InTO the Ravines:
Celebrating Five Years of Impact

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What is InTO the Ravines?

Toronto's ravines are among the city's greatest assets, yet they are often hidden, underused, or difficult to access. Many residents live near ravines but face social, cultural, or physical barriers that prevent them from enjoying these spaces.

The InTO the Ravines program was launched to change that.

Its purpose is to celebrate and protect ravines by empowering local communities to lead activities that bring people into these spaces – building awareness of their ecological and cultural importance, and creating lasting bonds of care and connection.



How the Program Works

Train and Support Ravine Champions
Provide workshops and ongoing coaching that equip community members with the knowledge and skills to lead inclusive ravine activities. Topics include ravine ecology, Indigenous histories, race equity, and strategies for engaging neighbours.

Provide Microgrants and Capacity-Building
Small grants that enable grassroots groups to animate ravines through cultural celebrations, environmental education, and wellness activities – for all ages and abilities.

Host Community Events and Innovative Public Programming
Enhance and increase engagement and care of ravines. Dozens of walks, workshops, and events that draw in local residents, often first-time ravine visitors. With continued funds, a network of Champion Alumni continue to activate their ravines year after year during Ravine Days.

Use Outreach & Storytelling
To share program opportunities and impacts city-wide through newsletters, blogs, and social media campaigns that raise awareness of Toronto's ravines, celebrate community leadership, and help promote Ravine Days.

InTO the Ravines
Reach & Impact

Since 2020, InTO the Ravines has supported hundreds of Torontonians to become community leaders, opening Toronto's ravines to more residents, especially those in high-rise neighbourhoods facing barriers to access.

7,000+

Toronto residents directly engaged in hands-on ravine activities (includes 800+ online participants from 2020–2022).

250

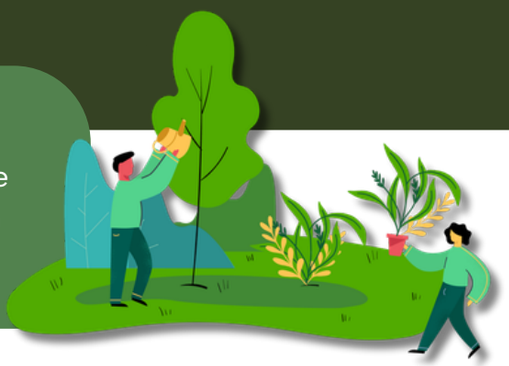
Community events delivered by 200+ community leaders – from plant walks and Indigenous storytelling to youth hikes and ravine cleanups.

100+

Ravine Champions trained in Indigenous knowledge systems, ravine ecology and event planning.

91%

Event attendees report they would be more likely to visit the ravines after participating in an InTO the Ravines event.



95% of ITR community leaders and event attendees report increased connection to each other and the community.

100% of ITR community leaders report that they feel capable of influencing decisions made about their community.

27% of ITR event attendees were first-time ravine visitors, opening new pathways into nature.

Additional Impact:

- **$75,000+** distributed in microgrants to grassroots groups to host ravine events.
- **600,000+** people reached through newsletters, social media, and media coverage.
- **125** park and community groups and 30+ partner organizations (ie. STEPS, Toronto Botanical Gardens, High Park Nature Centre) have collaborated since program launch.

Why InTO the Ravines Investment Matters

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Equity & Access
Opens Toronto's ravines to newcomers, youth, seniors, and low-income residents, often introducing them to these spaces for the first time.

Climate Action
Builds awareness of biodiversity, invasive species, and Indigenous knowledge while fostering community and nature connections that last beyond program funding.

Health & Belonging
Supports mental wellness, social connection, and a sense of belonging through meaningful engagement with nature.

Community Leadership & Partnerships
Trains local leaders connecting them with experts (TRCA, Forestry, Indigenous leaders researchers), ensuring grassroots action directly benefits communities.

People saw us cleaning up the ravine and asked how they could get involved. Now we have neighbours who we never met before working together to keep this space cared for.

Humber River Pals, Microgrant Recipient

Before this program, the ravines were just a backdrop to my life. Now they feel like home. I have spent so much time bonding with my family and friends in the ravines and have made so many connections through this program that will help me in my own community.

2025 Ravine Champion

Since taking the training, I've learned to see the ravines through Indigenous teachings, and feel more connected to the outdoors. Now I walk the trails and see relatives in the trees and animals.

2025 Ravine Champion

About Park People

Park People connects people and communities with the tools they need to create great parks for everyone. We're the only national, bilingual organization dedicated to championing city parks in Canada. Since 2011, we've supported the incredible potential of urban parks by:

- Activating Parks: We work with communities to unlock resources and address barriers so they can make their parks vibrant and their neighbourhoods stronger.
- Building Community: We connect park leaders and advocates through our national network. We organize thoughtful events that strengthen relationships and build momentum to support better parks.
- Creating Change: We research trends and opportunities, and work with governments to support progressive policies.