



# InTO

2020 - 2022  
Impact Report

# the Ravines

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## — Introduction

Toronto's network of ravines, rich with water, wildlife and history, covers 17 percent of the city. The ravines, which wind through wards, neighbourhoods and cultures, are home to high-quality habitat, healthy ecosystems, and biodiversity in the city.

Toronto's relationship to its ravines follows a trajectory that resembles most cities' relationship to natural spaces. In the 19th and 20th centuries, it was considered "modern" and "civilized" to employ human-made infrastructure to control and manage nature. Human ingenuity was elevated over nature, and wild spaces came to be perceived as dangerous and undesirable. This thinking led the ravines, like many other natural urban spaces, to be degraded, drained, and neglected, or resulted in urban infrastructure being located in the Toronto ravine system, such as roadways, hydro corridors or sewer lines. They were most certainly not seen as people's places.

Today, there is a powerful and growing movement to reconnect people with biodiverse, natural and green spaces. Toronto's ravines are prime spaces to meet this growing appetite for natural systems and spaces. As Journalist Robert Fulford said:

*"The ravines are to Toronto what canals are to Venice, hills are to San Francisco, and the Thames River is to London."*

Climate change, biodiversity loss, social polarization, rising inequality and declining mental health all point to the urgent need to radically reimagine our cities—the places where 86% of all Canadians live.

Reconnecting people to the ravines as natural, connected sanctuaries requires balancing education with protection and stewardship. As we've discovered through InTO the Ravines, the right approach makes these objectives mutually reinforcing.

InTO the Ravines, a partnership between Park People and the City of Toronto is leading a movement to protect and maintain our natural urban areas, recognize histories, reconnect people with nature and balance responsible use with ecological protection.

## — *InTO the Ravines Program*

InTO the Ravines demonstrates that with the right kind of support, people can not only experience and appreciate natural spaces but simultaneously cultivate a deep desire to protect and improve these spaces for the future.

Often referred to as the “city within a park,” Toronto largely lives up to the name due to its extensive and unique system of ravines. These ravines thread throughout the entire city, reaching almost every corner and working to stitch together neighbourhoods through a system of trails, parks, rivers, and other natural spaces. In total, the ravines cover 17% of the land area of the city.

However, urban development, population growth, and climate change have presented increasing challenges for sensitive ravine ecosystems. Additionally, by their nature, ravines are often hidden from view below street level, with entrances that are often not fully accessible as they require climbing stairs or navigating steep grade changes. This inaccessibility, coupled with inconsistent wayfinding, means that for many, the ravines remain difficult to visit, either due to physical limitations or a lack of comfort.

To address these multiple challenges and the opportunities presented by Torontonians' love for the ravines, the City embarked on a planning process to create a document that could guide the protection, enhancement, and enjoyment of ravines for decades to come.

The result, adopted in 2018, was the Ravine Strategy, which is a multi-year comprehensive plan for the entirety of Toronto's ravine systems. The plan is built from a foundation of five principles, including:

- Protect: Maintain and improve ecological health
- Invest: Invest in and expand the ravine system
- Connect: Ensure opportunities to connect to the ravines
- Partner: Partner with stakeholders and create opportunities
- Celebrate: Celebrate, recognize, and respect the ravines.

From the very beginning of the process, the City recognized that it would not be able to do this work alone.

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A strong partnership mandate was built into the strategy, encouraging City staff to develop collaborations and work with a range of groups, from non-profits to local residents, to meet the goals of the Ravine Strategy.

Three of the Ravine Strategy's five core pillars, Protect, Connect and Celebrate, underpin the InTO the Ravines program:

- Protect: We are all guardians of these spaces and must treat them with care and respect.
- Connect: Ensure people understand and appreciate the value of our ravine system and have physical opportunities to connect with these spaces safely and sustainably.
- Celebrate: Celebrate these spaces and encourage recognition of and respect for this magnificent system throughout Toronto and the rest of the world.

