

# 2019-2020 Report

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WHEATLEY RIVER IMPROVEMENT GROUP, INC.





# WRIG 2019-2020 Goals

- Enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitat, promoting biodiversity in vulnerable areas.
- Monitor and maintain surface water quality.
- Collect ecological data and maintain up-to-date records.
- Encourage public education and awareness.



# Year In Review

## 2019 Summer Field Crew

- Charlotte Large – Field Crew Supervisor
- Taylor Gallant – Riparian Health Assessment Tech.
- Garrett MacDougall – Field Crew Tech.

## Training

- Chainsaw training (2)
- Woodland ecology course (3)
- Watershed rehabilitation techniques (3)



# Habitat Rehabilitation

- **1150** trees were planted on 3 separate parcels of land in the watershed; **150** trees were given away at Canada Day.
- **7 km** of stream were rehabilitated: 6km on the South branch of the Wheatley River, and 1 km on Pigeon Creek.
- **8** brush mats were built on the South branch of the Wheatley River





# Monitor and Maintain Water Quality

- Water quality monitoring was conducted at **22 sites** throughout the watershed on a weekly basis in July & August.
- Qualitative and quantitative anoxia surveys were conducted at **8 sites** between the Wheatley River Bridge and Oyster Bed Bridge on a monthly basis.



Shoreline cleanup  
was conducted  
with HCWG staff



# Ecological Data Collection

- Rackham's pond depth survey is conducted annually to monitor sedimentation in the pond.
- Riparian Health Assessments & Crossing Assessments were conducted along the South branch of the Wheatley River.
- Headwater surveys were conducted in spring and fall.
- WRIG participated in the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) through DFO.



# Public and Youth Education and Engagement

## Community Events

- Watershed booth at Canada Day celebrations in North Rustico
- Watershed information at the River Clyde Pageant in New Glasgow
- Celebrate Our River Event and Duck Race



## Educational Days

- Environmental Fun Day
- Cavendish Beach Hut in partnership with Parks Canada





# Pollinator Garden



## RACKHAM'S COMMUNITY POND POLLINATOR GARDEN

**WHAT IS A POLLINATOR GARDEN?**

**IMPORTANT FEATURES OF A POLLINATOR GARDEN**

**VARIETY**  
Providing a diversity of flowers – blooming at different times, sizes, and colours – is likely to attract a greater variety of pollinators.

**SEASONALITY**  
Including flowers that will bloom in each of the seasons from spring through autumn – early, mid, and late season blooming flowers – will help to support pollinators who are active at different times of the year.


**CLUSTERS**  
Planting similar plants together in small groups (3-5 plants) rather than interspersed will make it easier for pollinators to find the flowers. Bees and butterflies rely on their sense of smell to find flowers. Planting in clusters allows their scent to reach farther and for pollinators to better see the blooms with their poor vision.

**NATIVE PLANTS**  
Selecting native plants will provide nectar and pollen sources that are better suited to meet the needs of local wildlife. Native plants are also less susceptible to disease and pests, and require less maintenance.

Pollinators are animals that transfer pollen from one flower to another, mainly while drinking nectar and gathering pollen, to allow for the fertilization of plants. A pollinator garden is a space that provides habitat, food, and protection for all sorts of local pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, flies, wasps, ants, beetles, and hummingbirds.





**WHY ARE POLLINATORS IMPORTANT?**

The pollination services of these animals are critical for flowering plants to develop fruit with viable seeds.

Pollination is one of the most important processes on the planet but many of our pollinators are in decline due to habitat loss, pesticide use, infection, disease, climate change and introduced species.


**PLANT YOUR OWN POLLINATOR GARDEN**

Planting a pollinator garden on your property is a simple way to improve the overall health of your surroundings. Every pollinator garden will help to support our local pollinators who are an essential part of a healthy ecosystem.

Your garden does not have to be big to be effective. A small garden, made up of only a few flowers in pots or window boxes can provide food and habitat to pollinators.

In addition, gardening is one of the simplest and most profound ways you can connect with nature, and why not help your local environment at the same time?





CONTACT INFORMATION:  
 Wheatley River Improvement Group  
 website: [www.wrig.ca](http://www.wrig.ca)  
 email: [managing@wrig.ca](mailto:managing@wrig.ca)

SOURCES:  
 Printed and online guidelines sourced from the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Very Good, [www.verygood.com](http://www.verygood.com), [theplanet.org](http://theplanet.org), [butterflyconservation.org](http://www.butterflyconservation.org), [butterflyconservation.org](http://www.butterflyconservation.org), [butterflyconservation.org](http://www.butterflyconservation.org)





# 2020 Field Season

- Habitat & stream rehabilitation
- Water quality monitoring
- Headwater surveys
- Community education and engagement events
- Special project: Part II of the natural meander pattern recovery project using deflectors upstream of Rackham's Community Pond.

