**

Deaf community plantings



**4**

Indigenous community plantings

## National program highlights (cont.)

### **TD Tree Days: Making a difference in Ottawa-Gatineau**

In September, hundreds of homes were destroyed when six twisters ripped through the Ottawa-Gatineau region, but that didn't stop TD Tree Days organizers and volunteers from coming together for their community.

The next morning, almost 300,000 people awoke with no electricity, phone or Internet service. Roads were littered with fallen trees and slowed by darkened traffic lights; it took more than an hour for site leader Blerta Mahmuti, Senior Analyst at TD, to make the 20-minute drive to the tree planting site. Despite the challenges, other locals also braved the conditions and worked together to brighten a stormy time with a splash of green.

In all, 20 volunteers from TD, the local community and the Canadian Wildlife Federation rolled up their sleeves to plant 88 native trees and shrubs. "The bright smiles and genuine enthusiasm of the volunteers made for a great day," said Sarah, a volunteer with the Canadian Wildlife Federation.





## National program highlights (cont.)

### Empowering environmental leaders

Green leaders went home from the second annual TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) Leadership Program with new skills and ideas to deepen their impact in the Canadian environmental sector.

Thanks to funding by TD FEF and the support of Anima Leadership, 21 environmental professionals from across Canada took part in the five-day program at YMCA Geneva Park. Workshops and guest speakers helped participants develop personal leadership awareness and skills organizational management skills, and strategic thinking and planning skills. They also explored the role of diversity in enhancing the impact of their organization and built relationships and a network to use as a resource.

“This program went beyond the day-to-day of leading an environmental non-profit, focusing on the very core of what we need to focus on to be effective at creating change,” said Claire, a program participant.



## Local project highlights: Pacific

Funding in British Columbia and the Yukon totaled \$626,447, which helped support 104 initiatives. Here are a couple of grassroots projects that benefited local communities.



### Documenting new species in Northern BC

Grant recipient: A Rocha Canada; Houston, BC

Scientists, local experts and volunteers came together to host a bioblitz like no other in Houston, BC.

What is a bioblitz? It's an intensive field study that typically pairs professional scientists with amateur naturalists and students to count as many species as possible in 24 hours within a set boundary. A Rocha Canada's search for wildlife provided important data about the Upper Bulkley River watershed, while the short, overnight time frame made the survey feel like an adventure.

Thanks to funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and others, A Rocha Canada invited scientists to lead six citizen science research teams. Along with each team was a volunteer naturalist who would be mentored by the scientists, so they can lead future surveys. To increase accuracy and the number of species recorded, each team spent 24 hours searching, sampling, trapping and recording a different species: plants, birds, terrestrial insects, aquatic insects, fish and bats. In the end, the bioblitz added 40 species to the previous year's count, for a total of 262 species. The bioblitz discoveries were recorded in [iNaturalist](#), an app for naturalists, citizen scientists and biologists to map and share their observations of biodiversity across the globe.

#### On the ground

“As important as counting species was, the most satisfying part was the camaraderie amongst the scientist and naturalists who loved ‘geeking out’ with people who share their passion and excitement while discovering so many amazing creatures within our watershed. It's not often we get to do that and it felt great.”

—Cindy, Project Coordinator,  
A Rocha



## Local project highlights: Pacific (cont.)



### Connecting youth to nature in the Okanagan

**Grant recipient: Friends of Black Mountain/Sntsk'il'ntən Society; Kelowna, BC**

With sweeping views of Kelowna, the Okanagan Valley and Lake Okanagan, there's a lot to love about Black Mountain/Sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park. Thanks to a collaboration by local First Nation and non-First Nation students, and funding in part provided by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the 640-hectare park now has its first kilometre of interpretive trail to encourage safe exploration while protecting threatened grasslands and endangered species.

The collaboration between park staff, volunteers, naturalists and local youth represents the first time the people of Syilx First Nation were involved in a conservation project integrated into the larger community outside reserve land. After a Syilx blessing dance, groups of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth helped clear brush, debris and earth, then added gravel along environmentally sensitive portions of the new hiking route. The work was scheduled to ensure that a portion of the construction was truly collaborative, bringing together the young people from local First Nations and secondary schools.

#### On the ground

“It was fun to work with many students to introduce them to the park. I look forward to educating people about the importance of grasslands and why it is important to keep to the trails. Many birds, small animals, amphibians and reptiles make their homes in the grasslands and we should conserve this valuable habitat.”

