

Natural Environment & Community Programs

Annual Report 2025

The Natural Environment & Community Programs unit improves the health of the urban forest and connects residents to the natural environment. The following summarizes NECP's progress. Contact us at greentoronto@toronto.ca with any questions.

Overall Summary	
# Trees and shrubs	12,945
# Herbaceous plants	2,040
# Trees, shrubs, and herbaceous planted	14,985
# Engagement events	307
# Volunteers	4,437
# Volunteer hours	13,377
# People engaged	5,330
# NIAs/ENs/LTE score neighbourhoods engaged (25 Wards)	27
# Strategic partners	39
Area planted (ha)	2.98
Area improved (ha)	13.9

Program Summary	
Planting and Stewardship Events	
# Planting events	30
# Stewardship events	13
# Volunteers	4054
Community Stewardship Program	
# Sessions (in 9 sites)	154
# Volunteers	351
Education and Outreach Program	
# Events (virtual, tours, presentations, Spring Bird Festival etc.)	110
# People engaged	5,330

Annual Highlights

Planting & Stewardship Events

Engaging communities in their neighbourhoods to help grow Toronto's urban forest.

- 1st Toronto Public Service Week Tree Planting Event at Sunnybrook Park.
- 2nd Trick-or-trees Halloween Event with a costume contest, treats and a tree giveaway by the Tree Grants and Incentives Team.
- 3rd annual 2SLGBTQ+ Pride Tree Planting Event, in partnership with Friends of Hanlan's.



Education & Outreach

Nature-focused talks and tours for students, community groups and interested residents.

- Expanded seasonal park-based public tours, increasing topic coverage beyond trees and boosting frequency of events in winter and summer.
- Supported the successful launch of Biidassige Park by hosting nine guided tours for over 400 participants during the 8-week opening program, introducing and contextualizing Toronto's newest river and parkland.



Community Stewardship Program

Volunteers care for natural areas across the city, through invasives management, planting & monitoring.

- Hosted our first Spring Celebration Ceremony to more meaningfully incorporate Indigenous learning into our programming to open our stewardship season.
- Nine educational workshops delivered by subject experts ranging from bats to fungus.



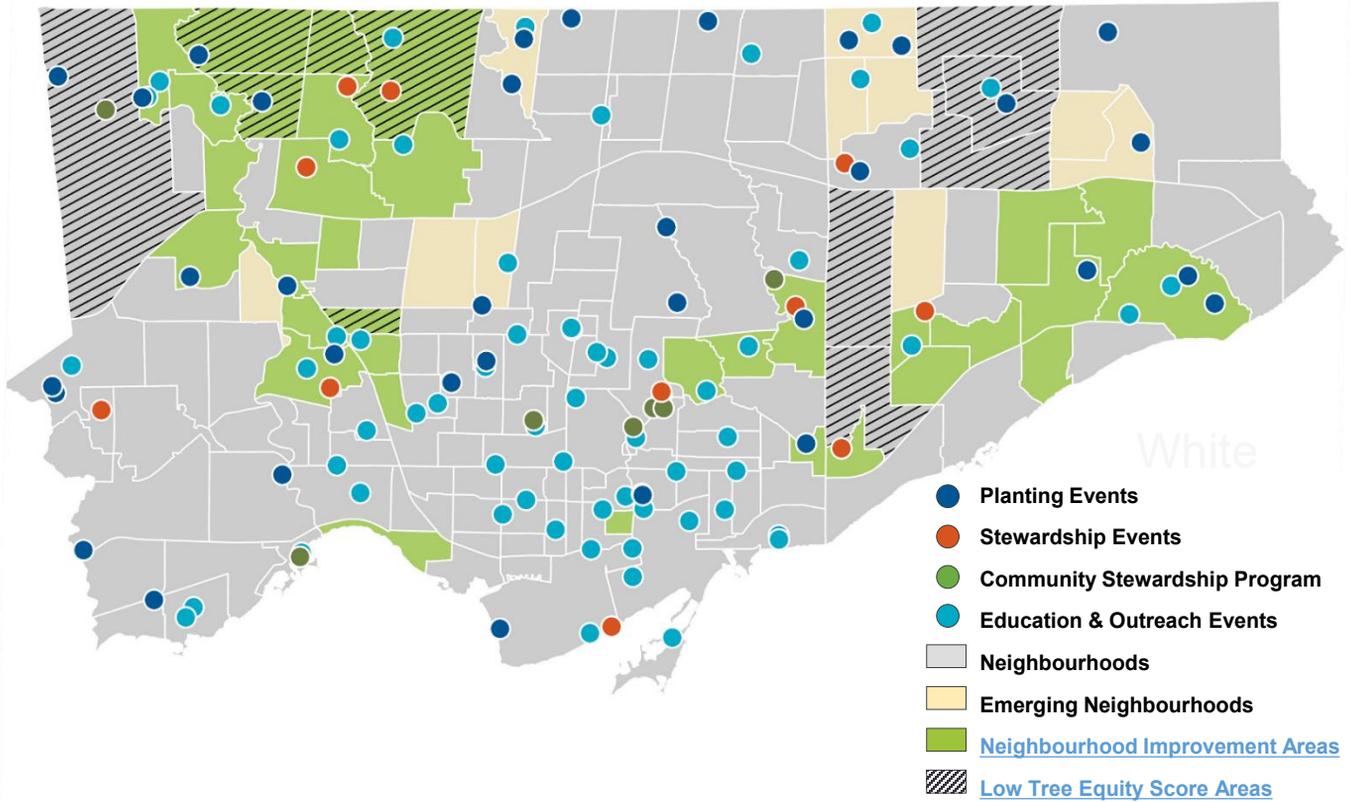
Partnerships

- Sustained and grew our partnership with Toronto Public Library, delivering 52 nature-focused events for 780 patrons across 40 branches.
- 2nd annual Newcomer Tree Planting Event held in partnership with Park People, Live Green, and Steps Public Art, with additional collaboration from the TRCA and the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture.
- Initiated the Toronto Field Naturalist monitoring program at four Community Stewardship Program sites (Nordheimer Ravine, Don Valley Brick Works, Cottonwood Flats, and Beechwood Wetland).



