



# Summer Scavenger Hunt

**in L'Amoreaux North Park & Passmore Forest**

Learn about nature while you explore L'Amoreaux North Park & Passmore Forest. All of these treasures will 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.

## L'AMOREAUX NORTH PARK & PASSMORE FOREST

From the wildlife that visits L'Amoreaux Pond to the mature trees that stand in Passmore Forest, this area offers wonderful sights to see and places to explore. Have fun and good luck!



# Native Species



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



☐ **RED OSIER DOGWOOD**

The red branches of this shrub were highly prized by native Canadians and early settlers as material for weaving baskets. It loves damp soil, and is often found growing along streams and rivers which helps to protect the banks from erosion.

☐ **COMMON MILKWEED**

Milkweeds are the only species of plant on which monarch butterflies will lay their eggs! The less milkweed we have, the less monarchs we have.



☐ **CANADA GOOSE**

These geese have adapted very well to city life and are found in many parks across Toronto. Never feed bread to geese! It fills them up but offers very little nutrition, leading to poor health. Baby geese might even develop deformities that prevent them from flying!



☐ **EASTERN WHITE PINE**

Red pine and white pine look really similar but red pines sprout clusters of two needles while white pines sprout clusters of five. An easy way to remember? "White" has five letters, just like the number of needles.



☐ **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:



## ☐ COMMON TEASEL

This plant originates from Europe, Asia, and Africa and was likely brought to North America almost two-hundred years ago for use in textile making. Since then it has spread wildly, and can now be found in many of Toronto's natural areas.



## ☐ PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

This invasive was once a huge problem in Ontario, but release of two loosestrife-eating beetles from Europe has helped to get this plant under control!



## ☐ COMMON BURDOCK

Burdock's familiar burrs get stuck to your clothes (or your dog's fur) - a minor a nuisance to remove. They pose a major problem to small birds, however, whose feathers can get tangled in them, leading to loss of flight or worse, death.

## ☐ 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 years. While DSV is a type of milkweed, monarch caterpillars can't eat it and may starve if they are born on this plant.





# L'AMOREAUX NORTH PARK & PASSMORE FOREST



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



## ☐ ALEXANDRA SITE PLAQUE

Almost seven-hundred years ago this area was home to a bustling Huron-Wendat village! Learn about what archaeologists discovered nearby by reading these fascinating plaques.

## ☐ TREE TAGS

Many years ago, some of the trees in Passmore Forest were labelled with identification tags to help people learn about our native species. Any tree tag counts, but if you're lucky you might find two treasures at once - there's one eastern white pine with a tree tag!



## ☐ PLANTING SITE

This park and forest have been helped by people just like you! Look around and you'll discover several spots where the community have planted native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers over the years.



## ☐ OUTLET OF WEST HIGHLAND CREEK

Find this outlet and you've found the start of West Highland Creek, the source of the water in L'Amoreaux Pond.

TFN members enjoy many benefits: over 100 guided nature walks each year, 8 issues of our informative newsletter, citizen science and stewardship opportunities, free lectures by noted experts, and so much more. Memberships start at only \$10 a year! Learn more at [torontofieldnaturalists.org/join](http://torontofieldnaturalists.org/join).

