

# HNP Canada 2023 Annual Impact Report

Human Nature  
Projects Canada



## Land Acknowledgement

Our team at Human Nature Projects Canada would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, Anishinabek, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Ojibway-Chippewa peoples. For thousands of years, Indigenous Peoples have protected this land and today, we are here to ensure that the ecosystems remain healthy. This acknowledgement reminds us of our responsibility to keep our communities clean and to honour the Treaty we live on by giving our respect to First Nations groups, Inuit, and Métis; past, present, and future.

## About This Report

This report summarizes the events hosted by Human Nature Projects (HNP) Canada in the year 2023. These events are: Centennial Park Cleanup, Severn Creek Invasive Species Pull, Rattray Marsh Invasive Species Pull, Chris Gibson Park Tree Planting, Battery Drive, Eco-Anxiety Panel, Rouge National Park Cleanup, Greenbelt Workshop Series, and Youth Environmental Advocacy Fellowship 2023. This report also covers any notable achievements obtained by the team over the course of the year.

All headshots, biographies, and names included in this report have been included after obtaining consent from all those who are featured. However, student testimonials in this report do not contain any identifying information; as such, parental consent from these students was not obtained.

All participants featured in this report with any identifying information are aware that this report will be shared publicly on HNP Canada's social media platforms and with external stakeholders.

For any questions regarding this report, please contact our team by reaching out to [general@hnpcanada.ca](mailto:general@hnpcanada.ca), and copy our Co-Founder and Co-Executive, Muhammad Ansar, at [muhammad.ansar@hnpcanada.ca](mailto:muhammad.ansar@hnpcanada.ca).



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# Letter From Our Co-Founders

Dear community members,

The year 2023 has been an amazing year of tremendous growth, advocacy and impact for Human Nature Projects (HNP) Canada.

Our organization was founded in 2021 and strives to raise awareness for current environmental issues around the world. HNP Canada is a sub branch from our overarching organization, HNP Canada, which our team was able to federally register in January 2022! We want to continue to drive change through educating and connecting our community with opportunities.

Our goal for 2023 was to be able to continue our events from last year that people loved, as well as bring new and innovative events for the community to participate in. This year we were to host various events online and in person that challenged our community to learn and take steps toward change. We started the year with a battery drive to encourage learning the proper disposal. We were able to host our biannual April Community Cleanup and again garnered over 200 Toronto Nature Stewards (TNS) and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC). We were then invited to the HeartLake Run in Brampton City, where we hosted a booth. After this we were able to host our first ever Youth Environmental Advocacy Fellowship program which garnered over 75 participants learning about the impact on Indigenous peoples. Soon after we hosted an online event on Navigating Eco-Anxiety, in collaboration with Main Characters Youth Council (MCYC).



We then came back with 2 events in October, with our first ever tree planting event with CVC and an educational initiative with Ecosparks to learn about different species. Through our tree planting event, we were able to meet Sonia Sidhu, Member of Parliament representing Brampton. We then ended the year by hosting 2 workshops highlighting the Greenbelt. In November, we were featured in Ignite Fair's Volunteer Fair 2023. Through our journey, this year we were awarded various grants such as the Sprouts Fellowship and Awesome Foundation which supported us incredibly in the Youth Environmental Advocacy Fellowship and our in-person events.

We want to thank everyone for their tremendous support to our organizations and our executive team for their incredible work towards our cause.

We are extremely excited for the year 2024 and the amazing events and projects we have in store! In the new year, we are looking forward to growing and achieving our goals of expansion, outreach, and advocacy.

Thank you,

Srija Das, Muhammad Ansar and Kiyam Sajadi  
Co-Executive Directors

# About Human Nature Projects (HNP) Canada



Human Nature Projects (HNP) Canada is a federally registered, youth-led not-for-profit organization dedicated to increasing environmental literacy by raising awareness about current environmental issues to inspire meaningful and equitable environmental action. HNP Canada uses various events and initiatives to further this goal, with the long-term vision of creating a global climate-resilient community of environmentalists that champions increased environmental action by acting locally but thinking globally. Until the end of 2023, HNP Canada has involved 1,000+ youth in environmental education, protection, conservation, and restoration globally.

**DRIVING CHANGE**

**CONNECTING YOUTH**

**SPARKING ACTION**

## Community Events

HNP Canada hosts numerous stewardship events within various communities throughout the year to give youth an opportunity to create a direct, positive and meaningful impact within their communities. These events are usually one of four types: community cleanups, tree plantings, community or pollinator gardens, and invasive species removal events.

## Educational Initiatives

HNP Canada organizes various virtual webinars, challenges, competitions, and panels to educate youth about different environmental topics, as well as solutions or recommendations on how to mitigate these challenges. These events are often facilitated by various experts who share their unique insights and knowledge with students.

