



Fall in Taylor Creek Scavenger Hunt



Learn about nature while you explore Taylor Creek Park between Dawes Rd. & Victoria Park. All of these treasures should be visible from the official trails - there is no need to trample plants or frighten animals by wandering off trail. Please do not pick any flowers or leaves, or chase any critters you might see. The best way to protect nature is to leave it alone!



Native Species

Native plants & animals have lived here for thousands and thousands of years. Over this time they have become a vital part of their ecosystem, co-existing in harmony with other native species and providing food and habitat for a variety of bugs, birds, and other animals.



Invasive Species

Invasive plants & animals did not originate here and their presence causes damage to the local ecosystem. Without natural predators to control their spread, invasives outcompete native species, threaten biodiversity, and reduce the food and habitat available to bugs, birds, and other animals.



Taylor Creek Park

Taylor Creek Park was once home to the Massey family's City Dairy Company, the first farm to introduce pasteurized milk to Canada! Starting in 1926 the family donated parts of their property to the borough of East York and the remaining lands became an official City park in 1959.

Native Species



Find at least **THREE** of the following native species:



COMMON GOLDENROD

Goldenrod contains a large amount of rubber. Inventor Thomas Edison experimented with different types of goldenrod to try and develop a renewable source of rubber for Henry Ford!

NARROW-LEAVED CATTAIL

This tall, wetland species is considered one of our most important plants to many indigenous Canadians. It is a traditional food source and used for fire making, basket weaving, and as medicine.



RED OAK

Oaks are likely the most ecologically-valuable tree in our forests, serving as critical habitat features for a wide variety of wildlife. The leaves of red oaks have pointed tips; white oak leaves are rounded.



RIVERBANK GRAPE

This vine is abundant in Toronto's natural areas and can often be found growing up tree trunks and over shrubs. The fruits are smaller and more acidic than the grapes you buy in stores - but birds love them!



NEW ENGLAND ASTER

Despite its name, New England aster can be found throughout most of Canada and the United States. This plant is used as medicine by many indigenous North Americans, particularly for treating fevers.

Invasive Species



Find at least **TWO** of the following invasive species:



JAPANESE SWEET-COLTSFOOT

Native to Asia, the gigantic leaves of this plant make it easy to spot in marshy areas and along streams. Japanese sweet-coltsfoot is a "garden escapee," a plant that spreads to a natural area after being purchased in a garden centre and planted in someone's backyard.



EUROPEAN BUCKTHORN

This tree is a significant threat to Toronto's natural areas. Its seeds are easily spread by birds, who enjoy eating its berries despite the fact they're of little nutritional value. Buckthorn grows very fast and easily out-competes many of our native trees.



PHRAGMITES

This water-loving reed is considered one of our worst invasive species. Phragmites provide little habitat value, crowd out other species, lower water levels, and kill other plants by releasing toxins from their roots!

DOG-STRANGLING VINE

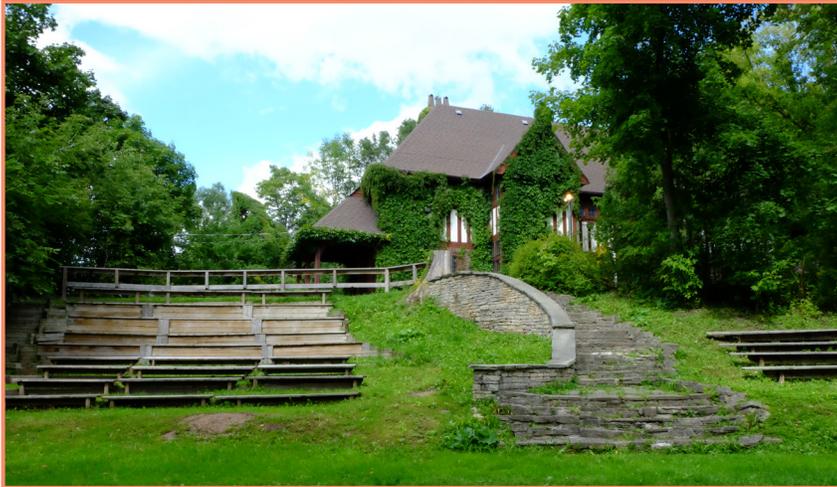
Don't worry - this plant doesn't actually attack dogs! It does, however, spread unbelievably fast and can take over an area in only a few seasons. As it is a form of milkweed, Monarchs sometimes lay eggs on it – but their caterpillars can't eat this plant and many die before finding food!



Taylor Creek Park



Find at least **TWO** of the following features:



GOULDING ESTATE

Built in 1921, this building is the last surviving structure from the Massey family estate. It was designated a heritage site in 1995 and is now home to the Children's Peace Theatre.



TAYLOR CREEK WETLAND

This shallow pond is a human-constructed wetland, built by the TRCA in 2008/2009. The pond serves as valuable habitat to a variety of creatures. Look carefully and you just might spot turtles basking in the sun, muskrats swimming in the water, or ducks diving for food!



TAYLOR-MASSEY CREEK

One of the most important tributaries of the Don River, Taylor-Massey creek flows all the way from Hwy. 401 & Pharmacy Ave. down to "The Forks" at the western edge of Taylor Creek Park, right by Don Mills Rd. Sadly, it is considered one of the most polluted waterways in Toronto.

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