From the outset, Park People and the City of Toronto agreed that the goals of the InTO the Ravines program were to:

- Implement a number of the actions in the Ravine Strategy, with a focus on the principles of Protect, Connect, and Celebrate,
- Enhance and increase engagement and care of Toronto's ravines,
- Prioritize people who have not visited ravines before or experience barriers in accessing ravines, as well as the priority areas identified in the Ravine Strategy.

Based on the Ravine Strategy and collectively established goals, Park People and the City of Toronto established the program's core strategies:

- Identify and support the work of individual Ravine Champions,
- Provide community grants and funding to support training and passive activation of the ravines to balance enjoyment, protection, and social cohesion.
- Lead and fund both Park People-led and community-led ravine events.

InTO the Ravines is designed based on an understanding of the common barriers that limit people's experience of the ravines. These include physical barriers, such as steep grades, uneven ground, and lack of signage or access to public transit. Other equally significant barriers that were implemented into the program's design include cultural and social barriers like not feeling welcome or safe in the ravines.

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This concern is reflected in Park People's 2021 Canadian City Parks Report, which found that park users who are Black, Indigenous, and people of colour were more than twice as likely to report harassment or discrimination as a barrier to park use than white people (8%).

InTO the Ravines was designed to optimize participants' experience of the ravines both in terms of physical accessibility and safety. Park People helped guide groups to easy entry points and provided tips, such as walking guides for those entering the ravines, to help people feel safe and manage concerns about access.

Promoting community-led activities and providing training and walks into the ravines helped create a sense of comfort and belonging in the spaces that few Ravine Champions had previously experienced directly.

### *A Partnership Approach*

The City of Toronto selected Park People as the partner to lead the program. Established in Toronto in 2011, Park People's community-led approach has transformed Toronto parks and communities.





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The City of Toronto selected Park People as the partner to lead the program. Established in Toronto in 2011, Park People's community-led approach has transformed Toronto parks and communities. Today, Park People is a national organization that works with others to advance parks as an essential part of the transition to equitable cities where people and the rest of nature thrive. Over its 12-year history in Toronto, Park People has had an on-the-ground presence, establishing and supporting community park groups such as "Park Friends" groups in every ward across the City. Since its inception, Park People has had a deep focus on working with Toronto's equity-deserving communities.

When creating community programs, it's critical to establish whether the goal is to reach the largest number of people or provide deeper, sustained support to priority individuals and groups. Given that a key long-term goal of the InTO the Ravines program is to cultivate long-term ravine champions that promote responsible use of the ravines within their communities, a deeper approach was recognized as the priority.

Also, given the focus on equity-deserving communities, a deeper approach ensured that Park People could help community leaders build trust with community organizations and cultivate relationships with community members who lived close to the ravines, but many of whom had not previously explored their local ravines.



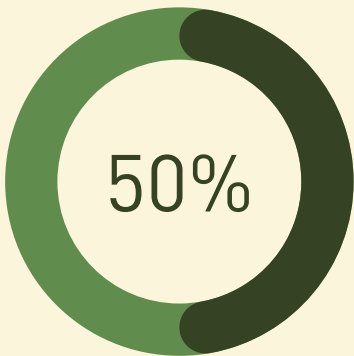
*InTO the Ravines by the Numbers (2020 to 2022)*

3000+ people have attended ravine events.

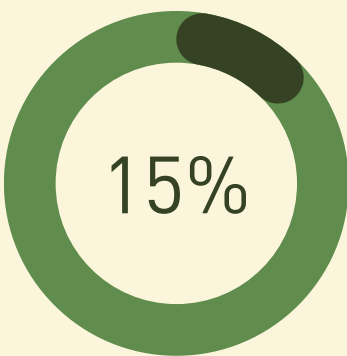
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800+ Torontonians participated in online events to learn more about the ravines.