# Our Values

At Human Nature Projects (HNP) Canada, our values serve as the foundation of our organization. They guide our decisions, define our culture, and direct our collective effort toward advancing a more sustainable and equitable world. Built on this foundation, HNP Canada remains committed to driving lasting impact by strengthening communities, advancing environmental responsibility, and upholding our commitment to sustainability.

## Unity

The goal of our organization is big, and requires all hands on deck. We welcome all, regardless of background or experience.

## Diversity

It is our belief that diversity is our biggest strength. People from different backgrounds and lived experiences bring unique perspectives and points of views that are vital in the fight for a sustainable future for all.

## Community

We believe in the power of mobilizing our community and focusing on grassroots efforts for increased environmental stewardship, protection, and restoration.

## Education

Actions taken without awareness are always in vain which is why we believe that education is the catalyst to change. By educating our local communities about the impacts of the climate crisis, we can develop more sustainable policies and practices.

## Opportunity

Everyone who is a part of our organization is connected with countless opportunities to grow, develop, and learn. It is our core belief that opportunities create leaders.

## Social Determinant of Health

The climate crisis is the biggest health crisis of the 21st century.

# Impact: High Level Summary

**1,000+**  
Total Event Participants

**9**  
Total Events Hosted

**\$3,000+**  
Total Funds Raised

**???**  
???

**???**  
???

**???**  
???

# Our Programming

Through our impact streams, HNP Canada channels focus, energy, and impact into key areas of environmental action.

Volunteers, youth leaders, and community partners work together across each stream to address pressing ecological challenges while fostering education, collaboration, and stewardship. By leveraging our networks, partnerships, and collective expertise, we amplify our reach and make our work visible locally and internationally.

Based on our strengths and community commitments, we have identified two core impact streams:

- Stewardship-Based Community Events
- Educational Initiatives

## STEWARDSHIP BASED COMMUNITY EVENTS



Community Cleanups



Invasive Plant Species Removals



Tree Plantings

## EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES



Panel

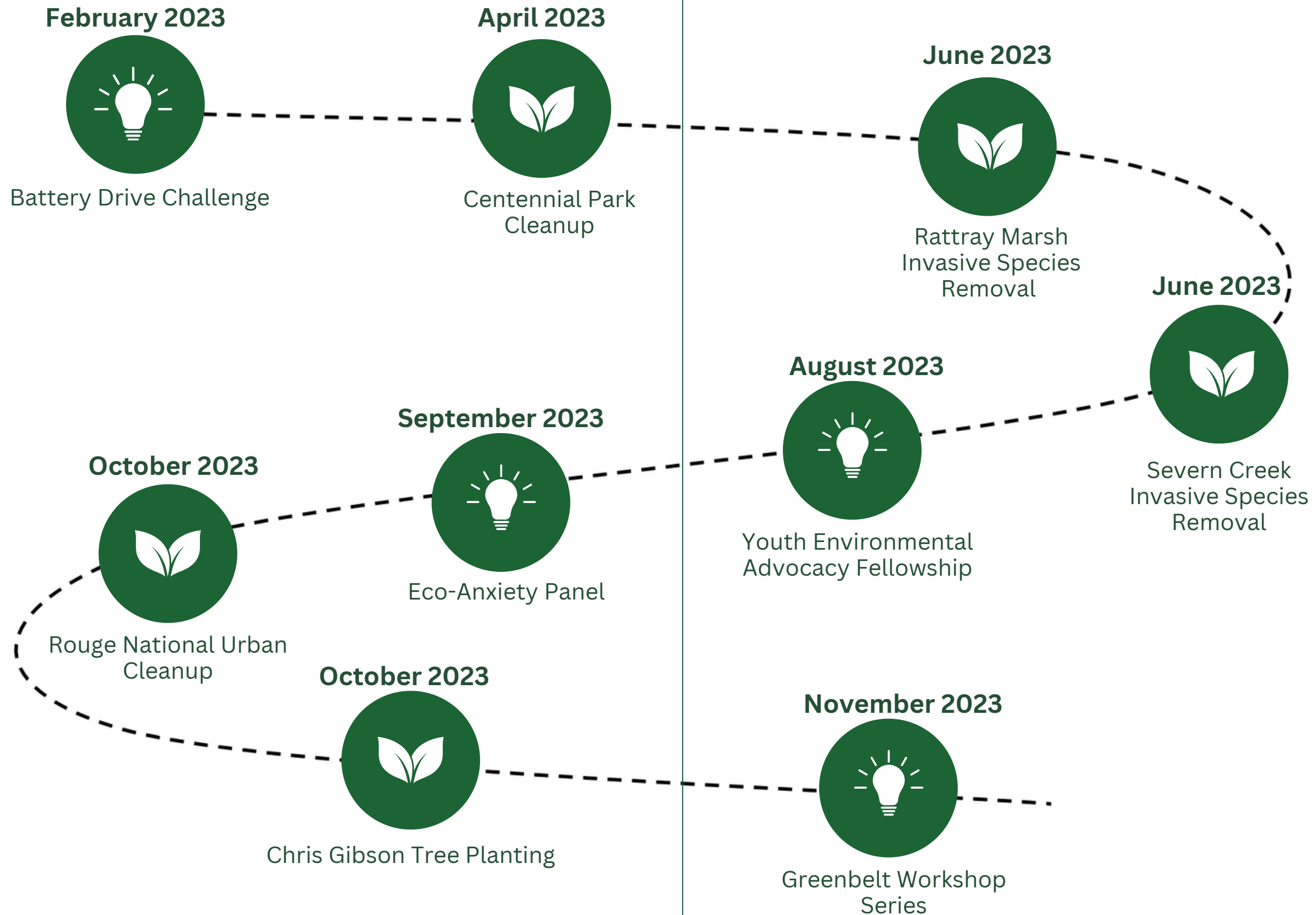


Annual Fellowship



Battery Drive

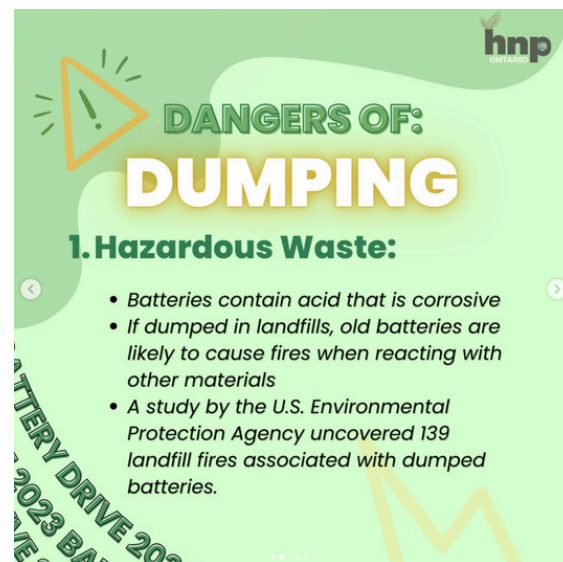
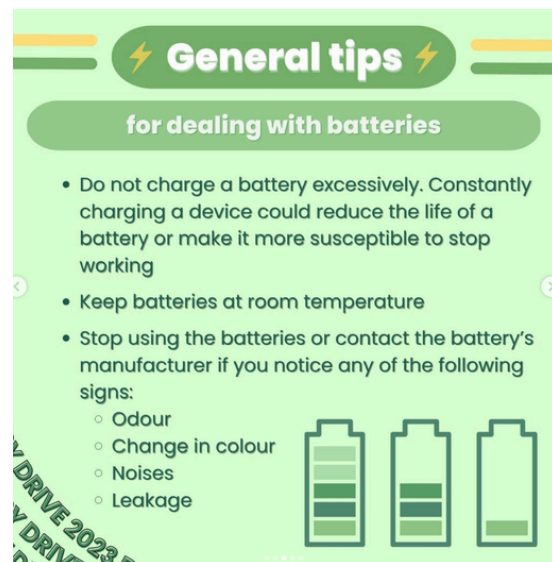
# Our Programming: Timeline



# February 2023: Battery Drive Challenge

In February 2023, HNP Canada launched its annual programming with the Battery Drive Challenge to maintain environmental engagement during the typically quieter winter months. This digital initiative successfully mobilized individuals across the Greater Toronto Area to collect various forms of electronic waste, such as spent batteries, obsolete cell phones, and other small broken electronics. The project was driven by the need to address improper e-waste disposal, as these items release harmful heavy metals into the soil and groundwater when left in standard landfills. With a collective effort, this event highlighted how household audits can contribute to ecological preservation.

The event served as a crucial educational platform by informing participants about the specific health hazards and environmental dangers of e-waste pollution. Through accessible digital resources, the campaign educated the community on safe handling procedures, such as the necessity of taping battery terminals to prevent fires and the correct methods for accessing local recycling infrastructure. This focus on safety and education ensured that the cleanup was conducted responsibly. To further encourage involvement, the initiative utilized a gamified approach where participants who collected the largest volume of hazardous waste were recognized for their outstanding efforts and awarded prizes.



## Impact: High Level Summary

**10+**  
Participants

**3**  
Prizes Distributed

**60+**  
Volunteer Hours Distributed

# April 2023: Centennial Park Cleanup

In April 2023, HNP Canada proudly organized a community park cleanup at Centennial Park. As one of Toronto's most expansive public spaces, Centennial Park encompasses diverse ecosystems, including wetlands, sports facilities, and conservatory grounds.

The post-pandemic landscape presented a unique challenge. Environmental studies have indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a global surge of single-use plastic consumption and litter, significantly impacting public recreational spaces. Centennial Park was no exception, facing an accumulation of debris that threatened local wildlife and diminished the utility of the space for residents.

