

# NatureHood



Connecting Young Canadians  
to Nearby Nature

## Celebrating 10 Years of NatureHood





## Your NatureHood is Waiting to be Discovered

NatureHood encourages young Canadians to discover and connect with nature in their own backyard, with a focus on increasing access to green space for kids and youth from marginalized and underserved communities.

NatureHood works with partner organizations to break down barriers to accessing nature through the facilitation of interpretive programs and classroom activities focused on exploration, education, stewardship, and nature conservation.

Through immersive experiences that connect kids and families with the natural world around them, NatureHood sparks curiosity, educates, and cultivates a lifelong love for local ecosystems—nurturing the next generation of nature stewards and outdoor leaders.

By empowering youth with leadership opportunities while in nature, NatureHood transforms awareness of environmental issues into action—cultivating the confidence, initiative, and agency required to lead future projects that halt and reverse nature loss.

# Celebrating 10 Years of NatureHood

If we can reduce the barriers that limit access to nature by supporting local programs to engage youth of all backgrounds, then we will spark curiosity and appreciation for the natural world that will translate into an increased number of environmental stewards and a more environmentally conscious society.

Total Individuals Engaged

**262,491**

NatureHood Partners

**28**

Provincial Presence

**9**

Individuals at Public Events

**130,974**

Trips to Protected Areas\*

**1,128**

Children & Youth Engaged

**127,840**

Resource Engagements

**292,497**

Public Events Created

**2,641**

School Groups Engaged

**3,797**

Resources Produced

**1,048**

Volunteers Mobilized

**3,677**

\*National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

**"It's a deer track! No, wait. Deer don't have little toes, and there are claws, this is not a deer!"**

— Grade 2 student participating in the Wild Tracks Program, delivered by South Shore Joint Initiative at Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area

**NatureHood was developed to address the growing disconnect between people and nature, and to tackle the many barriers that limit access to the outdoors. These barriers, which range from lack of knowledge and financial constraints to language, cultural, psychological, and physical challenges, often are further complicated by unequal access to green spaces.**

NatureHood is built on the belief that access to nature should be a right, not a privilege. The program works to make outdoor spaces more inclusive, equitable, and accessible for everyone.

Nature Canada's Race and Nature in the City report is a community-informed needs assessment that provides key recommendations designed to address barriers to nature and engage underserved youth in nature-based programming. Nature Canada has mobilized its Nature Network with the goal of implementing the recommendations listed in the report, and has engaged the nature community more broadly through workshops and webinars featuring the report's authors and other experts.



**"Slow down, wait, I want to stay in the silence...  
it's never quiet like this in the city"**

— Student during a field trip to Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area"



## Program Demographics

"The program is very valuable and having experts in the field sharing with the kids is wonderful. It's neat for the kids to see job possibilities for their future."

— Teacher

**Underserved  
Families,  
Including Single  
Parents**

**Members of the  
BIPOC  
Community**

**Kids with  
Chronic Illnesses**

**Families,  
Caregivers,  
Grandparents**

**Members of the  
LGBTQI+  
Community**

**Kids, Youth and  
Students**


**Kids with  
Diverse Abilities**

**Educators**


**Female Youth,  
with a Particular Focus  
on Encouraging  
STEM Related Professions**




## Partner Programming in Action




Students taste Rose hips at Wascana Trails, led by Nature Saskatchewan



Kids and Families participate in Explorer Days, hosted by Nature Kids BC



Tree Planting for BiodiverCity during a Family Nature Night, led by Nature Alberta



Youth participate in the Nature for Newcomers program hosted by Nature Newfoundland and Labrador



**“This is my first time out of my neighborhood! Thank you so much.”**

— Student from Saint-Fidèle elementary school during trip to Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area



## Partner Testimonials

“Engaging children in fun and interactive nature activities will not only inspire the next generation of stewards who will protect our wildlife and share what they’ve learned with others, but will also create happier communities. Children and families who participate in our educational programs receive the building blocks they need to gain a greater understanding of the importance of healthy ecosystems, what that means for them and their families, and what actions they can take to protect our natural heritage.”

— Nature New Brunswick



“There is nothing like getting a classroom into nature to create curiosity about the natural world around them. Provoking excitement that turns into a love for nature. **When a person has the experience of connecting and falling in love with something so innate as nature you end up with a steward of nature.** The planet needs as many as we can get.”

— Long Point Biosphere Region



“There is a significant increase in demand from teachers and other educators to get outside and learn from the land. The past few years have caused us to rethink the way kids learn. **Land based learning and connecting to nature is critical in our journey to reconciliation.** It is also critical for students’ mental and physical health.”

— Nature Saskatchewan





At a Nature Guardians event, hosted by the Young Naturalists club of Nova Scotia, one participant learned how to recognize the Northern Flicker's call. At first, they struggled, but once they got the ID of the call down, they were able to point it out by themselves. They then learned about snags and could easily identify them throughout the park and explain why they are so important! During our outing participants also learned firsthand how to use Merlin and iNaturalist and how valuable these ecology apps are. Participants were able to download the apps and use them in their preferred language. Attendees were impressed and showed enthusiasm for using the apps independently.

— Young Naturalists Club of Nova Scotia



The Nature Newfoundland and Labrador NatureHood program has been a source of immense joy, education, and emotional support for the Ukrainian families we support through the Association for New Canadians. In a time where our families are navigating significant changes and challenges, the consistent presence of the Nature NL lessons has provided a stable and uplifting experience. Beyond the educational aspects, these experiences have been instrumental in fostering a sense of community and belonging. The shared experiences of learning and exploring have allowed our families to connect with the wider community. Witnessing our children's faces light up with excitement and curiosity during the activities has been truly heartwarming.

— Association for New Canadians  
in Newfoundland and Labrador

## Join the Movement!

Whether you're an organization or an individual, you can play a vital role in connecting children and youth with nearby nature.

Are you interested in resources designed to enhance learning outcomes during nature-based outings? Visit our resource archive for materials designed to support outdoor learning experiences.

Discover more at: [naturecanada.ca/naturehood/resources](https://naturecanada.ca/naturehood/resources)





## NatureHood Partnerships



### British Columbia

Greater Victoria NatureHood  
NatureKids BC  
Okanagan Similkameen  
Conservation Alliance

### Alberta

Nature Alberta

### Saskatchewan

Nature Saskatchewan

### Ontario

Green Ummah  
Long Point  
Biosphere Region  
Toronto and Region  
Conservation Authority  
Georgian Bay Biosphere  
Mnidoo Gamii  
Wye Marsh Wildlife Area  
Trails Youth Initiatives  
South Shore Joint Initiative

### Québec

Nature Quebec  
EarthValues Institute

### New Brunswick

Nature New Brunswick

### Nova Scotia

Young Naturalists Club  
of Nova Scotia  
Flying Squirrel Adventures  
Blomidon Naturalists  
Society  
Nature Nova Scotia  
Nature Newfoundland  
& Labrador



**For more than 85 years** Nature Canada has worked to advance nature conservation in Canada, working to defend, restore and encourage a connection to nature. We're an organization of nature lovers of all ages who take action to protect nature from coast to coast. Nature Canada works with a community of over 250,000 Canadians and 1200 environmental organizations to create the change necessary to halt and reverse nature loss.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:



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Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

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Changement climatique Canada



**Are you interested in  
supporting our work further?**

Send an email to

[NatureHood@NatureCanada.ca](mailto:NatureHood@NatureCanada.ca) to learn more!



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