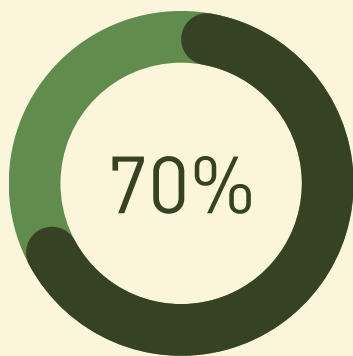
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of past program participants continued to host events in their ravines after completing the program.



of in-person event attendees had never been to a ravine before.



of in-person event attendees are more likely to bring friends and family to visit the ravines in the future.

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\$27,265 has been given out to community members to host events and activities in their communities.



96 events hosted  
by community members.

76 in-person in the ravines and 20 online events during COVID.

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50 people have been  
trained as Ravine  
Champions to engage  
their communities.

18 engagement events  
hosted in partnership  
with communities and  
past champions.

261,000

people have engaged with messages  
promoting ravine events and the  
importance of ravines to the city through  
Park People and the City's collective  
social media channels, newsletters and  
media networks.

125 park and  
ravine groups

30 organizations

collaborated in the development of the InTO the Ravines program and its rollout.

## — Program Elements

### *Ravine Consultations*

At the project's outset, InTO the Ravines hosted an online session to connect organizations and individuals with a history of working in Toronto's ravines. The relationships and conversations emerging from this session informed every aspect of the InTO the Ravines program.

### *Ravine Champions*

Emerging from the consultations, Park People developed the InTO the Ravines Champions program, which identified community leaders to serve as Ravine Champions in their communities.

Park People's asset-based approach to community development was central to this approach. Rather than Park People staff leading events and engagement in communities, this model recognizes community leaders as trusted members of their communities. Investing in community members through training, grants, and mentorship ensures that the program is embedded in communities and that ravine connections remain active, even after their direct participation has ended.

Park People conducted substantial outreach to its diverse network of community organizations and community leaders, with a focus on organizations operating in equity-deserving communities, to identify and recruit community leaders enthusiastic about engaging as Ravine Champions.



Credit: Clémence Marcastel, Park People, 2022

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Each cohort of the Ravine Champions program featured the following elements:

- A city-wide open call for applications, reviewed and adjudicated by Park People staff
- 10 pairs of successful Champions, each pair receiving a \$500 honorarium to support community-based events
- A robust Champion training program co-developed and led by subject matter experts
- An in-depth training guide alongside workshops and webinars covering topics including ravine ecology, Indigenous knowledge sharing, and event planning.
- Opportunities for new Champions to learn from program alumni through formal and informal mentorship
- A program evaluation to collect participant feedback, measure success, and inform program improvements.

A core aim of the InTO the Ravines program was to ensure that participants' vital connections to the ravines endured long after their direct participation had ended.

Park People has witnessed that by investing in building the capacity of community leaders, these leaders go on to deepen their involvement and engagement in city programs, including those in parks. For example, Park People worked with a Ravine Champion who was also an artist and received Park People support for their application for Toronto Arts Council Arts in the Parks funding.

### ***Ravine Grants***

To date, over \$21,000 in Ravine Grants have been awarded to community groups.

These ravine Grants provided support to higher capacity, volunteer-based community groups with a priority focus on BIPOC-led (Black, Indigenous, Person of Colour) and in equity deserving communities. With support and input from the City of Toronto, the grants were distributed evenly across the city's ravines and neighbourhoods and incentivized community groups to host events in their communities. These public-facing events attracted a broad range of community members.