Recognizing this need, HNP Canada, in collaboration with Live Green Toronto, a community-based program with many proactive community members, experts and volunteers, undertook the task of cleaning the park.

The event was a resounding success, with several sign ups and over seven sponsorships, who generously provided prizes and refreshments for the participants.



## Impact: High Level Summary

**180+**  
Participants

**41**  
Schools Represented at the Cleanup

**6**  
School Boards Represented

**25**  
Bags of Garbage Collected

**1260+**  
Volunteer Hours Distributed

# June 2023: Rattray Marsh Invasive Plant Species Removal

In June 2023, the Rattray Marsh Invasive Plant Species Removal was hosted with Credit Valley Conservation, a leading environmental organization dedicated to protecting the natural resources of the Credit River watershed. This partnership allowed us to target one of the few remaining lakefront marshes in the region which relies on ongoing stewardship to sustain its rich biodiversity. By working alongside expert conservationists, our volunteers received professional guidance on ecological restoration techniques to ensure the initiative was safe and beneficial for the sensitive local environment.

The event attracted a strong turnout of community members eager to learn about the threats facing local wetlands while actively removing garlic mustards. Participants worked diligently to identify and eradicate three specific aggressive invaders including Common Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, and Lesser Celandine which all threaten to outcompete native flora. To support the hard work of our dedicated team, we provided refreshments such as apples, granola bars, and Timbits to keep energy levels high as we successfully cleared space for native plants to thrive.



## Impact: High Level Summary

**60**  
Participants

**5**  
School Boards Reached

**10+**  
Bags of Invasive Species Removed

**240**  
Volunteer Hours Distributed

# June 2023: Severn Creek Invasive Plant Species Removal

The Severn Creek Invasive Species Removal was hosted with the Toronto Nature Stewards (TNS), a dedicated advocacy group committed to the restoration of Toronto's natural ravines and green spaces. This collaboration on June 2023, targeted the ecologically significant Severn Creek Park, an area that requires regular maintenance to preserve its native biodiversity against aggressive non-native plants. By joining forces with TNS, we were able to provide our volunteers with specialized knowledge on local ecology and proper removal techniques to ensure that our efforts effectively supported the long-term health of the park's ecosystem.

Our enthusiastic volunteers engaged in a hands-on learning experience where they successfully identified and removed a total of six different invasive species that threaten the local habitat. The team worked hard to clear widespread invaders such as Wood Aven, Common Burdock, Common Buckthorn, and Garlic Mustard, preventing them from choking out native wildflowers and saplings. To celebrate the collective effort and ensure everyone remained energized throughout the day, we provided a pizza lunch for all participants. This event strengthened the community's capacity for environmental stewardship.



## Impact: High Level Summary

**45+**  
Participants

**5**  
School Boards Reached

**15**  
Bags of Invasive Species Removed

**180+**  
Volunteer Hours Distributed

# August 2023: Youth Environmental Advocacy Fellowship

Recognizing a need to educate youth on the systemic and social roots of the climate crisis, we decided to host this event to dive deeper into environmental justice. In August 2023, HNP Canada organized our first ever fellowship, which was a week long internship program for youth aged from 14 - 22 years of age. Taking place virtually on Zoom from August 21-25, between 10am - 3pm (EDT), the program was made highly accessible for all attendees. The goal of this fellowship is to provide young people with the tools they need to become environmental activists in their local communities and to develop a profound awareness of the relationship between environmental issues and civic engagement.

The fellowship culminates in a collaborative Formal Report, a 8-10 page research project developed in teams of 3-4. Participants are tasked with investigating a specific environmental issue and its subsequent adverse health effects within a Canadian Indigenous community, bridging the gap between environmental data and social justice. While the five-day virtual program provides dedicated time for group formation and initial drafting, the final report was due two weeks after the fellowship concludes. This two-section report serves as a capstone for the program, allowing fellows to translate their week of learning into a professional document that highlights the systemic roots of the climate crisis.

At the end, the event was a success and participants were able to gain an insight into current issues, earn volunteer hours, and gain a valuable educational experience with other like minded individuals.



# Impact: High Level Summary

**185+**  
Applicants

**75+**  
Fellows

**13**  
Guest Speakers

**10+**  
Workshops

**10**  
Interviewees

# September 2023: Eco-Anxiety Panel

In September 2023, HNP Canada launched the "Navigating Eco-Anxiety: Fostering Balance in a Changing World" webinar in collaboration with the Movement for Change Youth Council (MCYC), a youth-led organization dedicated to social justice and mental health advocacy. This initiative addressed the growing psychological toll of the climate crisis by providing attendees with actionable strategies to manage climate-related stress while maintaining their capacity for activism. The event created a supportive digital environment where participants could connect with like-minded peers and validate their shared experiences of eco-grief and anxiety. By partnering with the MCYC, we ensured the programming was deeply rooted in the realities facing young people today to foster both resilience and community connection.

