



# 2023 Year in Review



**Thanks for your donation—together we're helping make a positive impact.** Because of donors like you, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) has funded projects for more than three decades to help create a more vibrant planet.

This year, your donation to TD FEF helped support **542 environmental projects across Canada**—ones that are diverse, innovative, and meaningful. You helped restore, protect, and enhance natural areas and green spaces. You helped build outdoor classrooms and community gardens. And you helped create more stewards for our planet through dynamic learning experiences.

This year's report reveals some of the organizations across Canada that are making our communities healthier through TD FEF grants. We've supported over 28,000 projects since we began in 1990. We couldn't have done it without you.

Read on to discover how our grant recipients have been working toward a more vibrant planet in 2023.

**TD Friends of the  
Environment Foundation**

# Green by the Numbers

## What we accomplished together in 2023

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) is aligned to [the goals of The TD Ready Commitment](#), the Bank's corporate citizenship platform aimed at helping create a more inclusive and sustainable future. By helping support organizations working to protect our planet, we are helping to develop opportunities for people, communities, and economies to thrive. So, when you donate or contribute your time as a volunteer to TD FEF, you are part of this effort to help make a difference. Here's the difference you've helped to make for 2023:



**\$3.1 million+**

Total amount donated to TD FEF by TD customers and employees



**\$2**

Most common monthly donation amount to TD FEF



**542**

Number of local environmental projects supported by TD FEF across Canada



**100**

Percentage of TD FEF's administrative costs covered by TD



**\$1.1 million+**

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



**100**

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

# Helping Create a More Vibrant Planet through TD Tree Days



We're proud of TD Tree Days, the annual flagship volunteer and greening program of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF). Tree-planting events help unite TD employees, their families and friends, and community members to help build healthier, more vibrant local green spaces.

Since the program began in 2010, more than 511,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted with the help of volunteers across Canada.

To ensure the right tree is planted properly in the right location, we work with dozens of organizations, including municipalities, conservation authorities, and Indigenous Communities. With this detailed guidance, organizations choose and prepare the planting site, provide the planting stock, teach volunteers how to plant, provide mulch and other planting materials, and maintain the site for two years after the planting event.

**Find a TD Tree Days Event**  
Visit [www.tdtreedays.com](http://www.tdtreedays.com)  
between August and October each year to sign up. We are always on the lookout for new community organizations across Canada.

## Check Out these TD Tree Days Community Projects from 2023

### Langley Environmental Partners Society

Thanks to TD Tree Days funding, more than 40 volunteers planted 350 trees and shrubs at the entrance to the Arbour Ribbon Trail in Langley, BC. The result: increased biodiversity in an area that includes the ecologically important Nicomekl River, better habitat for wildlife, and a boost in tree canopy cover.

### Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

To help restore degraded areas of Ontario's Niagara Peninsula watershed to health and sustainability, volunteers focused on enhancing three green spaces. We supported the planting of 470 trees and shrubs in Centennial Park in Grimsby, 305 trees and shrubs in Welland's St. George Park, and 470 trees and shrubs in Burgoyne Woods in St. Catharines.

### Association pour l'environnement de Limbour

Invasive species, like buckthorn, threatened biodiversity in a park in Gatineau, Que., by crowding out native plants and reducing wildlife habitat. Twenty volunteers planted a corridor of 100 new large trees and shrubs by a stream to encourage movement of wildlife between woodlands, help prevent soil erosion and provide shade to cool water temperatures for aquatic species.



## Volunteer Spotlight

For five years, Huma Pabani has been volunteering at TD Tree Days. Some years, she loves rolling up her sleeves to plant trees alongside neighbours. Other years, she's helped lead TD Tree Days events, working with participating environmental organizations, enlisting colleagues, and managing event logistics. A highlight for her this year was working with a family that volunteered with their three daughters: the children were thrilled with the idea that they could return to the area over the years to see how the tiny saplings would outgrow them.

Huma was inspired to get involved in TD Tree Days because of her happy childhood camping memories, coupled with a desire to help make green spaces continue beyond her lifetime, so others can enjoy similar experiences. "I don't think it's enough anymore to leave spaces as you found them: we must make things better. If I can do a little bit to help make green spaces accessible for more Canadians, then I'm going to do it!"