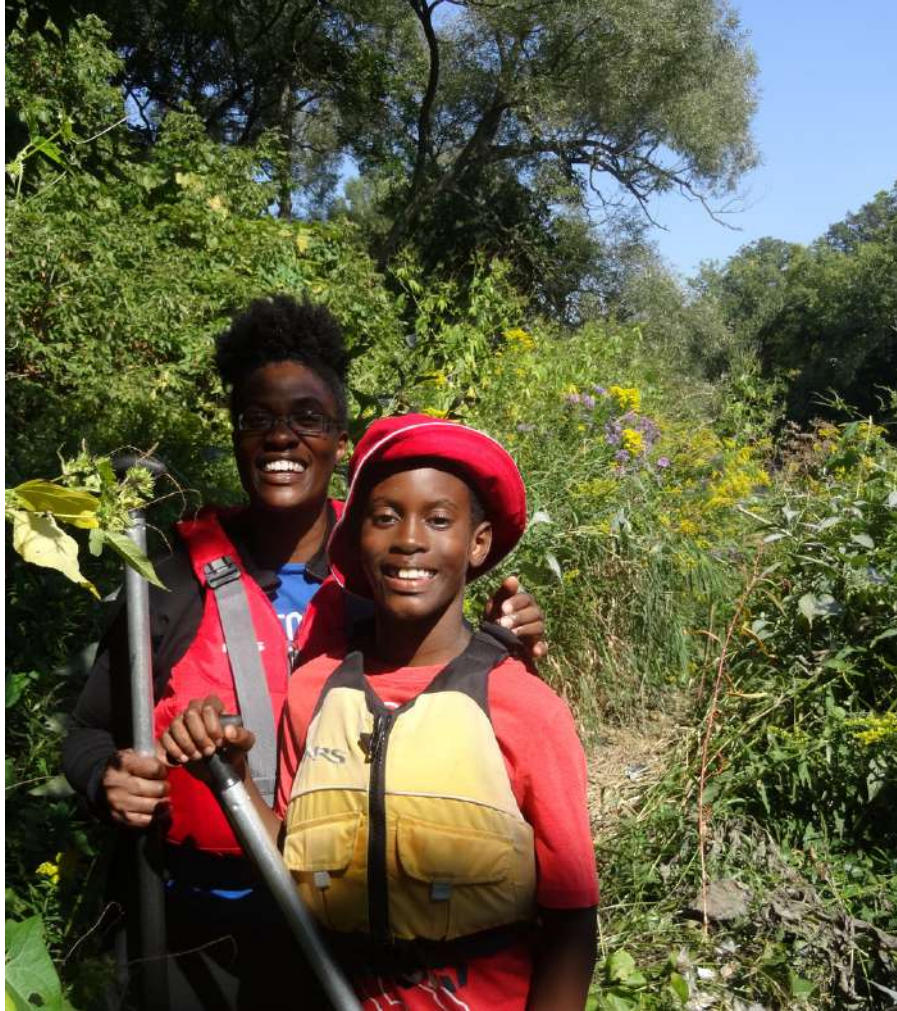


Credit: Ravine Days, ET Seton Park, Toronto, 2022



### *Ravine Events*

Park People, community groups and Ravine Champions hosted an impressive range of dynamic events that balanced ravine experiences with an appreciation of the ravines as delicate ecosystems. Walks, activities, and programs encouraged people to visit the ravines, get familiar with local biodiversity, and learn more about the ravines' social history. Many participants who participated were visiting their local ravines for the very first time.



Credit: Clémence Marcastel, Park People, 2019

Events like guided walks with Indigenous leaders highlighted the ravines' history and importance as natural spaces for Indigenous medicine and ceremony. Another community-led walk titled "Walk Good," after the Jamaican patois expression used to wish a departing traveller good fortune before a trip, was led by two Black Torontonians hike leaders. On this walk, the leaders introduced participants to Little Jamaica's Black history, featured Caribbean snacks like plantain chips, and engaged hikers in a 30-minute facilitated discussion about how racial identity impacts experiences in the ravines.

Family-friendly events engaged participants in photo scavenger hunts and games that helped kids learn to identify local wildlife found in the ravines. The ravines also were ideal places for groups to engage their communities in wellness activities like meditation. Other events included ravine clean-ups, photo contests, and arts-based activities.