The session featured insights from distinguished guest speakers including Rachel Malen-Chan, the creator of Eco-Anxious Stories, and Jothsna Harris, the founder of Change Narrative LLC. These experts guided the audience through the power of storytelling as a tool for grounding and healing to help individuals navigate their emotions constructively. Attendees engaged in a Q&A session that allowed for direct dialogue with these professionals to deepen their understanding of how to balance personal well-being with environmental responsibility. The webinar received an enthusiastic response with high registration numbers and active participation throughout the presentation. To further celebrate this engagement, four generous sponsors provided over \$800 in prizes which enhanced the experience and rewarded the community for their commitment to mental and planetary health.



## Impact: High Level Summary

**100+**  
Participants

**40**  
Schools Represented

**5**  
School Boards Reached

**200+**  
Volunteer Hours Distributed

# October 2023: Rouge National Urban Park Cleanup

In October 2023, HNP Canada hosted an educational community cleanup at Rouge Park in collaboration with EcoSpark, an organization dedicated to connecting individuals with their local environments through diverse, hands-on initiatives. This unique event was designed to seamlessly combine a traditional community cleanup with an engaging nature hike, all while actively supporting EcoSpark's "Walk on the Wildside" fundraising campaign. By partnering with EcoSpark, we were able to provide our volunteers with an enriching opportunity to not only restore local green spaces but also contribute to vital fundraising efforts that sustain broader environmental education and citizen science programs across the region.

During the event, our incredible volunteers embarked on an interactive citizen science hike, working diligently to clear waste and debris from three of the park's prominent trails. Beyond just collecting and properly sorting the garbage they found, participants were empowered to act as citizen scientists by utilizing the iNaturalist app to actively identify and document various plant and animal species along their route. This dual approach ensured that the volunteers not only improved the immediate physical health of Rouge Park's ecosystems but also contributed valuable biodiversity data to a larger scientific community, making the day a multifaceted success for both conservation and education.



## Impact: High Level Summary

**20+**  
Participants

**13**  
Schools Represented

**3**  
School Boards Reached

**80+**  
Volunteer Hours Distributed

# October 2023: Chris Gibson Park Tree Planting

On October 2023, HNP Canada partnered with Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) to host a tree planting initiative at Chris Gibson Park in Brampton. This site was a target for canopy restoration within the Fletchers Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan. The event brought together volunteers from across the Peel Region to address the urgent need for increased green cover, directly mitigating the urban heat island effect and stabilizing local soil structures. Beyond the physical labor, the day provided an immersive educational experience where participants learned practical forestry skills and the critical role of native flora in maintaining climate resilience.

The collective effort resulted in the successful planting of six distinct native species—hackberry, red maple, white birch, smooth rose, staghorn sumac, and ninebark—designed to bolster biodiversity and establish essential habitat corridors for local wildlife. Under the expert guidance of CVC professionals, volunteers ensured the long-term viability of these saplings while deepening their connection to the local environment. To acknowledge the significant contributions of our community, we secured a generous sponsorship that provided over \$150 in gift cards as prizes for our participants.



## Impact: High Level Summary

**45+**  
Volunteers

**5**  
School Boards Represented

**100**  
New Trees Planted

**180+**  
Volunteer Hours Distributed

# November 2023: Greenbelt Workshop Series

In November 2023, HNP Canada concluded its annual programming with the Greenbelt Workshops, an ambitious new public education series designed to address the complex future of Ontario's protected lands. Featuring a total of four distinguished guest speakers, this two-part initiative offered a comprehensive analysis of the environmental, political, and social dimensions of land conservation. The series was designed not only to inform but to equip attendees with the vocabulary and knowledge necessary to advocate for sustainable land use in their own communities.

The event was divided into two workshops:

## Workshop 1: Sustainability and You

The inaugural session focused on the ecological significance of the Greenbelt and the political threats facing it. We were joined by Franz Hartman (Ontario Greenbelt Alliance) and Ian Borsuk (Environment Hamilton), who guided participants through the "YIMBY" (Yes In My Backyard) movement. The discussion challenged the audience to rethink urban density as a conservation tool, highlighting how the Greenbelt serves as a critical barrier against unchecked urban sprawl.

## Workshop 2: In-Depth Dive into the Greenbelt

The second session offered a granular look at the intersection of climate resilience and social justice, featuring academic insights from Robert B. Gibson (University of Waterloo) and Rosalind Snyder. Their presentations explored how the Greenbelt's river valleys act as essential infrastructure for climate change mitigation and biodiversity. Crucially, this workshop emphasized the importance of Indigenous collaboration in land stewardship and agricultural preservation.



