

August 2022 - Walk Schedule

<p>Monday August 1st 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Castle Frank Brook Ravine - nature and heritage walk - Leader - Paul Overy Meeting spot: Near the bulletin board in Ben Nobleman Park, south of the Eglinton West subway station, just east of Everden Road Location: From near the Eglinton West subway station to Dupont and Davenport Avenues</p> <p>This is a 2 hour linear walk covering 4 km over mostly flat, paved surfaces with steep slopes. There no are stairs.</p> <p>To mark Simcoe Day, we will explore some of the history and features of the creek ravine named after John Graves Simcoe's summer home, as well as at least one significant outcome today of Simcoe's policies as Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. We will walk through a deeply transformed landscape which has, thanks to much effective stewardship over decades, become an area notable for its play spaces and naturalized spaces. There will be stories of nature, highways, subways, community power, water and significant spots. We will walk mostly on paved trails through Cedarvale Park, then mostly on soil trails south of there. There is a drop-out point about halfway along at the St. Clair subway station, and washrooms just a bit south of there. The walk will end at Dupont St. and Davenport Road, where there are a few TTC options for travel home.</p> <p>Reaching the start point for the walk needs to be done carefully. Construction of the Eglinton LRT makes the area around the Eglinton West LRT station (your best access point via TTC) challenging. Once you exit the station, turn right (west) and cross Allen Road at the lights. Be sure to follow the pedestrian signals for safety. Once on the west side of Allen Road, cross Eglinton southward at the next lights. Once on the south side, turn left (eastward) and walk to the first street, Everden Road, just past the new subway/LRT entrance under construction. Turn right on Everden, and walk past the fencing on the left, until the fence comes to an end. You will then see the Ben Nobleman Park entrance there, and that's where the walk will begin, by the bulletin board. The walk becomes considerably more pleasant from then onward.</p> <p>What to bring: Please bring water...it will likely be a warm evening. Curiosity and binoculars are good to bring too.</p> <p>Washrooms: Along the way.</p> <p>TTC info: Take Line 1 to Eglinton West station.</p> <p>Parking: Limited street parking is available in the area, and there are paid lots at 997 and 1529 Eglinton Ave. West, a few blocks to either side of the start point.</p> <p>Walk Leader's number: 647-229-1191</p>
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<p>Saturday August 6th 9:30 am</p>	<p>Todmorden Mills - nature walk - public walk. Leader - Ellen Schwartzel Meeting spot: at the entrance sign to Todmorden Mills, just off Pottery Road Location: Todmorden Mills This is a 2 hour circular walk covering 1.5 km over mostly flat, unpaved and uneven surfaces with gentle slopes. There are stairs. On this walk we'll explore the everyday monotony and miracle of being a plant. The job of a leaf is always the same: to capture light and transpire water. But plants have evolved countless variations on the basic theme. Todmorden Mills offers the perfect venue to admire that diversity: with some four hundred species of wildflowers, shrubs and trees to enjoy, this could be one of the best short walks Toronto has to offer. What to bring: water, binoculars, snacks, bug repellent. Wear comfortable shoes. Washrooms: Not available TTC info: take the 100 Flemingdon Park bus north from Broadview Subway Station and exit at Broadview & Mortimer Ave/Pottery Rd. Then walk down Pottery Rd. to the Todmorden Mills Heritage Site – about 10 minutes, a very steep hill. Parking: For drivers, there is a small, free public parking lot at the trailhead, once you drive into Todmorden Mills. Walk Leader's number: (647)463-5562</p>
<p>Monday, August 8th 8:00 am</p>	<p>Tommy Thompson Park - nature walk Leader - Charles Bruce-Thompson Meeting spot: Meet at the new pavilion at the entrance to Tommy Thompson Park, 1 Leslie Street. Location: Tommy Thompson Park This is a 3 hour circular walk covering 8 km over mostly unpaved but even surfaces and fairly flat. There are no stairs We'll walk along the north side of the Spit at least as far as the pedestrian bridge and return via the wetlands of cells one and two. Something interesting always shows up on the Spit, though not always what you were expecting. What to bring: Binoculars, water, a hat if it's sunny – and perhaps bug spray, although the Spit is relatively mosquito-free. Merlin and inaturalist apps warmly encouraged (to settle nomenclature disputes) Washrooms: At the beginning and end. TTC info: From the Donlands subway station on line 2, take the #83 Jones bus to Commissioners Street. From there, it's a 7-minute walk to the end of Leslie St. Parking: There is a free parking lot at the entrance to Tommy Thompson Park. Enter via Unwin Ave. As well street paid parking on Leslie St., if the lot is full. Walk Leaders cell phone: 4167785340</p>