To celebrate Ravine Days in 2022, Park People contacted current and past Ravine Champions to assist them in planning and running activities in ravines across the city. Events included a showcase of pond life at the Humber Arboretum, guided walks through Morningside Park, explorations of salmon migration with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and more.

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In 2022, Park People worked with past Ravine Champions in E.T. Seton Park. The Ravine Champions organized a bus tour that brought hundreds of community members to the local ravine and park to share in an event highlighting the community's skills and talents. Several members had arts-based activities such as henna tattoos, arts and crafts and meditation walks. The success of this larger ravine event was due to the collaboration with park and community leaders and Ravine champions and really highlighted the importance of centring community assets and reciprocity between partnerships.



Credit: Joel Rodriguez, Kids and Caterpillars InTO the Ravines event, Smythe Park, Toronto, 2022

Several InTO the Ravines Champion alumni continue participating in programming at their local parks, with the program only enhancing their love of their local greenspaces and ravines. Many alumni in the program are frequently looking for other opportunities to highlight their local community and ravine spaces. They can do so with additional support, capacity building, and funding opportunities from Park People and their network. The “train the trainer” model to the InTO the Ravines Champion program cultivated learnings for participants with city staff in urban forestry and the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority, alongside Park People, to assist in building ravine literacy and reciprocity with nature in Toronto’s ravine spaces.

This training allows community leaders interested in diving deeper into learning about the ravines to lead their own activities, share the importance of their ecology with their neighbours and share back with their community the skills and knowledge they have learned within the program.

In 2023, in addition to the training, Park People also offered full bursary packages to all InTO the Ravines Champions to attend Park People's “Hope in Action” Conference, where these champions could deepen their understanding, network and grow their knowledge, experience and community.



## — Program Impacts

Since its launch in 2020, InTO the Ravines has had an impressive reach and impact, particularly in Toronto's equity-deserving communities, where many participants visited their local ravines for the first time.

Based on participant and staff interviews and participant evaluations, we're pleased to share the following reported outcomes:

1. Greater appreciation for Toronto's parks and green spaces
2. Increased connections between people and the rest of nature
3. Enhanced knowledge of the ravines' role in Toronto's history and identity
4. Building social capital within and across communities
5. Modelling a collaborative partnership approach.

### *Greater appreciation for Toronto's parks and green spaces*

Toronto, a "city within a park", lives up to the name largely due to its extensive and unique system of ravines. And yet, many InTO the Ravine participants, particularly those from equity-deserving neighbourhoods, had never visited their local ravines.



Several participants reported that they either didn't know that ravines existed in their communities or that they were unaware of how to access them.

As a result of the InTO the Ravines program, community leaders and participants gained valuable knowledge about the location of the ravines and adjacent parks — both around the city and in their neighbourhoods. This knowledge is a vital first step in community members building a sense of comfort in accessing the ravines. A large group of participants said they were more likely to revisit ravines.





Credit: Ravine Entrance Mural, Panorama Park, 2021

The Ravine Champions training program and events, such as guided walks led by Park People and local and city staff experts, helped participants overcome physical and psychological barriers to accessing the ravines.

As one participant put it:

*"I was not aware of the park in my neighbourhood until someone from Park People had an event and invited me out... some [people] do not know of the different entrances and how to get into the park, and it's just about being aware."*

Others shared:

*"I think we're most excited to share with people the ravine system just because I recognize not many people have been into the ravines before. I think we were keen as well to show them the access points. So they had a sense of how to get into the ravines physically."*

***"Some residents have probably never been in a park or ravine before; I look forward to sharing what I learn and connecting people to our ravines, which then connect people to nature - it's healthy and free access."***

Participants' mental map of the city was reshaped and transformed by experiencing the ravines firsthand.