## Impact: High Level Summary

80+  
Participants

4  
Guest Speakers

11  
School Boards Reached

120+  
Volunteer Hours Distributed

# United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are calls to action outlined by the United Nations that aim to improve the lives of everyone around the world and promote the protection of the environment. These goals guide the design of community initiatives, including those led by HNP Canada. This year, our initiatives have aligned with the following SDGs:

### Goal 3

**Good Health and Well-Being:** HNP Canada’s community cleanups, invasive plant species removals, and tree planting events create healthier and safer public spaces, supporting both physical and mental well-being.

### Goal 4

**Quality Education:** Through webinars and workshops, HNP Canada increases environmental literacy and equips youth with skills to take meaningful climate action.

### Goal 11

**Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Tree plantings, invasive species pull, and clean-ups strengthen community resilience and improve urban green spaces.



(United Nations, 2023)

# Personal and Team Development

Since 2020, HNP Canada have made it a mission to provide mentorship, guidance and workshops to all executive members for their personal growth in gaining transferable soft skills to apply to the real world. Through their time at HNP Canada, executive members get the opportunity to build on their skills while improving their contribution and work in a team setting.

## Executive Testimonials

HNP Canada has been a constant source of learning, development, and general support for give-or-take one year I’ve been a part of it. My experiences in connecting with various environmentally minded peoples, and being able to learn the ins and outs of various different tasks and general responsibilities has **developed me not just as a worker, but as a person**. I highly recommend joining HNP Canada as a solid non-profit organization to create a real change, not just environmentally, but personally.

I first got involved in HNP Canada as a participant in their 2023 Environmental Youth Advocacy Fellowship. I would consider this one of the best decisions I have made because it set me on the path to becoming a part of HNP Canada’s team itself. My experience here has been nothing but rewarding - everyone is very supportive and kind, and it truly means a lot to be a part of a greater cause. If you want to **meet amazing people and become more involved with your community**, joining HNP Canada is a great opportunity for you!

# Personal and Team Development

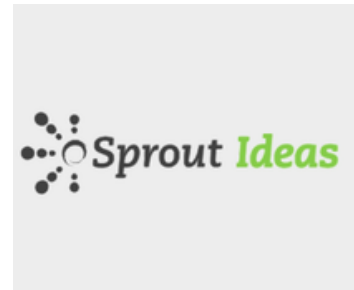
HNP Canada has given me the experience **no other organization has had**. The experiences I gathered, fostered from friendship, leadership, and various other thinking oriented tasks. It opened my view on how a non-profit actually ran and the management behind the scenes. Throughout my time on the Finance Team, I developed a sense of responsibility for completing tasks and accumulated numerous sources of knowledge along the way. Joining this organization to care about the environment around us gives us a purpose to work even harder.

I've been a part of HNP Canada for over a year and it has been nothing but an amazing experience. HNP Canada has assisted me in many ways, such as **my confidence, leadership skills, and time management**. I've not only been able to expand my knowledge regarding the environment, but also learn skills that will help me in the future. By joining the team, you will be able to learn **so many transferable skills** and gain valuable insights.

# Grants Received

## Sprout Ideas Fellowship

The Sprout Ideas Fellowship is a 10-month guided skill-building experience designed to empower the next generation of changemakers. It offers 250 #RisingYouth Alumni access to specialized training, mentorship, and seed grants to support volunteer-led community projects. In February 2023, HNP Canada was selected as a recipient of this competitive grant, securing **\$1,500** in funding. These funds were strategically allocated to support the launch and execution of HNP Canada's Youth Environmental Advocacy Fellowship. By covering essential program costs, the grant ensured the fellowship was a resounding success, effectively equipping young environmentalists with the leadership skills necessary to drive local sustainability initiatives.



## Awesome Foundation Grant

The Awesome Foundation is an ever-growing worldwide community dedicated to funding innovative projects that "forward the interest of awesome in the universe" through no-strings-attached micro-grants. HNP Canada was honored to receive this funding in October 2023, being awarded a total of **\$870** to support our on-the-ground operations. This significant contribution was primarily directed toward funding our major 2024 April Community Cleanup. The grant helped cover the logistical costs of mobilizing volunteers and providing necessary equipment for the event, while also supporting other outreach activities throughout the year that engage the public in preserving our shared green spaces.



# Sponsors

Thank you to all sponsors for supporting HNP Canada's events and outreach efforts!



# Community Spotlights

## MP Certificate of Appreciation from Sonia Sidhu

In recognition of our sustained commitment to environmental stewardship, HNP Canada was honored with a formal Certificate of Appreciation from Sonia Sidhu, the Member of Parliament for Brampton South. This distinction acknowledges the tangible impact our volunteers have made within the community, specifically highlighting our efforts in mobilizing local youth for large-scale park cleanups and invasive species removal events.