–Carol, adult volunteer, Friends of Black Mountain Society



## Local project highlights: Prairies

The region that includes Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories distributed \$818,085 in funding to support 95 community initiatives. Here are the highlights from grassroots projects that made a difference in the region.



### Celebrating biological diversity in Assiniboine Park

**Grant recipient: Assiniboine Park Conservancy; Winnipeg, MB**

With the support of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the Assiniboine Park Conservancy planted the inaugural 85 trees in The Grove, a 10-acre space that offers a place to connect with nature and attend public workshops covering such topics as food and medicinal plants, the importance of protecting pollinators, botanical conservation and more. The Grove is part of an enhancement project called Canada's Diversity Gardens, a project led by the Assiniboine Park Conservancy to showcase a variety of tree species in Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park. The planting will provide a new green space for the more than four million visitors that come to the park each year and will provide better habitat and food sources for local wildlife, migrating birds and threatened pollinators.

Executing the planting project also offered rich learning opportunities for a variety of local experts. The project involved a collaboration by Conservancy horticulturalists, volunteers, the University of Manitoba Landscape Architecture department and volunteer master gardeners.

#### On the ground

“As a master gardener, it was great to get an opportunity to work alongside the park's gardeners in a hands-on planting experience. By planting the trees, we were able to make an enduring contribution to the future of the park. I've thought of how I can take my grandsons there and show them which trees I planted. When the trees all grow it will be a lovely little urban forest.”

*–Virginia, volunteer, Assiniboine Park Conservancy*

## Local project highlights: Prairies (cont.)



### Transforming unused space into an orchard

**Grant recipient: Heartland Beautification Committee; Stettler, AB**

Where there was once an underused public green space, now there's a new fruit orchard and park in Stettler, AB. With support from town council and the community, the Heartland Beautification Committee created the Stettler Community Orchard to show local residents the dynamic variety of plants that will thrive in the prairies with a little help from smart growing practices.

Thanks to donations from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) and local individuals and businesses, the Committee was able to improve soil quality, install a drip irrigation system and add mulch to reduce weeding and watering. When the project is complete, the one-acre orchard will comprise 500+ prairie-hardy fruit trees and shrubs (40 different varieties of 13 fruiting plants), as well as 1,500 perennial grasses and flowers. Signs help visitors identify the varieties and learn about how to tell the ripeness of the fruit.

#### On the ground

“ Thanks to the support of TD FEF, we were able to bring together community volunteers, businesses and the municipality to create an orchard that will be a beautiful place to visit now and for years to come. The orchard will also have an important effect on the natural environment and the fruits will help to address food security in our town.”

–Grace, Vice Chair, Heartland Beautification Committee



## Local project highlights: Greater Ontario

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) supported 149 environmental programs throughout Greater Ontario this year, with \$993,954 in funding. Read on to learn about the impact of two local projects.



### Putting down roots in Northern Ontario

**Grant recipient: The North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority; North Bay, ON**

Supported by TD FEF, two generations came together to plant trees for future generations in North Bay. For Grandchildren Planting Trees, the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA) engaged members of a local senior women's group to enlist their grandchildren to help plant 300 trees on the shores of Chippewa Creek, which runs through the heart of the City of North Bay. The trees are located adjacent to two well-used trails and will be enjoyed by thousands of visitors annually.

The NBMCA prepared the planting sites in advance to make digging easier for the seniors and youth. Trees for Nippissing advised on suitable native trees and showed volunteers how to properly plant them. The trees help restore the shoreline and provide more habitat for wildlife, while the planting experience created tangible, personal connections to nature for all ages.

#### On the ground

“Grandchildren Planting Trees was an inspiring event with 25 adults and 15 children planting 300 trees together. Grandparents appreciated creating a lasting memory with their offspring and the kids liked getting their hands dirty. Funding from TD FEF is so crucial in smaller northern communities like North Bay, where on-the-ground financial support is hard to secure. We couldn't do it without TD Friends of the Environment Foundation!”

–Sue, Manager, Communications and Outreach, NBMCA

## Local project highlights: Greater Ontario (cont.)



### Collecting vital species data around Ottawa

**Grant recipient: Ontario Nature; Ottawa, ON**

Vernal pools provide critical breeding habitat for amphibians, yet there's no recorded data on where these important seasonal pools of water occur in Ontario, nor how they're responding to climate change. That all changed this year when Ontario Nature used a grant from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation to organize the first-ever vernal pool bioblitz in the National Capital Region.

