

SPARKING CHANGE

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Creating green community hubs in underserved neighbourhoods



In underserved communities, parks are a crucial but often untapped resource

for youth engagement, health promotion, access to healthy local food and physical recreation. Park People works with communities to transform underused outdoor spaces into dynamic green community hubs by organizing local residents, creating partnerships, accessing seed funding, and building momentum through events and activities.

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We now have a partnership with the City of Toronto, with many different organizations in Bathurst Finch and across the city as well as with the great diversity of people who live in this community. Park People has helped us build our capacity and our confidence to work with reputable partnership like Heritage Toronto to make our community a better place to live.

ANGIE BUADO,
Coordinator, Friends of Earl Bales Park

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ACTIVITIES

Our team of outreach staff provides ongoing advice, support, and access to funding, through:

- Micro-grants that spark innovative programming and activities in high-needs community parks
- Partnership programs like Arts in the Parks, TIFF in Your Park, and Clean Toronto Together, that help partner organizations bring their programming into parks across the city
- Capacity-building for groups, including fundraising support

IMPACTS

Sparkling Change programming contributes to community well-being in underserved neighbourhoods.

- More animated, active parks
- Increase sense of social cohesion and community engagement
- Increased involvement from outside organizations in parks and open spaces
- Creating more opportunities to get outdoors, get active and connect with neighbours



“ The Panorama Community Garden has become the “go to” space in the Rexdale Community... Park People has worked closely with gardeners to develop their leadership and empower local residents to develop their own projects and invest in the community. ”

TANIA FERNANDES,
Health Promoter, Rexdale Community Health Centre

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