## Ignite Fair Attendee

HNP Canada was proud to be a featured attendee at the Ignite Fair, widely recognized as Canada's largest youth-run volunteer fair. Held in the Greater Toronto Area, this annual event serves as a bridge between high school students and non-profit organizations. Our executive team hosted an interactive booth where we engaged directly with hundreds of students, discussing the urgency of the climate crisis and providing clear pathways for them to fulfill their volunteer hours through environmental action. The fair was a significant recruitment success, allowing us to expand our network of eco-conscious youth and foster a new generation of environmental advocates across the GTA.



## National Media Feature

HNP Canada's co-founder, Muhammad Ansar, was featured in Canada's National Observer article titled, "A Grassroots Approach to Help the Planet" for his environmental advocacy and leadership. Canada's National Observer is an independent, award-winning publication that reports on issues related to climate, energy, politics, and social justice across Canada.



Local youth a fresh look at the possibilities for transforming natural spaces to make them more livable for all species.  
The 22-year-old Ansar, Grade 11 student Kiyam Sajadi, and co-founder 21-year-old Srija Das share the leadership involved in engaging over 1,500 young people to date in environmental conservation, protection and education.

# Collaborations of 2023

## Toronto Nature Stewards (TNS)

Toronto Nature Stewards has been a consistent collaborator in our ecological restoration and stewardship work across Toronto's ravines and parks. Through this partnership, we have been able to engage youth volunteers in invasive plant species removals, fostering biodiversity and community involvement. This year's collaboration include removing invasive plants at Birkdale Ravine.



## Credit Valley Conservation (CVC)

CVC is an environmental organization in Ontario that protects and manages the Credit River Watershed, including land stewardship, flood forecasting, and environmental monitoring. They have been one of HNP Canada's core collaborators throughout the past three years. Together, we have collaborated on events such as the Peelson Hills Park Tree Planting.



## EcoSpark

EcoSpark is an environmental charity that empowers communities to take an active role in protecting their local environment through citizen science and education. They provide the tools and training for people to monitor biodiversity and ecosystem health in their own neighbourhoods. This year's collaboration included the Rouge Park Cleanup.



# Collaborations of 2023

## Live Green Toronto

Live Green Toronto is a City of Toronto initiative dedicated to engaging residents and businesses in climate action and environmental stewardship. They provide essential resources, funding, and education to help the community reduce emissions and protect local green spaces. This year's collaboration involved the Centennial Park Cleanup.



## Movement for Change Youth Council

Movement for Change Youth Council (MCYC) strives to educate, inspire, and empower young leaders to dismantle social injustices and build a brighter future. Through dynamic programs, community engagement, leadership, and mentorship opportunities, MCYC is cultivating a generation of changemakers dedicated to creating a world where justice and opportunity are accessible to all.



# Guest Speakers

## Greenbelt Workshops



### Franz Hartman

- As the Chair of the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance, Franz provided a critical analysis of the political landscape surrounding the Greenbelt. He educated attendees on the legislative threats facing protected lands and empowered them with the knowledge to advocate for sustainable planning policies.



### Ian Borsuk

- Representing Environment Hamilton as their Climate Campaign Coordinator, Ian focused on the intersection of urban planning and conservation. He discussed the “YIMBY” (Yes In My Backyard) movement, illustrating how increasing urban density can serve as a powerful tool to prevent sprawl and protect agricultural land.



### Rosalind Snyder

- A researcher at the University of Waterloo, Rosalind focused her session on the critical role of Indigenous collaboration in land stewardship. She shared insights into how Indigenous knowledge systems are integral to effective agricultural prevention and biodiversity conservation within the Greenbelt.



### Robert B. Gibson

- A Professor at the University of Waterloo’s School of Environment, Resources, and Sustainability, Dr. Gibson provided an academic perspective on the Greenbelt’s ecological value. He highlighted how the region’s river valleys function as essential climate infrastructure, offering vital services like flood mitigation and carbon sequestration.

# Guest Speakers

## Eco-Anxiety Panel

### Rachel Malena-Chan

- As the creator of "Eco-Anxious Stories," Rachel led discussions on the mental health impacts of the climate crisis. She introduced narrative therapy tools to help youth reframe their climate grief, fostering resilience and community connection through shared storytelling.



### Jothsna Harris

- The founder of Change Narrative LLC, Jothsna specialized in "climate storytelling". She taught attendees how to bridge the gap between complex climate data and human emotion. She emphasized that personal stories are the most effective way to inspire collective action and ground oneself in difficult times.



### Kieran Maingot

- As the Manager of Communities, Climate Transitions at the Tamarack Institute, Kieran focuses on helping communities develop just and equitable responses to the unfolding climate emergency. Drawing from their background in sociology, they specialize in addressing climate grief and anxiety through collective organizing, care work, and empowering youth climate leadership.