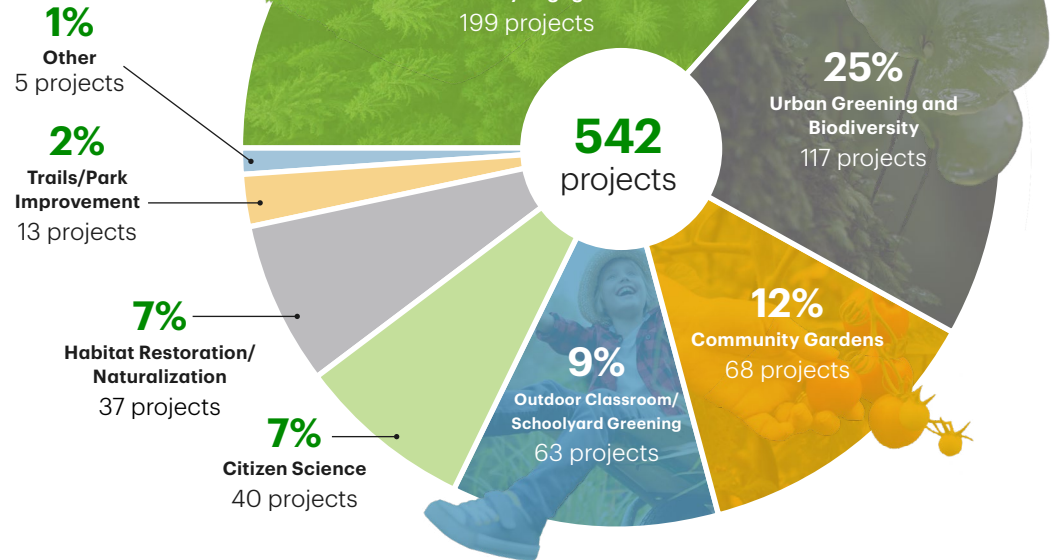


# Greening Where You Live in 2023

Donors, thank you for being changemakers! Your contributions to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) helped support **542** local and multi-region projects that are helping make Canadian communities greener, healthier, and more sustainable. Here's the impact you helped TD FEF make last year.

## Types of Projects Funded

Your support of TD FEF made possible a variety of local environmental improvements.



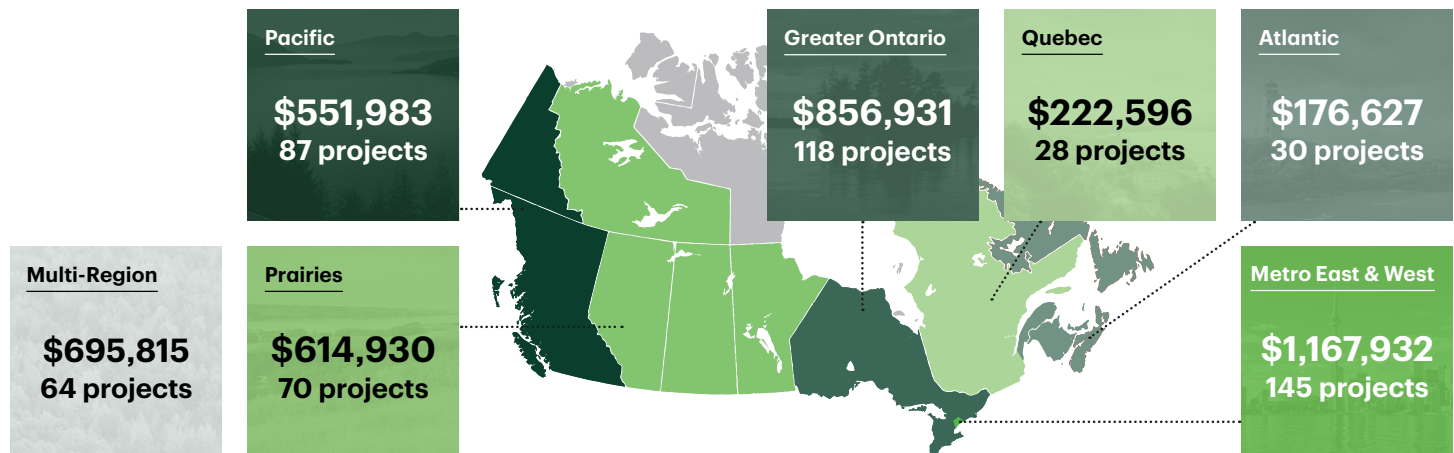
## Total grants

**\$4,286,814**

542 Projects

### Grants by region

Total amount rounded to the nearest whole dollar.



Your donations at Work:

# Environmental Education



Your donations helped fund **199** environmental education projects with **\$1,561,372** in grants.

## Creating Compost

**The Gaia Project**

*Atlantic Region*

Nearly 100 students in grade 3 welcomed worms into their classrooms to learn about vermiculture composting. Children set up self-contained composting bins, added the worms, and mixed in food scraps throughout the school year, resulting in rich compost.

