

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



2019 has been an unbe**LEAF**able year filled with great successes and new opportunities. Together, we accomplished amazing things!



Planting with LEAF **2019 UPDATES**



We planted **1,160** native trees and shrubs through the Backyard Tree Planting Program to over **400** property owners.



IN 2019, WE PLANTED IN...

Toronto • Ajax • Aurora • East Gwillimbury • Georgina • King
Markham • Newmarket • Richmond Hill • Vaughan
Whitchurch-Stouffville

In addition to the trees planted, we distributed **500** trees to **154** property owners through the new York Region Tree Sale.



THE YORK REGION TREE SALE

This pilot program aimed to increase private tree planting in York Region. Property owners purchased discounted LEAF trees through an online sale and picked them up during a one-day event.

We increased habitat by selling **72** Native Garden Kits



2019 GARDEN KITS

Butterfly Kit • Songbird Kit • Native Bee Kit • Shade Thriving Kit
Small/Large Yard Options



We planted **42** native trees at two Toronto housing co-operatives through a new partnership with HomeStarts.

THE MULTI-UNITS & BUSINESSES SUBSIDIZED PLANTING PROGRAM

A planting program specifically designed for large-scale plantings at residential multi-unit or commercial properties.



THE TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION (TCHC) PLANTING AND STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

aims to increase urban forest canopy cover and achieve environmental and quality of life benefits for TCHC tenants by planting trees and engaging the local community in their stewardship.

In 2019, we grew the TCHC Planting and Stewardship Initiative:

- **8** new sites in East Toronto
- **75** new trees planted
- **230** native shrubs distributed
- **220** tenants engaged



To further promote planting on private property, we gave away over **800** free, native shrubs in Toronto and York Region.

Shrub giveaways were hosted as part of other LEAF events (community tree planting events, Leslieville, etc.). We hosted **16** shrubs giveaways.



THE BENEFITS OF PLANTING SHRUBS

1. Increase privacy
2. Enhance local biodiversity
3. Filter air pollution
4. Improve mental health
5. Provide tasty snacks (shrubs with edible fruits, only!)



Volunteering with LEAF **2019 UPDATES**

LEAF volunteers represent LEAF at community events, participate in planting and stewardship events, photograph our events, care for the Urban Forest Demonstration Gardens and much more! 2019 highlights:

- **58** new volunteers
- **7** volunteer orientation sessions
- **239** active volunteers
- **4,324** total volunteer hours



COMMUNITY OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

Our outreach team educate the public on the benefits of the urban forest and encourage them to take action. This year, they represented LEAF at **49 community events** throughout Toronto, York Region and Ajax and spoke to over **1,900 residents**.

Over **1,300** volunteers planted **2,500** native trees and shrubs on public land.



CITY OF RICHMOND HILL

- Five planting events at Meander Park
- Naturalized 6,400 m² of parkland



TOWNSHIP OF KING

- Two planting events at the Schomberg Community Farm and the King Municipal Office
- Naturalized 1,600 m² of land

The LEAF Learning Garden at Wychwood Barns Park and our five Urban Forest Demonstration Gardens were cared for by **56** volunteer garden stewards.

THE URBAN FOREST DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

These gardens showcase the beauty of native species, demonstrate the possibility of naturalized areas in urban centres and provide an opportunity for local residents to play an active role in improving their communities.

LOCATED OUTSIDE TTC STATIONS:

Bathurst • High Park • Old Mill
Spadina • St. Clair



Adopt-a-Street-Tree volunteers continued to steward Toronto street trees through regular watering, mulching and weeding.



ADOPT-A-STREET-TREE PROJECTS

Bloordale • Bloorcourt • Junction • Liberty Village



Learning with LEAF

2019 UPDATES

53 individuals graduated from our Tree Tenders Volunteer Training course. Lessons include:

- Tree anatomy and functions
- Trees and soils
- Tree identification
- Tree planting and care
- Municipal bylaws and policies



“Leaving Tree Tenders, I feel inspired and equipped to go out and advocate for our urban forest!”

“Learning about trees makes me so grateful for them. Learning about buds and flowers, I experienced spring in a whole new way, noticing all the life above me in the trees that I’d never seen before!”



Our Young Urban Forest Leaders program provided five months of training and mentorship to youth. 2019 highlights include:

- **13** participants
- **11** workshops/presentations with expert guests
- **110** hours dedicated by each participating youth



WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Youth worked in partnership with community groups and residents in two Toronto neighbourhoods: The Pocket and Brockton-Brockville. They led stewardship events, tree tours, shrub giveaways and door-to-door canvassing campaigns to engage residents in learning about and caring for the urban forest.



We engaged **396** children in learning about and caring for the urban forest.



JUNIOR URBAN FOREST RANGERS

This two-hour session, held at Riverdale Park East, aims to inspire the next generation of urban forest champions by providing fun, educational and hands-on activities for City of Toronto day-campers, aged six through 12.

We reached **653** people with educational messages about the value of the urban forest and how to care for it, through:

8 Workshops

12 Presentations

8 Tree Tours



Workshops, presentations and tree tours are typically given to community groups or at special events. Topics include:

- Planting and Care
- Tree Identification
- Trees in an Urban Environment
- The Benefit of Planting Native



The Leslieville Tree Festival, held June 15th, had **28** environmental exhibitor and over **500** festival attendees.

THE LESLIEVILLE TREE FESTIVAL

is held in Leslie Grove Park, Toronto. It is a public celebration of our urban forest, focused on providing activities and fun for the whole family.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING PARTNERS