Environment, Climate & Forestry
Natural Environment and Community Programs

Engagement Events



Program Feedback



Thank you for a wonderful event yesterday. Your turn out was amazing!

To me, it looks like you & your team did a terrific job welcoming many different people, families, school groups and corporate teams to the event and teaching them how to plant properly for great results.

Thank you again for your tremendous work to make Toronto greener!



Thanks for a great event this morning! Your team is a well-oiled machine! My son had a great time and learned about tree planting for the first time. Thanks again.





Tree Planting & Stewardship

Overall	
# Planting events	30
# Stewardship events	13
# Volunteers	4,054
# Tree Planting Captains	32
# Woody plants	11,196
# Herbaceous plants	290
Area planted (ha)	1.6
Area managed (ha)	2



I wanted to thank you for hosting such a wonderful Tree Planting event last Saturday! The ceremony that Grandmother Vivian led was really impactful for both me and the Young Urban Forestry Leaders - plus I truly haven't stopped thinking about the coyote that came out at the beginning of it.

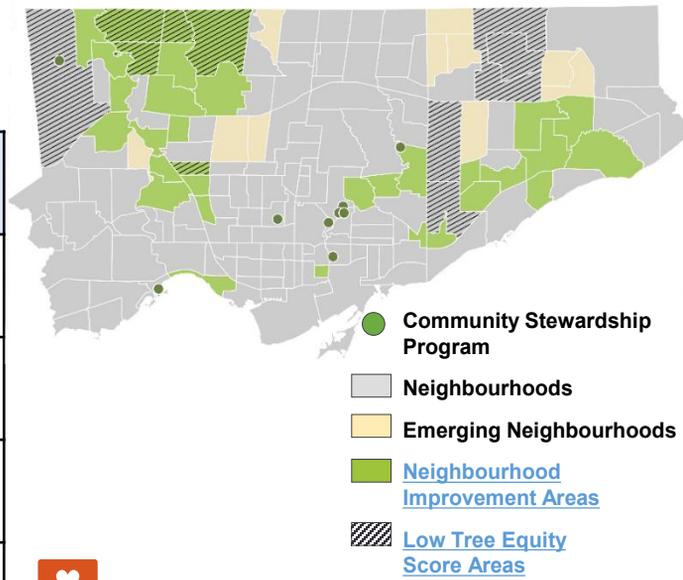
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Community Stewardship Program

Overall	
# CSP teams	9
# Volunteers	351
# Volunteer hours	4,813
# Sessions	154
# Woody plants	1,749
# Herbaceous plants	1,750
Area planted (ha)	1.38
Area managed (ha)	11.89
Trail length managed (km)	5.27



This is a great program - I volunteered last season with the Crothers Woods group and it was a wonderful way to spend an evening in the woods, lending a little care to a space in the city I love - highly recommended!

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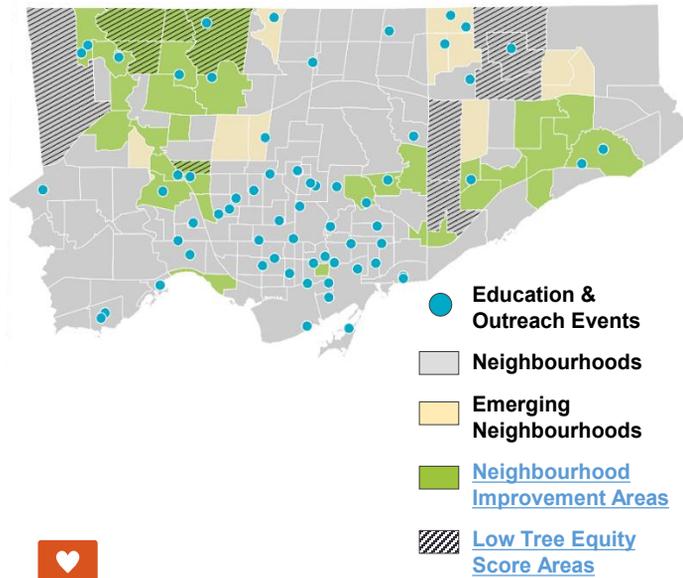
Education and Outreach

Overall	
# Tours and presentations	110
# Virtual events	12
# School events	12
# People engaged	5,330

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Thank you for the Biidaasige Park Urban Forestry Nature Tour. I went on the tour with Mark & Lam, and they were both incredible. Please extend my appreciation to them for a knowledgeable, enjoyable tour. That was my first time at the park, and it felt like the perfect introduction.



Our thanks to Aliya and Doreen...they were very friendly & approachable. Their delivery was loud & clear as well despite the wind. We look forward to joining future events and are grateful the City offers this program.



Communications

Social Media	
# Facebook followers	13,459
# Instagram followers	24,000
# Social media engagements	>5 million

Newsletters			
As of Nov. 19, 2025	Open Rate (%)	Click Rate (%)	Subscribers
Industry Standard	35.63	2.62	N/A
Green Toronto	37.69	23.96	7,917
CSP	38.39	17.16	840

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green toronto



Two volunteers removing invasive Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) seedheads during a summer stewardship at L'Amoreaux North Park in 2024.



Loved this newsletter and you got some good laughs out of me in the red wing black bird tips. Nicely done.

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