

July 2021 - Walk Schedule

<p>Tuesday July 6 10:00 am</p>	<p>East Don South - Nature Walk. Leader: Charles Chaffey Meeting spot: The upper benches in Cullen Bryant Park just north of O'Connor Drive and Coxwell Blvd. East Don north from Forks of the Don. This is a 2 1/2 hour circular walk covering 4km over mostly unpaved and uneven surfaces with gentle slopes as well as some steep slopes. Descend to Taylor Creek, west to its confluence with the East Don, then north on the incomplete East Don Trail. If there is construction, a parallel informal path will be followed. Return the same way or by informal paths. After the stairs down to Taylor Creek, it will be flat all the way on the main trail. Returning by informal paths will give variety but they have steep ups and downs. Stairs: There are stairs What to bring: Masks, binoculars, camera, water, sunhat, sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks if you wish. Washrooms: No washrooms are available. TTC: Take any #70 O'Connor bus from the Coxwell subway station on Line 2 to O'Connor and walk north one block.</p>
<p>Saturday July 10 8:00 am</p>	<p>Ashbridges Bay - Nature and Heritage Walk Leader: Ellen Schwartzel Meeting spot: Outside the north entrance of Donald D. Summerville Olympic Pool; 1867 Lake Shore Blvd. East This is a 2 hour circular walk covering 3.5km over mostly unpaved but even, fairly flat surfaces. Enjoy the cool morning breeze off the lake, rustling the cottonwood leaves. Watch cormorants fly in formation, and imagine this area's past as a vast wetland, until being filled in 1912. Walk along the sand if the boardwalk gets busy and we might see trumpeter swans, cliff swallows and killdeer. What to bring: Masks, binoculars, camera, water, sunhat, sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks. Washrooms: Available along the way. TTC: From Woodbine Station on Line 2, take the #92 bus south to Woodbine at Kew Beach. Short walk to the meeting spot. Note: <i>By 10:00 a.m. it may be quite hot.</i></p>

<p>Thursday July 15 6:30 pm</p>	<p>The evolution of Harbourfront - Nature and Heritage Leader: Paul Overy Meeting spot: In front of the main entrance to the CN Tower. This is a 2-hour linear walk covering 2 km over mostly paved, flat surfaces with some gentle slopes. This walk will be an exploration of the area known as Harbourfront which is remarkably rich with little-known history. Meet near the main entrance to the CN Tower (I'll explain why during the walk). From the CN Tower, we will make our way toward the lake to explore what led to the creation of Harbourfront, then westward along the waterfront to discover the diversity of spaces along the lake. The walk will end near Queen's Quay and Bathurst. Stairs: There are no stairs. Washrooms: Available along the way What to bring: Masks, binoculars/camera to look for waterfowl, water, sunhat, sunscreen, snacks. Dress for the weather, as the lakefront area is generally cooler and windier than areas further inland. TTC: You can reach within a block or two of the CN Tower via TTC on the 121 bus along Front St. or the 510 streetcar. Or take the subway to Union Station and take the Skywalk from there directly to the Tower. Parking: Parking is available off Lower Simcoe south of Bremner or off Bremner south of the Rogers Centre.</p>
<p>Tuesday July 20 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Small's Creek and nearby parks - an evening ramble Leader: Ellen Schwartzel Meeting spot: The southwest corner of East Lynn Ave. and Danforth Ave. – just inside East Lynn Park – one block west of Woodbine subway station. This is a 1.5 hour linear walk covering 2.4km over mostly paved, even and fairly flat surfaces. An east-end evening ramble to explore Small's Creek and neighbouring East Lynn and Monarch Parks, which are linked by quiet residential streets. Small's Creek is where Metrolinx currently proposes to remove hundreds of mature ravine trees to add a fourth rail line. A very active local community has hired a lawyer to try to change the narrative. Jewelweed, chokecherry, witch hazel and American basswood are among the native plants we will encounter. The walk will end at the Greenwood subway station. What to bring: Masks, water, insect repellent, binoculars, camera. Washrooms: No washrooms are available. Stairs: There are stairs along the route. TTC: Go to the Woodbine subway station on Line 2 to the meeting point. Parking: Parking is available anywhere between the Woodbine and Greenwood subway stations.</p>
<p>Wednesday July 21 9:00 am</p>	<p>Glendon Forest, Wilket and Burke Creeks - Nature and Heritage Leader: Charles Bruce-Thompson Meeting spot: Southeast corner of Bayview and Lawrence - 2275 Bayview Ave. This is a 2.5 hour circular walk covering 7km over mostly paved, flat surfaces with some steep slopes. Walk through Glendon College campus which includes the former country estate of Toronto financier and philanthropist Edward Rogers Wood and look at the remains of the botanical garden he established there. We'll descend to Glendon Forest and walk alongside Wilket creek, returning to Bayview Avenue by following Burke Creek. Stairs: There are stairs. What to bring: Masks, binoculars, camera, water, sunhat, sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks if you wish.</p>

	<p>Washrooms: No washrooms are available. TTC: Take the 124 Sunnybrook bus from Lawrence subway station on Line 1. Note: <i>One small section of the walk involves a bit of a scramble over some rocks.</i></p>
<p>Saturday July 24 10:00 am</p>	<p>The Old Toronto Golf Club - Nature and Heritage Walk Leader: Joanne Doucette Meeting spot: Parkette on the southwest corner of Fairford Avenue and Upper Gerrard Street. This is a 3 hour linear walk covering 10-12km over mostly paved surfaces with gentle slopes as well as some steep slopes. This is the first of a series of walks exploring long-lost golf courses that were repurposed into public parks. We will open up a new way of looking at both our public parks and golf courses. How successful was the change from the first Toronto Golf Course which closed in 1912? Were the new parks created reforested or otherwise restored to a natural condition or did they become picnic parks with lolly pop trees and lawns? Are they now dog parks? What about Small's Creek and the other creeks on the course? Were they channelized or buried? Could we do better? How? What about the courses that are unlikely to ever become public parks? How could they become environmentally friendly? Is it possible? Stairs: There are stairs. There are formal stairways at Williamson's Ravine and Cassels Park have railings. Fairmount Park can be accessed by a long walkway with steps gradually going down, not all of it has railways but it is easy going. What to bring: Masks, binoculars, water, sunhat, sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks if you wish. Washrooms: No washrooms are available. TTC info: From the Coxwell subway station on Line 2, take the 22B bus south to Gerrard and Fairford. NOTE: <i>Some of the parks on our route include Williamson's Ravine, Fairmount Park, and Cassels Avenue Playground. This is a long walk and much of it will be at a fairly fast pace. Also, Williamson's Ravine is quite wet and soggy underfoot and there are parts of the stream spanned by narrow planks or logs with no railings. This is a park for the sure-of-foot, agile and intrepid -- or those who don't mind getting wet.</i></p>