

October 2021 - Walk Schedule

<p>Friday October 1 9:30 am</p>	<p>A pleasant Friday walk in High Park - nature Leader: Martin Chen Location: High Park Meeting spot: The southwest corner of Quebec and Bloor West (across from the High Park subway station). This is a 2 hour circular route covering 6 km over mostly paved, flat surfaces with some gentle slopes. One of the best city parks in Toronto, we will walk past colourful trees and grasslands to several duck-filled ponds. What to bring: Masks, binoculars, camera, water. Wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the weather. Washrooms: Washrooms are available along the way. TTC: Take the subway to the High Park subway station on line 2. Parking: Parking is available inside the park. Note that the meeting spot is just outside the subway station. Walk leader cell number: 416.854.4157</p>
<p>Friday October 8 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Blythwood & Sherwood Parks - nature and heritage Leaders: Jennifer Smith and Paul Overy Location: Blythwood & Sherwood Parks Meeting spot: Southeast corner of Lawrence Ave. East & Yonge St. in front of the Locke Library This is a 2 hour linear route covering 3.5 km over mostly unpaved, uneven surfaces with gentle slopes and some steep slopes. As we walk towards Blythwood Park, we will meander SE from Lawrence Av. East & Yonge St. through a residential area to discuss the history of this Lawrence Park neighbourhood. Along the route through Blythwood and Sherwood parks, we will discuss the evolution of this remarkable urban forest and how it varies through the parks. We'll also speak about the history and route of Burke Brook. We will finish at the entrance to Sherwood Park on Sherwood Ave. near Mount Pleasant Road, where we can catch the Mount Pleasant #74 bus south to the St. Clair subway station. Note that we will walk through an off-leash dog walking trail, where there will be many dogs. Stairs: There are stairs, some of which may be steep. What to bring: Masks, binoculars, water. Sturdy walking shoes will be advantageous and a walking stick/poles might be helpful. Washrooms: Washrooms are available along the way. TTC: Line 1 subway to the Lawrence Avenue station. At the end of the walk, catch the Mount Pleasant #74 bus south to the St. Clair subway station. Walk leader cell number: (416) 828-3874</p>

<p>Saturday October 9 10:00 am</p>	<p>Nordheimer Ravine - nature and heritage Leader: Rachel Gottesman Location: Nordheimer Ravine Meeting spot: Exit from the St Clair West subway station onto the south side of St. Clair West opposite Loblaw's. This is a 2 hour circular route covering ?? km over mostly unpaved but even surfaces with gentle slopes and some steep slopes. With the adjacent Winston Churchill Park, Nordheimer Ravine contains a subway corridor, major water reservoir, tennis courts, dog park, jogging track, playground, and environmentally significant restored wetlands within its 1km length. Join us for the history and natural attractions of this central Toronto park. What to bring: Masks, binoculars, water, snacks if you wish. Washrooms: Washrooms are available at the end of the route. TTC: Go to the St. Clair West subway station on line 1. Walk leader cell number:</p>
<p>Tuesday October 12 9:00 am</p>	<p>German Mills Settlers' Park - nature Leader: Joanne Doucette Location: German Mills Settlers' Park, 2001 John St., Markham Meeting spot: Northeast corner of Leslie and Steeles. NOTE: To avoid delays, participants must notify leader if they plan to wait at park entrance This is a 2 1/2 hour circular route covering 5 km over mostly unpaved, even, flat surfaces with some gentle slopes. We will walk north on Leslie past the golf course, arriving at the park entrance about 10-15 minutes later. Often there is much bird activity on this first section of the route. We will then walk along the east side of German Mills Creek, looking at plants and wildlife, and searching for any salmon. We will walk briefly along John Street to cross over to the west side of the park (Meadow Habitat). There we will continue to look at plants and wildlife and will also discuss advocacy efforts as we make our way back to Leslie Street. What to bring: Masks, binoculars, water, snacks if you wish. Washrooms: No washrooms are available TTC: Easy access to Leslie and Steeles via multiple routes. Parking: While parking on Leslie just north of Steeles is permitted, the narrow road and soft shoulder can make this hazardous. The Adventure Valley property is private and monitored by camera. Parking is available at the park entrance and it is recommended that participants who park there walk back to the meeting place. However, if they choose to wait at the park entrance, they must notify the leader to avoid delaying the group. Walk leader cell number: 647.236.4980</p>

<p>Thursday October 14 10:00 am</p>	<p>Ashbridge's Bay Park: History, stewardship, construction, migration - nature and heritage Leader: Bob Kortright Location: Ashbridge's Bay Park Meeting spot: SW corner of Lakeshore Blvd E. at Coxwell Avenue This is a 2-3 hour circular route covering 4 km over fairly flat and mostly paved surfaces. From the edge of the 2nd largest remnant of Ashbridge's Bay, we will roughly follow the perimeter of the park counterclockwise, across the old sandbar that separated the lake from the Bay, past the projects to stop siltation of the harbour mouth, to protect the shoreline from erosion, and to create a new outfall for Toronto's main wastewater treatment plant. We will walk past the bits of naturalized habitat that Toronto Nature Stewards have worked on since June and the portions of beach that naturalized themselves when underwater 2017-19. We will end up at the Woodbine bus loop at the foot of Northern Dancer Blvd. What to bring: Masks, binoculars, water, snacks if you wish. Dress appropriately for the weather as it is normally windier along the lakefront. Washrooms: Washrooms are available along the way. TTC: From the Coxwell subway station on line 2, take the #22 bus to Queen Street East. Walk south about 12 minutes to the meeting spot at Lakeshore and Coxwell. Parking: Parking is available at Woodbine Beach. There are also parking lots further east at the bottom of Northern Dancer Blvd. Walk leader cell number: 416.699.8842</p>
<p>Saturday October 16 10:30 am</p>	<p>Hurricane Hazel Anniversary Walk - nature and heritage Leader - Madeleine McDowell Location: The Humber between Bloor and Dundas streets. Meeting spot : Old Mill subway station on line 2. This is a 2 1/2 hour linear route covering 8 km over mostly flat, paved surfaces with some gentle slopes. Explore the Humber between Bloor and Dundas for evidence of one of Canada's worst flood disasters and its shadow on our current world. Observe remnants of past cultures along with the 21st Century one as it evolves on Mother Earth under Hazel's lasting influence. Could see salmon leaping. The walk will end at Lambton House. Stairs: There are stairs down at Bloor but these can be avoided by using an optional detour. What to bring: Masks, binoculars, water, sunhat, sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks if you wish. Washrooms: Washrooms are available at the end of the route. TTC: The walk will start at the Old Mill subway station on line 2. Walk leader cell number: No cell</p>