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In addition to appreciating the green spaces in their city, the training and events gave participants a newfound appreciation for the ‘behind the scenes’ complex work the City and other partners undertake in protecting and maintaining parks and ravines. The InTO The Ravines champion program created an opportunity to allow folks new to the ravines to learn from the city and partners on the ecology, history and a deeper understanding of the ravines. This has led to many champions returning to activate their local ravine in future events, starting their own park group, or finding ways to stay connected to these special places in the city.



Credit: Ravine Ride, Evergreen, Thomas Chung, 2021

*"[I enjoyed] learning about the ecological cleaning and preservation practices happening behind the scenes."*

*"For me, it was knowing more about not just what is the Ravine Strategy, but what the city sort of looked to develop and how it grew. So meeting with park staff...that was pretty cool because I think on just our own—we had the documents, but just hearing it from the city and the work on that strategy was cool to get an inside look."*

In a dense city like Toronto, where few people have access to backyards or natural areas outside the city, InTO the ravines helped them see these spaces as shared places where they could get away from the daily life in the city.

*"We have a lot of people who may have, you know, access to more funds so they can leave the city. They can go to places like Muskoka. They can go to their cottage...For a lot of us, it's just not the case. It's outside of our financial ability. But in accessing a ravine, you kind of have this a little bit more equity happening, right?"*



Credit: Ravine Ride, Evergreen, Thomas Chung, 2021

*"I do feel like when you're down in the ravines, you can feel like you're in an entirely different world just because it's so quiet and so peaceful. And I think more people need that kind of peace in their lives. And then I think the other reason is that often the ravines are perfect, not just about hiking, but the bird watching, sports and running and people do all kinds of things like cycling and ravines. I think it really is a multi-use area that I wish more people took advantage of."*

### *Increasing connections between people and the rest of nature*

Climate change, biodiversity loss, rising inequality and declining mental health are interdependent challenges that, together, point to the critical need for humans to heal and restore relationships with the rest of nature.

As climate change impacts, such as flooding and extreme heat, are becoming more and more common, there's an urgent need to reimagine the future of cities. Ravines are vital places to do this, and InTO the Ravines demonstrates these impacts in action.

It's clear that people have come to recognize the immense value provided by spending time in urban nature. Consider the following:

- Respondents to Park People's 2022 survey of over 3,000 residents of Canadian cities found that nearly half said that visiting natural areas for activities like hiking and bird-watching was a new habit they picked up during the pandemic.
- Relatedly, 57% of 2022 Canadian City Parks Report (CCPR) participating cities said they were creating or expanding nature stewardship programs to respond to increasing demand.
- People report wanting to experience nature close to home: 71% of CCPR survey respondents said they value visiting naturalized spaces within a 10-minute walk of homes, such as a native plant garden or small meadow.
- 87% of respondents said they were in favour of more native plant species within parks—the second most requested amenity after public washrooms.



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There is a significant relationship between feeling connected to nature and improved mental health, physical health and general well-being. There is a growing body of scientific research that backs up all of these health benefits, with some doctors even now prescribing time spent in nature for their patients.

In our interviews, InTO the Ravines participants who participated in nature-based activities like guided nature walks and Indigenous knowledge sessions spoke about discovering and appreciating the beauty of the natural environment. They remarked on seeing fall colours, feeling cool air, or hearing water running nearby.

*"I learned more about the indigenous perspectives of the river, water and community. I am now interested to learn more, right on!"*

***"It was a new experience for me because I never really paid attention to the ravines or knew of the beauty associated with medicine walks and teachings."***

*"The sights and sounds during the nature walk. We spotted beautiful butterflies and birds in the trees."*

*"If you wish, you can just concentrate on certain things; that is a good place to be because you can enjoy the peace, the quietness and tranquillity. You can listen to the breeze, the trees blowing in the wind, or the sunshine."*

A key tenet of the InTO the Ravines program is helping participants recognize ravines as fundamentally natural spaces that must be treated with care and respect. Embedded in every aspect of the program was the goal of cultivating ravine stewards and champions committed to protecting and improving the ravines' ecological health.



