

The Riverwood Conservancy

The Riverwood Conservancy (TRC) is a volunteer- and member-based charity that provides programs and services to the community in nature and environmental education, stewardship, gardening and volunteerism.

Our vision is to create a garden park where citizens can find peace and beauty in an environment that respects the natural setting, its plants and animals; a place apart from the life of the city, a place that refreshes and restores. TRC supports the City of Mississauga in the growth and development of Riverwood as a public garden, park, and nature preserve.

History of Riverwood

The natural and cultural history of Riverwood is rich, with fossils from ancient seas dating back 415 million years. Human history includes use by First Nations for elk-hunting and salmon-fishing camps, British logging of White Pine for ship masts and settlement for farming and housing.

The Credit River flows through Riverwood's western border. The 150-acre park and urban oasis features quiet glades, meadows, old growth forest, ravines, creeks and wetlands. One of the Credit River watershed's most diverse ecosystems, wildflowers flourish and wildlife abounds at Riverwood. Over 170 bird species have been identified.

Heritage structures include the 1919 Arts and Crafts style Chappell House, home of TRC, MacEwan Field Station, believed to have once been a pickle-processing facility, and MacEwan Barn with its original 1850s hand-hewn beams.



Education Naturally

Our elementary school science-based environmental education program provides a rich addition to classroom learning in the fully-serviced and accessible MacEwan Field Station. In this unique curriculum-linked program, students from JK to Grade 8, including special needs children, safely explore forests, ravines and water systems under the supervision of professional staff and trained volunteers. Thousands of students have learned to respect and care for all wild things through their Riverwood experience.



Exploration Naturally

TRC offers *Exploration Naturally*, a secondary school environmental- and stewardship-based education program. Structured to take the classroom outside, programs in various disciplines meet Ontario secondary school curriculum guidelines.

Art Naturally!

TRC and Visual Arts Mississauga have collaborated to present a new joint school program. *Art Naturally!* blends the creativity of the art studio with hands-on nature programs.

Discovery@Riverwood

This year-round adult and family interpretive program fosters the public's appreciation of cultural and natural heritage areas and the reasons to restore and protect them. Through programs visitors can hand-feed chickadees in winter, learn about deer in spring, watch birds in summer, witness fall salmon in the Credit River and much more.



Volunteers Make Riverwood Bloom!

TRC volunteers are enthusiastic ambassadors for Riverwood and the environment, contributing thousands of hours annually. They plant flowers, plan events, participate on committees, rebuild habitat, ensure safe trails, work in the office, feed birds and assist the teachers. Each volunteer's contribution is unique and vital, making a difference to the success of TRC and the beauty of Riverwood.



Join our volunteer team by contacting the Volunteer Coordinator.

Friends of Riverwood

Friends of Riverwood include volunteers, members, donors and sponsors who support our programs and services. Join us!



Membership

Members, like volunteers, are the roots of TRC and a signal of community support. Member support connects children, youth, adults and families to nature, and contributes to the greening of Mississauga. Members receive *Samara*, our quarterly newsletter, and other benefits detailed on our website.



Stewardship

TRC staff and volunteers steward Riverwood and help manage and preserve its land and water resources for current and future generations. Together with the City of Mississauga and Credit Valley Conservation, corporate teams, school groups, service clubs and general public, we restore and protect wildlife habitat, re-naturalize areas with native plants, maintain trails and more. For information on how you or your group can get involved and have fun doing it, please contact us.



Fund Development and Partnerships

All gardens need water, nutrients and sun to grow. For TRC to grow requires something more - the support and generosity from members of the community. Sponsorships, partnerships and in-kind support are highly valued, provide mutual benefits and are available for all programs, including the annual *Earth: A Celebration* fundraiser. Please call to discuss opportunities.