<p>Wednesday October 20 10:00 am</p>	<p>Lynde Shores ramble - nature Leader: Stephen Kamnitzer Location: Lynde Shores Conservation area, 1225 Victoria St W, Whitby Meeting spot: Lynde Shores Conservation Area main parking lot. This is a 3-4 hour circular route covering 8 km over mostly unpaved and uneven, flat surfaces with some gentle slopes. Lynde Creek Marsh and Cranberry Marsh provide many important functions that are typical of the few remaining coastal wetlands found along this northern section of the Lake Ontario shoreline. As a result, these two marshes are designated as provincially significant wetlands. We will follow the trails down to Lake Ontario and then for about 1 km hike across the beach to the viewing platforms on the west side of the marsh where we will have lunch at a picnic bench. From there we will return to our cars by following the paved Waterfront Trail. An optional coffee stop at Portuguese Bakery in Whitby at the end of the walk. What to bring: Masks, binoculars, water, lunch and credit card to pay for parking. Washrooms: No washrooms are available. Parking: Paid parking lot Driving directions: From Toronto, take 401 East to exit 406, Lakeridge Rd, County Rd 23. Turn right (south) on Lakeridge Rd for 1 km to Victoria St. Turn left (east) and follow Victoria St for about 1 km to Lynde Shores Conservation Area main parking lot on your right. Need a ride from Whitby GO: Call Stephen at 647.924.0840 if you need a ride from Whitby GO station. Walk leader cell number: 647.924.0840</p>
<p>Thursday October 28 10:00 am</p>	<p>Community Stewardship Program – Milne Hollow: nature and heritage Leader: Emily Heidendahl Location: Milne Hollow, Charles Sauriol Conservation Area, 1 Old Lawrence Ave. Meeting spot: Parking lot at the base of Old Lawrence Ave (Lawrence Ave E & Old Lawrence Ave) This is a 2 hour circular route covering 4 km over mostly unpaved and uneven, flat surfaces with some gentle slopes. Join Emily Heidendahl, City of Toronto Forestry staff and coordinator of the Community Stewardship Program for a tour of one of the program's restoration sites at Milne Hollow. The tour will include a discussion of the area's history, invasive species identification, invasive species management techniques, site prioritization, restoration goals, and monitoring for success. The walk will include a circular route on unpaved terrain to view the stewardship site project areas, then a linear route following the paved E Don Trail to the Rainbow Bridge (and back) to enjoy some of the sites beyond the Milne Hollow stewardship site. The walk will end at the meeting spot. What to bring: Masks, binoculars, water and snacks. Wear close-toed shoes, long pants for time spent off of paved trails. Washrooms: No washrooms are available. TTC: Take TTC 54 Lawrence East bus from the Eglinton subway station. Get off at Railside Road and walk 10 minutes down toward the Don Valley Parkway on the south side of Lawrence Avenue East. Parking: Parking lot at the base of Old Lawrence Ave (Lawrence Ave E & Old Lawrence Ave) Walk leader cell number: 416.797.2665</p>

Saturday
October 30
10:00 am

Taylor Creek Park Fall Colours - nature

Leader: Joanne Doucette

Meeting spot: The entrance to Taylor Creek Park, west side of Dawes Road

Location: Taylor Creek Park, 260 Dawes Road.

This is a 3 hour circular route covering 5-6 km over mostly flat, paved surfaces with some gentle slopes.

We will walk along one side of Taylor Creek westbound and the other side eastbound, beginning and ending at the entrance to Taylor Creek Park. The leaves should be turning and the colours should be good.

As preparation for the walk Joanne will host a ZOOM meeting on Wednesday, October 27, at 2 p.m. called "Legends of the Fall" and tell stories from various cultures and nations about the autumn. This will provide a deeper understanding of both the science and history of the things we will see on the walk and allows members of the group who cannot attend for health reasons, mobility reasons or others to participate in another form. Joanne generally uses a Powerpoint with open captions for those who are hard of hearing or deaf. If people do not have access to the Internet at home, they may be able to book a time on a computer at a public library. Contact Joanne at joannedoucetteto@gmail.com or at 647-236-4980 at least a week in advance if you wish to join the Zoom meeting.

What to bring: Masks, binoculars, water, camera and snacks if you wish. Hiking boots are not necessary.

Washrooms: No washrooms are available

TTC: The meeting spot is about a 10 minute walk north of the Victoria Park subway station on line 2. Or from Main Street subway station, take the #23 bus to Dawes Road and Crescent Town north side. It is about a 2 minute walk to the park entrance.

Walk leader cell number: 647.236.4980