

Brickyard Park Community Cleanup Impact Report

Human Nature
Projects Canada



Report prepared by 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 is a summary of an in-person event hosted by Human Nature Projects (HNP) Canada in May 2025, specifically the community cleanup hosted at Brickyard Park. The impacts of these events on the environment and the community are quantified by numbers, facts, and testimonials. Executive members of HNP Canada have been excluded from all statistics throughout the report unless explicitly stated.

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, including members of the HNP team, 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 events team by reaching out to events@hnpontario.org.

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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. To date, HNP Canada has involved 10,000+ 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.

Introducing HNP Canada's Events Team

The events team at HNP Canada is dedicated to planning, organizing and executing various events and initiatives that aim to spread environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices. Whether it is through community cleanups, educational webinars, or friendly challenges, the team works hard and is passionate about making a positive impact on our planet. Our events not only educate youth on environmental crises but also allow participants to engage in tangible and meaningful acts of stewardship in their lives.

The events HNP Canada hosts vary in nature and include both in-person and virtual ones. There have been multiple in-person community events hosted which bring large groups of people together to improve our environment. In the past, we have hosted cleanups, removed invasive plant species, and planted trees. Our other events include educational initiatives which aim to serve as a platform for youth to learn and discover new concepts and skills. Previously, there have been webinars on water contamination, environmental career panels, and competitions where participants create art pieces in any medium around an environmental theme. The events team hopes to continue to expand the scope of their initiatives, driving forward HNP Canada's mission of promoting environmental awareness and sustainability.



May 2025: Brickyard Park Community Cleanup

On Saturday, May 31st, 2025, the Ontario branch of HNP Canada organized a community cleanup at Brickyard Park in Mississauga. This cleanup brought together volunteers from across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in a shared mission to remove litter in public parks and surrounding neighborhoods. In addition to its tangible environmental impact, the event provided valuable educational opportunities, allowing participants to observe the detrimental effects of littering (UNEP, 2018). Community cleanups contribute to combating pollution, supporting ecosystems, lowering carbon footprints, and enhancing the overall health of our planet (Atlas of Science, 2022).

HNP Canada chose to host this event at Brickyard Park due to its ecological value and due it being a recreational hub in Mississauga. Brickyard Park serves the community with a wide range of amenities including the playgrounds and soccer fields (City of Mississauga, n.d.), making it a frequently-used green space. The high level of public use have also led to increased waste on natural areas. By targeting this site, HNP Canada aimed to preserve both its natural environment and its value as a vibrant community space.



24

Participants

10

Schools Represented at the Cleanup

4

School Boards Reached

96

Volunteer Hours Distributed in Total

Ontario Wildlife Foundation (OWF) Grant

HNP Canada received a \$500 grant from the Ontario Wildlife Foundation (OWF) to run our Brickyard park community cleanup. This generous contribution enabled us to equip volunteers with the necessary supplies and resources (e.g., garbage bags, gloves etc.) to carry out a successful cleanup. It also allowed our team to get food and snacks to support our volunteers on the day of the cleanup. The support from OWF reflected a shared commitment to environmental preservation and youth-led climate action. This cleanup highlights HNP Canada’s commitment to empower youth to take meaningful steps toward ecological restoration.