# Leadership Team



**Srija Das**  
Co-Founder, Co-Executive Director & Board Member



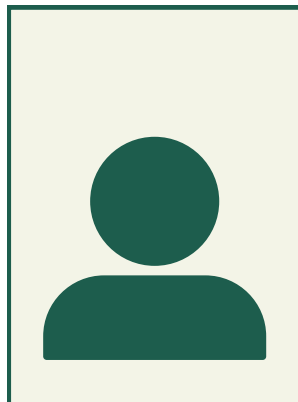
**Muhammad Ansar**  
Co-Founder, Co-Executive Director & Chair of the Board



**Kiyam Sajadi**  
Co-Executive Director



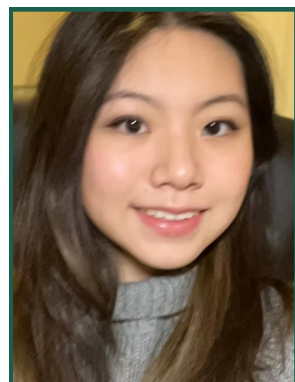
**Ridah Afshal**  
Vice President of Development



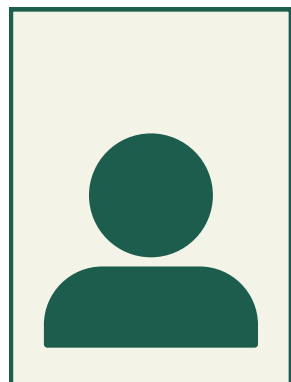
**Helia Sayadnasab**  
Vice President of Operations



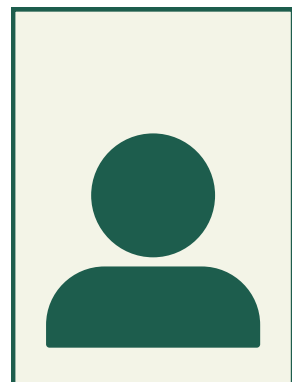
**Cindy Zhu**  
Vice President of Fellowship



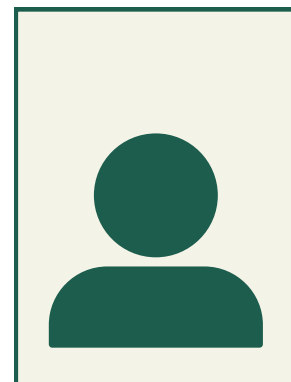
**June Yang**  
Vice President of Community Relations



**Abtin Zaker**  
Vice President of Human Resources



**Uyanda Mntambo**  
Vice President of External Affairs



**William Lee**  
Vice President of Internal Affairs

# Rest of the Team

HNP Canada greatly appreciates our team's time and dedication to making the all aspects of this previous year possible. We had several committed members across all teams who played a critical role in running this organization.

Aditi Chaturvedi  
Amanda Liu  
Ariana Yue  
Arundhati Roy  
Aurelia Lai  
Ayaan Adrito  
Bella Liu  
Chung Wah "Jason" Kwan  
Danya Shafi  
Eugene Liu  
Faith Lee  
Grace Shen  
Huda Kashif  
Husayn Jaffer  
Ian Kim  
Jessica Gonzales  
Joshua Junatas  
Kate Li  
Kyla Zhang  
Likhitha Koppula

Mahima Bhat  
Manaya Kohli  
Megan Chui  
Mohammad Sadra  
Ghaderpanah  
Neelaksha Srisangar  
Nyle Rafiq  
Pouria Ameryoun  
Puneet Khaira  
Sherry Sun  
Shrilekha Venkat  
Siobhan Lee  
Sophia Yoo  
Stephen Antonios  
Suhani Desai  
Suma Dendi  
Tanisha Patel  
Tina Akhavan  
Tommy He  
Tracy Lin  
Vishurdeey Sivakumar

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Our team would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to HNP Canada's success throughout 2023. The dedication of our executive members, volunteers, and community partners was instrumental in organizing, supporting, and hosting events that drove real environmental impact. Without their hard work, none of our initiatives would have been possible.

We are especially grateful to our partners and sponsors for their support, whether through funding, resources, or collaboration. Their contributions allowed us to expand our reach and bring our projects to life, making a lasting difference in communities across Canada.

This report was designed, written, and edited by Srijia Das, Nysa Singhi, and Meala Sang with special thanks to Amana Noreen for her strategic insight, guidance, and oversight. Her expertise helped shape this report into a meaningful reflection of our work.

Additionally, we deeply appreciate all the students who participated in HNP Canada's events this year. Your enthusiasm and dedication to environmental stewardship have strengthened our community and reinforced the importance of collective action. We also thank the student leaders who provided headshots, biographies, and testimonials with parental consent, helping to showcase the impact of our initiatives.

As we look back on an incredible year, we are excited to continue our mission with even greater passion. Thank you to everyone who has been part of HNP Canada's journey in 2023. Your support and commitment make all the difference!

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# Impact: Photo Gallery