**“It was a pleasure to see elementary students light up as they learned about the environment and their role in protecting it.”**

– Bobbi Jo, Educational Staff (participant feedback)



## Learning at Sea

**Raincoast Conservation Foundation**

*Pacific Region*

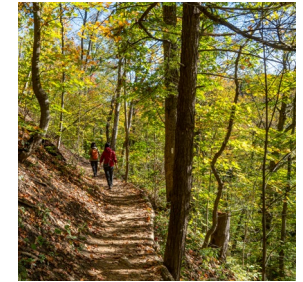
Through the Salish Sea Emerging Stewards (SSES) program, more than 50 young people participated in in-class, outdoor, or at-sea learning activities aboard the sailing vessel *Achiever*, using both western science and Traditional Knowledge approaches.

## Identifying Plants

**Grey Sauble Conservation Authority**

*Greater Ontario Region*

In consultation with two local Indigenous Communities, the *Fulfilling the Dream* project helped 565 people identify and plant 175 plants at the Inglis Falls Arboretum. They also installed 282 new educational signs along the Arboretum trail to identify trees, shrubs and vines, including 137 native species.



## Trapping Trash

**Maison de l'environnement de Verdun**

*Quebec Region*

To cut down on the amount of single-use plastic and other trash entering waterways, the *Agir à la source* project worked with local municipalities in Beloeil, Verchères, and Mont-Saint-Hilaire, to install nets in six storm sewer networks. The nets collected 350 kilograms of trash and raised awareness in three local communities.

Your donations at Work:

# Parks & Green Spaces



Your donations helped fund **154** green spaces with **\$1,398,551** in grants.

## Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge

**Small Change Fund**

*Quebec Region*

Nine community ecological knowledge workshops in Anishnabe communities throughout the region, attended by Anishnabe Elders, land users and Knowledge Keepers, generated crucial insights into moose populations, ecology and management. This helped with the development of a first-of-its kind a preliminary report to identify the long term needs to support the health and well-being of the moose population in Vérendrye Wildlife Park, on the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin people.

**“Taking care of the land and the moose is very personal to us. To be able to do it our way, according to our own protocols, it meant a lot to our communities, to their hearts and minds. It’s been so meaningful.”**

– Shannon Chief (Waba Moko), Project Coordinator

## Restoring Habitat

**L’Arche Daybreak**

*Metro Region*

To help with Rouge River habitat restoration, 30 community volunteers from L’Arche Daybreak, including people with and without disabilities, came together to remove invasive species, such as buckthorn, and planted 135 native shrubs and trees at their Richmond Hill property.



## Planting for Pollinators

**Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association**

*Atlantic Region*

Youth, homeowners, and other volunteers grew 1,000 swamp milkweed seedlings to help provide food and shelter for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. They also built 15 pollinator gardens and monarch

waystations at sites across the Bedeque Bay Watershed.

## Trail Cleanup

**Trans Canada Trail**

*Prairie Region*

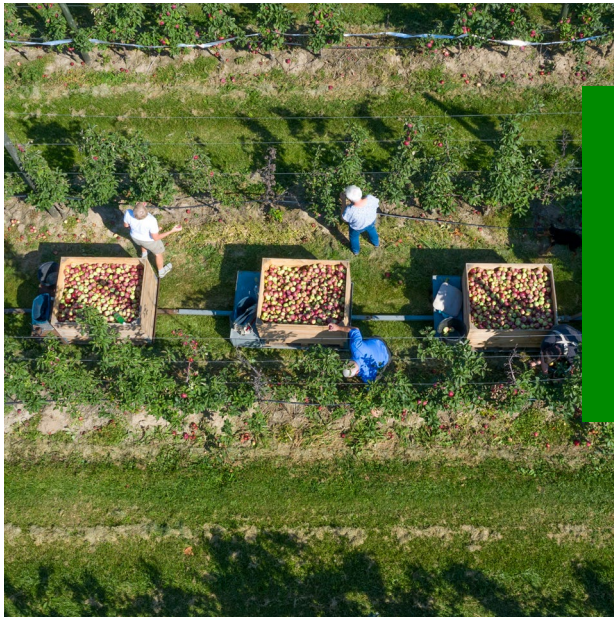
Nearly 2,800 volunteers gathered to remove over 11,080 kg of garbage and recyclables from the Meewasin River Valley section of the Trans Canada Trail in Saskatoon. Funding helped to buy bags, gloves and “garbage grabbers” to assist volunteers with mobility challenges.





Your donations at Work:

# Community Gardens



Your donations helped fund **68** community gardens with **\$532,101** in grants.