TRC is grateful to our private benefactors and to:

- Applewood Garden Club • City of Mississauga • Credit Valley Conservation • Credit Valley Horticultural Society
- Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board • ErinoakKids
- Mississauga Master Gardeners • NewhouseRusin
- Peel District School Board • ScotiaMcLeod • Scotiabank
- Scotts Canada • Sheridan Nurseries • Springbank Greenhouses
- The Evergreen Foundation • The Landplan Collaborative
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation
- The Pendle Fund at The Community Foundation of Mississauga
- University of Toronto at Mississauga • Vanhof & Blokker
- York University

A full listing of our donors is available on our website.

Chappell House Gardens

Nestled in the centre of Riverwood, the Chappell House Gardens emerge with 8,000 colourful spring bulbs and continue through the seasons with perennials, roses, annuals and containers. A heritage pond filled with lily, lotus, koi and goldfish delight visitors.



Our newly planted *Carolinian Teaching and Woodland Garden* features Sassafras, Pawpaw, Tulip tree, Cucumber Magnolia and other unusual plants distinct to this regionally rare ecosystem.



Photography@Riverwood

The Chappell House Gardens are now available as a beautiful backdrop to photos of your wedding day or other special occasion. Please call the City of Mississauga Customer Service at 905-615-4100 for a permit. A portion of the permit fee supports TRC's community programs.



MacEwan Terrace Garden

The long-awaited spectacular two-acre garden showcases terraces that overlook beckoning native plantings, perennial gardens, a viewing deck to a wildlife-rich vernal pond and much more. Themed gardens attract birds and butterflies. Heritage gardens around the 1850s barn are accented by stately White Pine, the graceful skirts of Norway Spruce and swaying ornamental grasses.

The Riverwood Conservancy Enabling Garden

Have you noticed how just being around plants can make you feel better. Visitors of all abilities can experience the joy of gardening in our new specially designed garden of raised planters and pots.



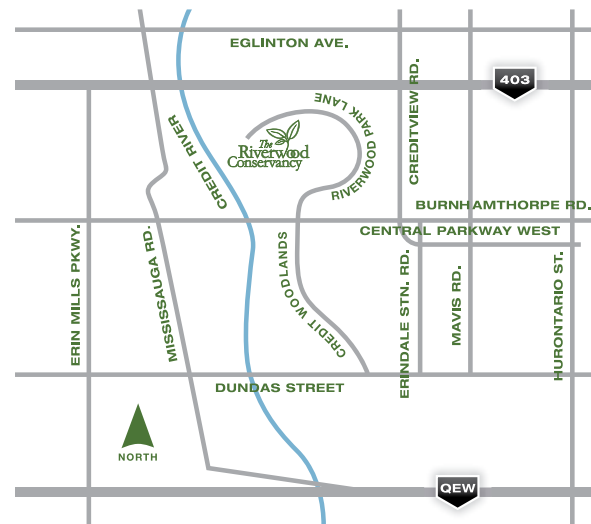
These fully accessible gardens are expected to open in fall 2011 and hands-on planned group activities begin in spring 2012. Accessible washrooms are located in the Visual Arts Mississauga building.

Public Trails

Riverwood features 4 km of trails. The main Culham Trail runs along the Credit River and meanders through forest and past ravines. The terrain allows for heart-healthy casual and aerobic walks. A quiet walk along our trails could produce magical encounters with a variety of wildlife. Look for birds year round along the Scotts Wild Bird TREK. A brochure is available for self-guided walks. Interpretive, naturalist-led tours are available.

Presentations

TRC Ambassadors are happy to make a presentation to your group or school. Call us for more information.



CONTACT US

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Volunteer Opportunities
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Volunteer@TheRiverwoodConservancy.org

Riverwood is located at the intersection of Burnhamthorpe Road West and The Credit Woodlands just a few kilometres west from Square One and City Centre.

Riverwood is accessible by car, walking, bicycle, GO and Mississauga bus transit.

Free admission and parking all year long.

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