Impact: High Level Summary

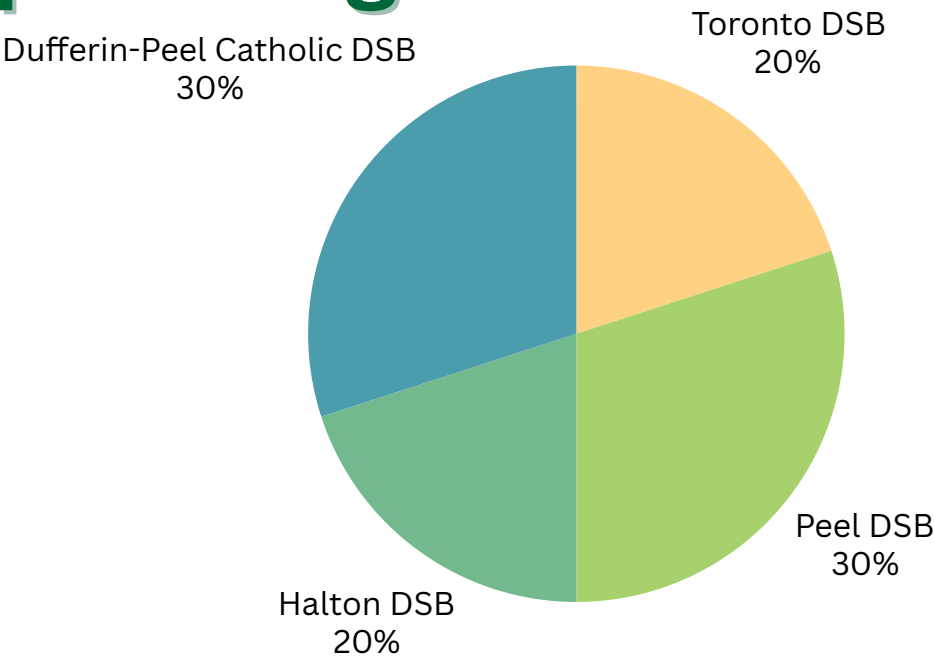


Figure 1. High schools categorized by school boards as a percentage of total schools involved in the Brickyard Park Community Cleanup.

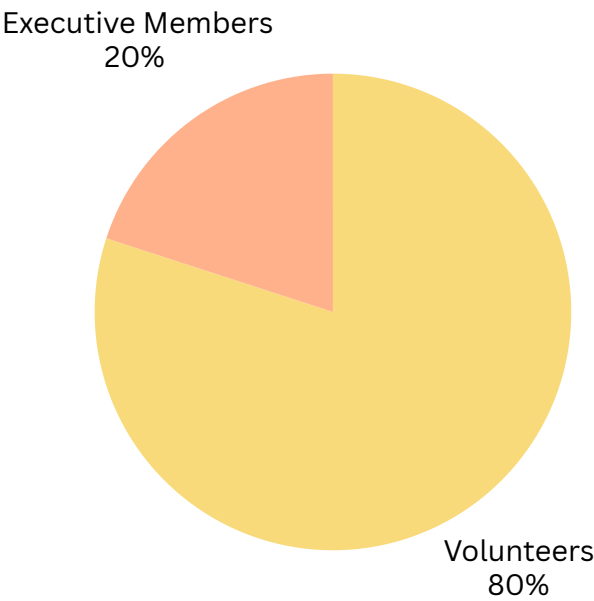
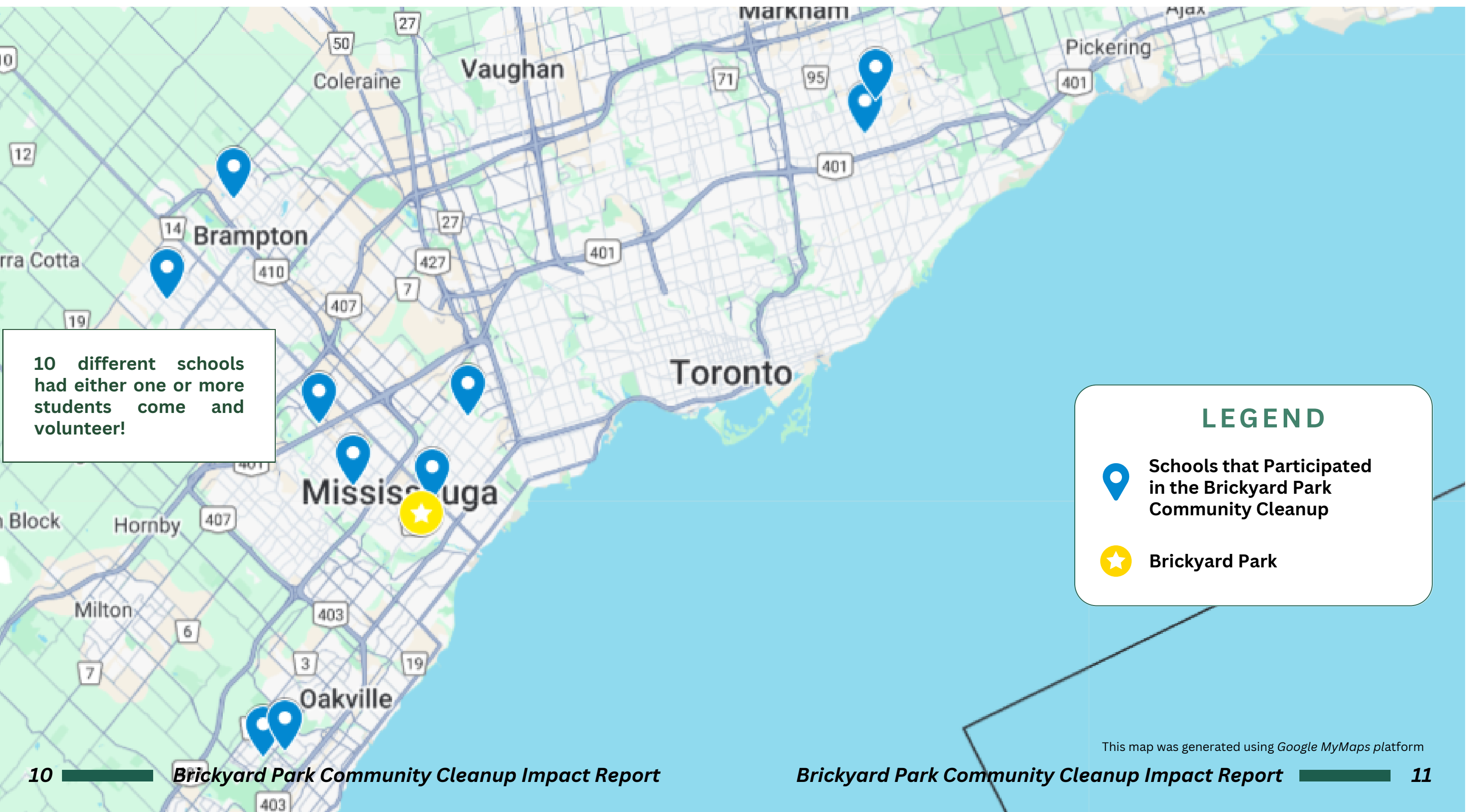


