



Possibility grows here.

Greenbelt Foundation

#404 - 720 Bathurst Street

Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2R4

(416) 960-0001

[www.greenbelt.ca](http://www.greenbelt.ca)

## Backgrounder: Greenbelt Foundation Grant Awarded to Green Thumbs Growing Kids for Local Explorers Program

Date: June 16, 2022

Prepared for: Various media

Prepared by: Greenbelt Foundation

### Background

Green Thumbs Growing Kids works on stewarding school lands in Toronto through hands-on experiential learning, community-led and accessible gardens, as well as supporting local food sovereignty. Project Canoe offers therapeutic outdoor programming in wilderness and urban environments for youth who experience barriers and works to dismantle systems of inequity through opportunity and mentorship.

The Local Explorers program is particularly important to both organizations to honour their relationships with the Black and Indigenous communities, and that is also a priority for the Greenbelt Foundation. The \$7,000 funding allows the grantee to nurture these relationships and create programming that is culturally, socially and environmentally nuanced and beneficial to these communities and the Greenbelt.

Two workshops are conducted every month, rotating between in-person and virtual learning:

- In-person workshops are organized on weekends, and each is about four hours in length. They are centered on nature exploration, environmental stewardship, cultivating the Local Explorers' garden beds in the Winchester school garden, outdoor recreation, sharing knowledge around the Indigenous moon and medicine wheel teachings, storytelling and skill sharing.
- The virtual workshops are two-three hours in length during the week to deepen the learnings of Indigenous moon and sharing land healing practises that help support the youth's mental and physical health.

The group has taken trips to High Park Nature Centre and Evergreen Brickworks and is planning an excursion to a farm. This month, the participants will visit Lucky Bug Farms – a small scale, women-led and Black-owned farm in the Greenbelt. The group will meet a Black farmer and hear their experience of growing food in the Greenbelt. The youth will have access to a farmer for the day and learn about providing care for farm animals, cultivating the land and harvesting vegetables.





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#### **About Greenbelt Foundation:**

Greenbelt Foundation is a charitable organization, solely dedicated to ensuring the Greenbelt remains permanent, protected and prosperous. We make the right investments in its interconnected natural, agricultural, and economic systems, to ensure a working, thriving Greenbelt for all. Ontario's Greenbelt is the world's largest, with over two million acres of farmland, forests, wetlands and rivers working together to provide clean air, fresh water, and a reliable local food source.

#### **Greenbelt Foundation Social Media:**

Website: [greenbelt.ca](http://greenbelt.ca)

Instagram: @ongreenbelt

Twitter: @greenbeltca

Facebook: Ontario Greenbelt

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