Credit: Ravine Days, ET Seton Park, Toronto, 2022

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Passionate and knowledgeable guides, including city staff and guest speakers, imparted information about the natural history of the ravines and their flora and fauna that many participants found useful and interesting. These rich and direct experiences helped participants build ecological literacy and relationships of care, responsibility and reciprocity with the natural world.

In an interview with Ravine Champion Maggie Dunlop, it was resoundingly clear how the Ravine Strategy principles of Protect, Connect and Celebrate are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.

As Maggie described:

*"If they know what a starling is, and they don't see them so often anymore... when they notice that the animals that they're used to seeing and whose behaviour they know, are acting differently.... If they notice that the berries that this animal eats are not growing at the right time anymore, then it starts to make sense that we should be concerned about this."*



Credit: Joel Rodriguez, Kids and Caterpillars InTO the Ravines event, Smythe Park, Toronto, 2022



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And, as Maggie believes, once community members like those in her neighbourhood of Rockcliffe Smythe have established this connection, they are more likely to want to protect these vital spaces. Maggie herself has gone on to foster her own Friends of Smythe Park group and since has worked with their community to start a turtle-protecting program.

As one InTO the Ravines Champion put it:

*"We let them know that once we are on the trail, it is best for them to stay on the trail because... you could damage something or disturb some animals."*

As the heat island effect continues to have a more acute impact on Toronto's lower-income, racialized communities ([source](#)), awareness of the cooling effect in the ravines will prove a critical lifeline on sweltering summer days. After all, surface temperatures in Toronto parks are, on average, four degrees lower than in residential and commercial areas ([source](#)). While it's impossible to control when a heat wave strikes, it is possible to control how people experience it.

As one participant put it:

*"I enjoyed the ravine. Having beautiful tall trees, having green leaves, cool air."*





## Enhancing knowledge of the ravines' role in Toronto's history and identity

InTO the Ravines participants shared that the program helped deepen their relationship with the enduring presence of Indigenous people and knowledge in the city in which they live.

One Indigenous group leader who led participants on a guided walk shared that the event provided a safe and positive space for co-learning and connection between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people:

*"I think that it was a safe way for me to express myself and to express my ways of knowing. I think a lot of Indigenous people have an issue connecting with, you know, other people, and there are even some Indigenous people in the city that have never been able to connect in this way because they are disenfranchised. So I think that this program will not only be able to help regular city people, but it also will help Indigenous people here in the city to be able to access our ways of knowing and being in a safe way."*

This sentiment was echoed by participants who valued the opportunity to directly engage with Indigenous people and knowledge in the spaces that facilitated trade and movement for Indigenous peoples and continue to hold sacred importance.



Credit: Ksenija Hotic, Park People Conference, High Park, Toronto, 2023

*"Events like this or talking to an elder, for me, was one of the first opportunities to learn about Indigenous history and parks. Otherwise, I don't think I would have ever known where to even find information other than just reading up online."*

### *Building social capital within and across communities*

As much as spending time in the ravines was about taking in the beauty of nature and building a sense of connection to the natural environment, many participants also spoke to the importance of the human connections they made through the InTO the Ravines program.

Connections between neighbours are key to cultivating individual and community-level well-being, resilience and trust. However, we know that social capital is not equitably distributed in our city. According to Toronto Social Capital Study 2022, 48% of Torontonians with less than \$30,000 in annual household income report always or often having people they can depend on when they really need it. This is 11 points lower than the average for the city (59%) and 20 points lower than those with \$100,000 or more in annual household income.

With a focus on equity-deserving communities, InTO the Ravines helped cultivate critical social connections and social capital.

Just as the ravine system stitches together Toronto's many diverse neighbourhoods, the program stitched together a vital network of community care. Social capital was deliberately built into all stages of the program. InTO the Ravines Champions were made up of two community members who formed deeper bonds by working together. The InTO the Ravines Champions training took place in a group setting where interaction was central. InTO the Ravines Champions who were alumni of the program were invited back to engage with new Champions.