After teaching volunteers about the importance of vernal pools and proper data collection, expert biologists and their citizen scientists set about the bioblitz at Lost Bay Nature Reserve and surrounding conservation areas. They gathered information on the species present (including salamanders, frogs and invertebrates), vegetation, location, size, pool type, water level and maximum depth. The results will increase the collective knowledge base in the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, which tracks the distribution and spatial trends of reptiles and amphibians over time.

#### On the ground

“A total of 14 people participated in the bioblitz, which provided a hands-on training opportunity and helped to map the location of important wetland habitats. Participants learned how to collect information about key features associated with vernal pools, including how to identify amphibians and their egg masses. The event helped to educate participants about the importance of vernal pools and ensure that more information is collected about these critical breeding habitats across Ontario.”

—Emma, Conservation Projects and Education Manager, Ontario Nature



## Local project highlights: Metro East & West

A total of 191 grassroots environmental initiatives in Ontario's Greater Toronto Area received \$1.47 million in funding courtesy of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF). Here, we highlight the impact of two local projects.



### Helping pollinators thrive in the Greater Toronto Area

**Grant recipient: Sheridan College; Oakville, ON**

One of Ontario's most unwanted invasive species, the common buckthorn, was crowding out native species on the Sheridan College campus. Two years ago, the campus removed all the invasive buckthorn at the site and replaced it with a Wildflower Garden consisting of 300 wildflowers and native grasses to attract pollinators such as butterflies and bees. This year, TD FEF helped fund a second planting of native species, enhancing the pollinator garden and adding educational signage promoting the importance of biodiversity.

Enhancing its Wildflower Garden will not only reduce the odds that buckthorn will return, it also provides much-needed support for pollinators. Pollinators are critical to agriculture and landscapes, bringing us countless fruits, vegetables and nuts.

#### On the ground

“ Thanks to the support of TD FEF, we were able to offer the wildflower planting event as part of the Wildflower and Pollinator Protection and Enhancement Program this year. As a result of the wonderful work of our volunteers from the planting event, we have doubled the plants of wildflowers and native grass here and reduced the chance of buckthorn returning!”

–Wai Chu, Coordinator, Office of Sustainability, Sheridan College

## Local project highlights: Metro East & West (cont.)



### Learning in nature at Forest School in Vaughan

**Grant recipients:** Living City Foundation, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority; Vaughan, ON

For the past two years, the Kortright Centre for Conservation has fielded multiple requests by parents and teachers to expand its popular part-time forest school to a full-year, full-time program. Backed by research showing a variety of benefits, forest school brings children outdoors to steer their own learning experiences through their self-guided exploration of nature. Last year, The Nature School at Kortright became a full-time program.

Thanks in part to funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), the Living City Foundation, in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, built an outdoor classroom with seating for up to 30 children. A teaching garden was installed to help children learn about pollinators and food; the addition of a mud kitchen allows creativity and inquiry during play. Both spaces are enjoyed outside school hours by families visiting the Kortright Centre. Staff developed a full-time curriculum for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 students, including activities parents and teachers can recreate at home.

#### On the ground

“With generous support from TD FEF, The Nature School was able to increase the number of children engaging in environmental stewardship and learning at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. At The Nature School, children are able to explore and learn in a non-prescriptive natural environment that encourages a love of learning and inquiry that can lead to a future of environmental stewardship.”

–Carley, Teacher, Kortright Centre for Conservation



## Local project highlights: Quebec

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) granted \$313,990 to 56 grassroots environmental projects in Quebec. Here, we focus on the impact of two local projects.



### Planting a prairie for pollinators on Montreal's south shore

**Grant recipient: Nature-Action Québec; Boucherville, QC**

What do you do with an old agricultural field that is no longer suitable for growing crops? Plant a native prairie to nurture butterflies, bees and other pollinators vital to growing a variety of foods.

Nature-Action Québec (NAQ) owns more than 86 hectares of land at the Boisé du Tremblay, a woodlot in Boucherville recognized as a nature reserve by the Province of Quebec for its natural character and ecological value.

Thanks to funding from TD FEF and others, NAQ took steps to ensure the habitat's biodiversity by seeding a meadow rich in indigenous plants such as milkweed, an essential food for the monarch butterfly. They also installed insect hotels that serve as refuges and breeding sites for native bees. Next came education: an interpretive sign was installed on a public trail near the prairie to help visitors learn about the importance of preserving pollinator habitats. Finally, NAQ worked with a local agriculture group to offer workshops to farmers to encourage them to develop these types of prairies on land where they're unable to cultivate other crops.