## Nourishing Neighbours

**Anishnabeg Outreach**

*Metro Region*

Funding assisted this 10-acre farm to produce five tons of diverse, fresh, and nutritious food, delivering 5,000 bundles of provisions to First Nation, Métis and Inuit individuals and families in need, via their Spirit Bundle program.

**“The gardening program has been a game-changer for our community. Thanks to the fresh produce we receive biweekly, my family’s meals have become more nutritious. It has also allowed us to reconnect with our traditional foods, which hold deep cultural significance.”**

– Sarah, First Nations community member (participant feedback)



## Growing and Storing Veggies

**STEPs on Arthur**

*Atlantic Region*

Purchasing new soil for 15 accessible gardening beds meant that 100 adults with intellectual disabilities and community volunteers could grow, harvest, and store vegetables together.

They also learned how to prepare recipes tailored to the participants’ needs and abilities.

## Spreading Farming Know-how

**Tsawwassen First Nation**

*Pacific Region*

The Tsawwassen First Nation Community Farm hosted several events, including an Earth Day celebration with a farm tour, where 50 attendees received seeds and the materials needed to grow them. Funding also meant that young people gained work experience on the farm by learning how to use gardening tools.



## Growing Together

**Unitarian Church of Calgary**

*Prairie Region*

The GROW (Garden-Based Renewal of Wellness) Project offered horticultural therapy for 25 participants through workshops on regenerative horticulture. Through the program, participants also helped grow fresh vegetables to donate to a local community pantry.

Your donations at Work:  
**Citizen Science**



Your donations helped fund **40** citizen science initiatives with **\$285,544** in grants.

**Monitoring Lakes**

**Living Lakes Canada**

*Pacific Region*

As part of the *Living Lakes Canada National Lake Blitz*, local outreach events in British Columbia trained youth, seniors and educators in how to conduct water monitoring. The data collected helps promote a better understanding of how climate change is impacting lake ecosystems.

**“I liked being outside and being fully able to touch and experience the nature we were talking about rather than seeing photos or videos.”**

– Grade 10 student (participant feedback)

**Protecting Wildlife**

**Edmonton and Area Land Trust**

*Prairie Region*

In order to protect a garter snake population living in a high-traffic area, 48 biologists and volunteers carefully observed, temporarily trapped, measured, and categorized 396 garter snakes. The snakes were then relocated nearby to a hibernaculum (hibernation habitat) on Edmonton Area Land Trust conservation lands.



**Adding to Science Databases**

**EcoSpark**

*Metro Region*

More than 3,000 youth and 825 adults across the GTA took part in the *Citizen Scientist Goes to School* project. They learned how to use scientific protocols and surveys to collect data on urban forests, streams, and green spaces on school grounds and in local parks.

**Checking Water Quality**

**Sackville Lakes Parks and Trails Association**

*Atlantic Region*

Six participants collected and analyzed baseline water quality data in Sackville Lakes Provincial Park. This information gave scientists more tools to help assess the lake’s status and identify areas to closely monitor over time.





Your donations at Work:

# Schools



Your donations helped fund **63** school initiatives with **\$378,311** in grants.

## Building Accessible Gardens

**Centre de formation de la Côte-de-Gaspé**

Quebec Region

More than 200 students worked together to design and build five vegetable growing tables. The gardens offer a variety of heights and positions and are adaptable for people with reduced mobility. The students also planted seedlings in growing bags for in-class learning.

**“I can’t wait to sow fruits and vegetables, see them grow, and be able to eat them!”**

– Student, Centre de formation de la Côte-de-Gaspé (participant feedback)



## Making the Outdoors Inclusive

**Greely Elementary School**

Greater Ontario Region

All students have the opportunity to embrace environmental learning in *Riley’s Place*, a newly rejuvenated outdoor space that is also inclusive for the needs of neurodivergent students.

As an example, different areas in the garden support students’ abilities to communicate with others, interact with nature, and learn about various aspects of the environment.

## Adding Gardens and Trees

**Woodland Primary School**

Atlantic Region

Approximately 250 students now have the opportunity to have fun in a revamped outdoor classroom. Improvements include four large vegetable beds for children to plant and tend, a new walking trail that winds through a treed area, 15 trees planted, and the installation of birdhouses along the walking trail.



## Gardening Indoors

**Agriculture in the Classroom Canada**

Prairie Region

Fifteen Manitoba classrooms and teachers received equipment, training, and supplies for school gardens. These gardens help give young people opportunities to explore environmental sustainability and healthy eating through year-round, curriculum-linked indoor growing.