As participants put it:

*"I enjoyed connecting with and meeting different people. Enjoying the diversity of the group."*

*"It was great to look at the happy and shining faces of all the participants, which reflected the feelings of everyone."*



Credit: Clémence Marcastel, Park People, 2022

*"The Ravines Champion program has really helped me build community and bridges with other community groups. We all took part in virtual training, but really getting to network and meet people in the flesh at Ravines Days - really was magical and being able to share about what each and everyone is doing in their communities made me realize how special and important the park activities we do are, and how great this program is."*

Cultivating social connections was particularly important during and in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic when many people felt deeply disconnected and isolated due to pandemic restrictions on gatherings. That said, InTO the Ravines launched in 2020, and during the pandemic and following, the community that formed around the InTO the Ravines program will continue to endure after each year's cohort ends.

### *Modelling a collaborative partnership approach*

The InTO the Ravines program was developed as a partnership between Park People and the City of Toronto. As partners, Park People and the City of Toronto supported each other's strengths and expertise and together achieved exponentially more than either could have achieved on their own.



Credit: Clémence Marcastel, Park People, 2022

The Ravine Strategy was an excellent foundation for building common understanding and shared expectations. As Dave Harvey, Park People's Co-Executive Director, put it:

*"A key synergy between the City and Park People was that both agreed right at the beginning that the program would be framed by the goals and objectives of the Ravine Strategy and a focus on delivering programming to equity-deserving communities as a priority."*



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The InTO the Ravines program is a model for cultivating community connection to parks and public spaces. As Dave Harvey underscores, it's a model that has tremendous potential for other communities:

*"Not every city has ravines, but almost every city has some core natural features that could be better utilized to enhance environmental and community building benefits. I would encourage all cities to develop comprehensive strategies for these natural assets, modelled after Toronto's ravine strategy. The next element I would recommend is reaching out to local partners and community organizations to work together creatively on finding quick win opportunities to move forward on those strategies with a particular focus on programming."*

The City of Toronto provided funding, assistance with permits and connections to City Councillors, access to expertise within the city, and a strong grounding in ecological science through the Ravine Strategy. Park People was able to bring its deep community relationships, asset-based approach, media connections and storytelling, and expertise in capacity building, events, and grant management.

The insights and data generated by the program's evaluation have been integrated into reports on the implementation of the Ravine Strategy to City Council, helping to generate further support for the City's Ravine Strategy.

Parks are unique sites of opportunity for collaborative solutions that test new ways to address complex social and environmental challenges. The collaboration between Park People and the City of Toronto is a model of this kind of fruitful collaboration.

## — Conclusion

Together Park People and The City of Toronto have created a program that has made Toronto's nature-rich and truly unique ravine system a place for deep community and nature connection. These connections are in no way superficial. They not only support the health and well-being of individuals but support healthier and more protected ecosystems that will ultimately support the well-being of all species.

There is no question that the collaborative approach of InTO the Ravines program demonstrates what's possible when municipalities collaborate with partners to enhance and increase engagement in parks and public spaces. Through InTO the Ravines, Park People and the City of Toronto have advanced the Protect, Connect and Celebrate principles of the City of Toronto's Ravine Strategy quickly and impactfully. As a result of the deep and ongoing collaboration, the program has demonstrated how to make ravines more vibrant and better protected for the future while promoting the well-being of residents.

Park People looks forward to continuing to work with The City of Toronto and community organizations to bring InTO the Ravines to communities in the coming years.

## — Acknowledgments

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[toronto.ca.ca/parks-forestry-recreation](http://toronto.ca.ca/parks-forestry-recreation)

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Park People  
 401 Richmond St. W., Ste. 119  
 Toronto, Ontario M5V 3A8  
[parkpeople.ca](http://parkpeople.ca)

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