#### On the ground

“These activities have been very rewarding for both our team and our volunteers. By participating in the project, they had the chance to take concrete action for a cause that is important to them — the protection of natural environments and wildlife. These volunteer activities and other community connections, such as the installation of an interpretative panel and the farmers' workshop, allowed us to raise awareness while ensuring project outreach. We hope that our meadow will be able to extend its reach by inspiring similar restoration projects!”

—Alexandrine, Agente de projets, NAQ

## Local project highlights: Quebec (cont.)



### Creating an urban oasis for pollinators

Grant recipient: Le Projet Harmonie; Montreal, QC

By creating a safe haven for monarch butterflies, residents of La Pépinière in Mercier-Ouest are raising awareness about a threatened species of pollinator and taking action to protect biodiversity in Montreal.

Supported by funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Le Projet Harmonie helped highlight to residents the importance of pollinators in the food cycle and ecosystem. In an abandoned parking lot on La Pépinière's site, which had previously been transformed into an urban greenhouse and gardens, the group worked with residents aged two to 99 to create pollinator hotels and a butterfly aviary. They planted nectar-producing plants (such as foxglove and milkweed) with different flowering periods to offer a "pantry" for the insects, adding stones, insect waterers and sand hills to round out the habitat for monarchs. Through workshops, residents received planting instructions and learned the importance of protecting pollinators. Children were introduced to the life cycle by watching the transformation from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. They also participated in a butterfly release with a local daycare centre.

#### On the ground

“ The monarch project was particularly enriching for the children aged two to five. Watching the transformation of a butterfly is magical but also very informative, since it affects agriculture, flowers, insects, and travel to distant countries. The children were amazed to see the transformation of the caterpillars and especially excited to release the butterflies to freedom.”

—Édith, éducatrice à la halte-garderie, Projet Harmonie



## Local project highlights: Atlantic

Thanks to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), 43 environmental projects in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland received \$252,876 in funding. Read on for highlights of two local initiatives.



### Growing gardens alongside communities in Saint John

**Grant recipient: Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) Saint John; Saint John, NB**

In a public greenspace at the centre of a socio-economically challenged neighbourhood, Saint John residents now have a unique vegetable garden in a shipping container — and the skills to grow their own food.

Funded in part by TD FEF, ACAP Saint John found a permanent home for the container, turning it into a demonstration garden to create long-term food security in Waterloo Village, a vulnerable community with limited access to a stable food supply and healthy, vibrant green space. The Sustainer Container, an architecturally modified shipping container, was relocated to Chown Field, a multi-use green space. With help from volunteers and community members, ACAP Saint John planted vegetables and added a rain barrel to promote water conservation. Through outreach workshops, ACAP Saint John helped educate young people on urban gardening, harvesting and storing vegetables and how to collect rainwater to increase the fresh water supply. The community maintains the garden, harvests vegetables as needed, while donating surplus to local organizations such as soup kitchens and food banks.

#### On the ground

“Through the support of TD FEF, we were able to deliver urban garden workshops to hundreds of youth and community members throughout the City of Saint John. The Sustainer Container provided fresh vegetables to the neighbourhood, and the chance for people to learn about food security and growing their own vegetables in the comfort of their homes.”

—Shauna, Conservation Coordinator, ACAP Saint John

## Local project highlights: Atlantic (cont.)



### Nurturing pollinators and generations in PEI

**Grant recipient: Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association; Summerside, PEI**

Pollinators have five hectares of new habitat — and young people and seniors have forged new connections — thanks to an innovative intergenerational program that nurtured bees, butterflies and people in Summerside, PEI.

Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association (BBEMA) enlisted local boy scouts, middle school students and resident groups from local seniors' homes for a landscaping project that did more than boost curb appeal. The volunteers collaborated with local organizations, and teachers to research and build 10 pollinator gardens around two seniors' residences. Funded in part by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the teams added 200 nectar-producing plants and 100 native flowering trees and shrubs. After their hands-on experiences, students developed presentations for younger classes to help spread awareness about these insects and their critical roles in supporting biodiversity, our food supply and sustainability. Seniors will play an ongoing role in nurturing the gardens together, gaining many benefits from socializing, staying active and feeling a sense of purpose.

#### On the ground

“Over the past 8 years I have had the pleasure of working on many different projects, but I feel that this project — creating habitat for pollinators — has been one of the more rewarding. Not only was it perfectly timed to help combat a global trend in pollinator decline but it was highly engaging on a community level. This project piqued the interest of young and old alike, bringing them together to create amazing spaces for all to enjoy.”

—Chris, Education and Outreach Coordinator, BBEMA