Figure 2. Participant composition of attendees at Brickyard Park Community Cleanup.

Note: *DSB stands for “District School Board”

Impact: High Level Summary



10 different schools had either one or more students come and volunteer!

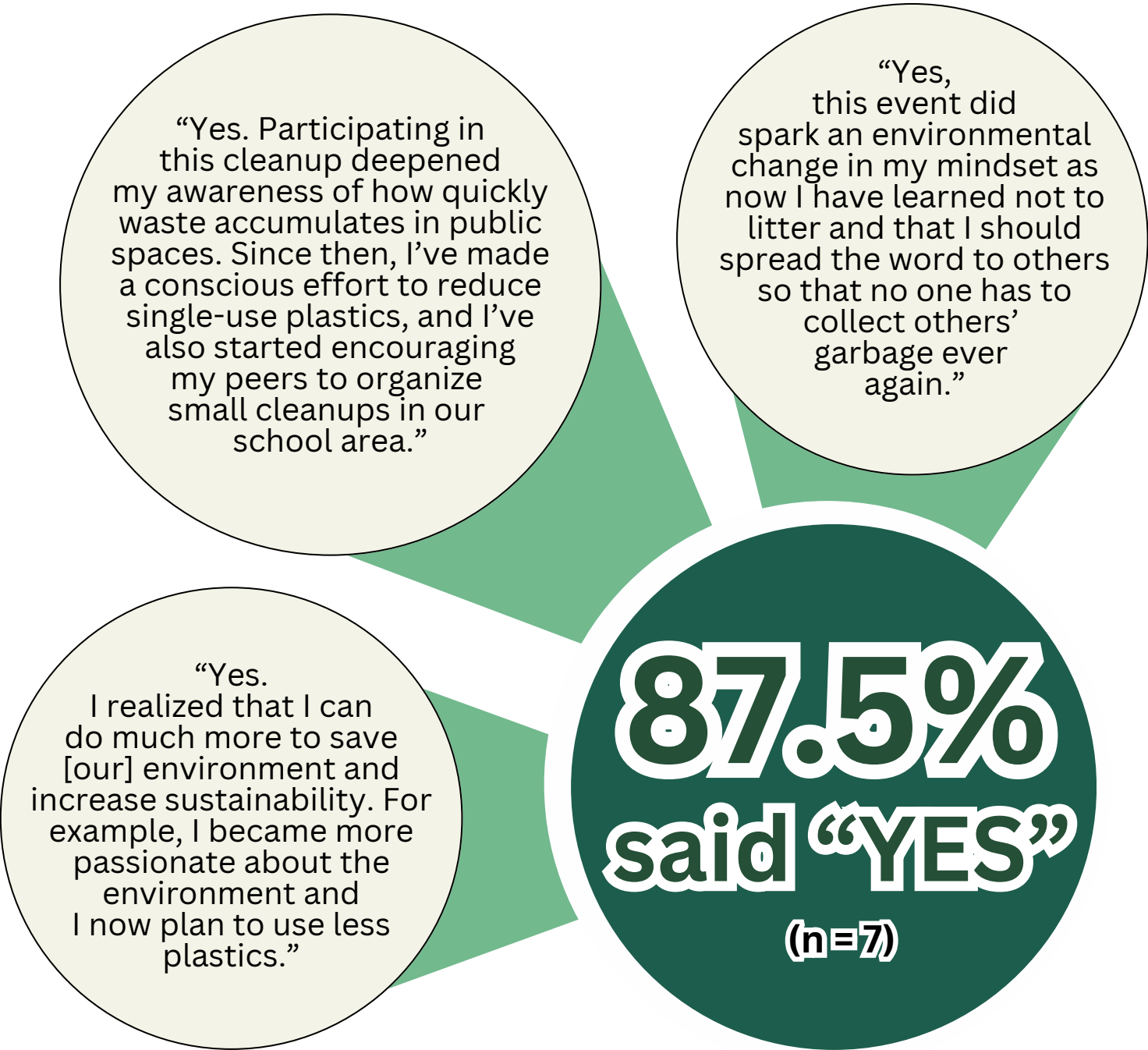
LEGEND

-  Schools that Participated in the Brickyard Park Community Cleanup
-  Brickyard Park

This map was generated using Google MyMaps platform

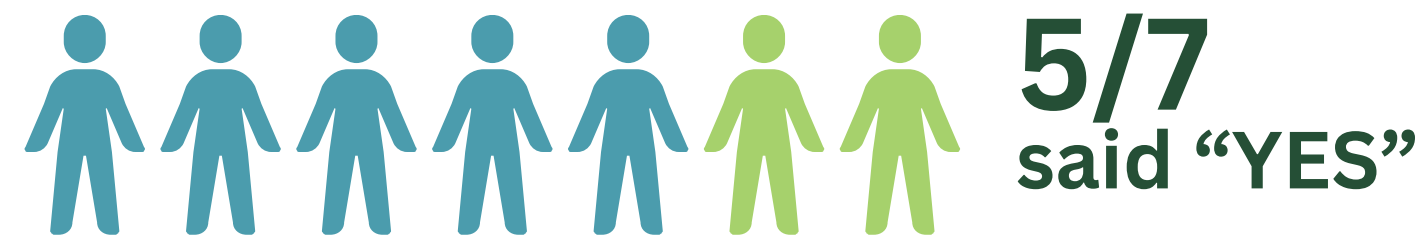
Impact: Student Testimonials

Did this event spark an environmentally conscious change in your life? If so, what specific change(s) did it make and how?



Impact: Student Testimonials

Did you learn anything new about the environment, the importance of keeping a local community clean, or anything else that you did not know before?



- "I learned that even small pieces of litter, like bottle caps and candy wrappers, can harm wildlife and take decades to decompose. This was explained during the introductory talk, and I saw firsthand how much of this kind of waste we collected. It made the environmental impact feel much more real."
- "Yes, I learned more about the land acknowledgement and Indigenous rights."
- "Trash were everywhere in every crook and cranny in the environment."
- "I learned why a land acknowledgement is said before events start."

References

Atlas of Science. (2022). Importance of Cleanliness in Community Living. *Atlas Of Science*.
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UNEP. (2018). Picking up litter: Pointless exercise or powerful tool in the battle to beat plastic pollution? *United Nations Environment Programme*. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/picking-litter-pointless-exercise-or-powerful-tool-battle-beat-plastic>

City of Mississauga. (n.d.). Brickyard Park.
City of Mississauga. <https://www.mississauga.ca/events-and-attractions/parks/brickyard-park/>

Acknowledgements

Foremost, HNP Canada would like to express sincere gratitude to Ontario Wildlife Foundation for this rewarding opportunity. With their grant support, HNP Canada was able to make a huge impact on the local ecosystem of Brickyard park.

Furthermore, HNP Canada would like to acknowledge the events team at the Ontario branch for planning, managing, hosting, and organizing the Brickyard park cleanup. Specifically, our team would like to thank Meala Sang, Sarvesh Sekar, Amana Noreen, Chung Wah (Jason) Kwan, Danya Shafi, and Muhammad Ansar for their oversight of these events.

This report was spearheaded by Chung Wah (Jason) Kwan, and designed and written by Chung Wah (Jason) Kwan and Amana Noreen.

Additionally, our team would like to say a huge thank you to the editors of this report which include: Danya Shafi, Amana Noreen, Meala Sang, Sarvesh Sekar and Muhammad Ansar.

This event would not have been made possible without our amazing leadership team who supervised this report and related events. A huge thank you to Danya Shafi, Srija Das, and Muhammad Ansar.

Lastly, our team would also like to thank all students who participated in HNP Canada’s Brickyard park cleanup. As well, we would like to thank all students and executives who provided us with testimonials and biographies to include in this report.