<p>Wednesday August 10th 9:00 am</p>	<p>High Park Bug Walk - birds, insects and plants. Leader: Jessica Nelson Meeting spot: Grenadier Restaurant parking lot – South East corner Location: High Park This is a 2-3 hour circular walk covering 2 km over mostly paved surfaces. Gentle slopes with some steep slopes. There are no stairs. The walk will begin near Grenadier Restaurant, where we will explore the area around Hawk Hill before looping down around the Lower Duck Pond and returning to the starting point. The focus of the walk is insects and spiders, but wood ducks and a few types of heron may also make an appearance. It may be quite hot out, and a good portion of the walk is unshaded. A sun hat and/or sunscreen is recommended, as well as close-toed shoes with a good tread. What to bring: Bring water, and binoculars if you're keen on birds. Also consider bringing a magnifying glass for insects, along with a compact field guide. Washrooms: At the beginning TTC info: Take Line 2 subway to High Park or Colborne Lodge stops on the Queen/Queensway streetcar. Parking: Parking available in the park. Walk Leaders cell phone: 647-225-5929</p>
<p>Saturday August 13th 9:00 am</p>	<p>Earl Bales Park – Nature and History - Nature and Heritage. Leader: Rachel Gottesman Meeting spot: Entrance to Earl Bales Park, 4169 Bathurst street, 200 m. south of Sheppard Ave. W Location: Earl Bales Park 4169 Bathurst St. This a 3 hour circular walk covering 4-5 km over mostly flat, paved surfaces with some steep slopes. There are no stairs. Ramble through some old growth and naturalized areas, past the storm water pond looking for birds, trees, butterflies and flowers. Along the way we'll talk about the history of the park and visit some memorials to people lost in WW II. Dress appropriately for the weather. What participants should bring: binoculars, water, snack, guides Washrooms: Along the way TTC info: TTC bus #7 Bathurst or #84 Sheppard. Parking: available at the north and south ends of the park. Walk Leaders cell phone: 647 636-1455</p>

<p>Sunday August 21st 11:00 am</p>	<p>Rennie Park - Trees Leader: Danielle Pellatt-Hall Meeting spot: Meeting in the parking lot, at the entrance to the trail. The parking lot is near the intersection of Waller Avenue and Rennie Terrace. Location: Rennie Park Trail This is a 2 hour circular walk covering 1 km over mostly unpaved and uneven surfaces. Flat route with steep slopes. There are no stairs. This is a short trail in a rich ecosystem. It's easy to overlook Rennie Park with High Park being right next door but it's a worthwhile stop for urban nature travels. This will be a slow paced walk as we will stop frequently to appreciate the finer details of the trees and plants that we see. Bring your plant ID guides if you have any, and make sure your phone is charged if you prefer using plant ID apps! What participants should bring: Water, solid shoes, plant guides Washrooms: At the beginning TTC info: Parking: Walk Leader's cell phone: 6474442925</p>
<p>Tuesday August 23rd 9:00 am</p>	<p>Scarborough Bluffs and Midland Ravine - nature walk Leader: Charles Bruce-Thompson Meeting spot: Corner of Chine Drive and Kingston Rd. Location: Scarborough Bluffs and Midland Ravine This is a 2 hour circular walk covering 6 km over mostly unpaved but even surfaces. Mainly flat route with some steep slopes. There are no stairs. We'll walk through some very attractive, leafy Scarborough suburbia to the top of the bluffs, then descend to Scarborough Crescent Park, and finally ascend Midland Ravine to our starting place. Great vistas, interesting botany and perhaps a bird or two What to bring: Water and binoculars. Washrooms: Not available TTC info: Take the #20 bus from Kennedy Subway Station to Kingston Road and walk 300 m eastwards to Chine Drive Parking: Street parking available along Glenridge Road and Kelsonia Avenue. Walk Leaders cell phone: 4167785340</p>

<p>Wednesday August 24th 6:30 pm</p>	<p>Exploring the Meadoway - Birds, insects and Plants Leader: Sarah Kotsopoulos Meeting spot: Givendale Allotment Gardens. 1 Givendale Rd, Toronto, ON M4C 5L6. Closest TTC stop is stop 4118/4117 Location: The Meadoway This a 2 hour circular walk covering 3 km over mostly paved surfaces. Flat route with some gentle slopes. There are no stairs. Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy the newly restored meadows within The Meadoway. As it is later in the season, a different variety of flowers will be in bloom. Participants will also be able to learn about ethical and proper seed collection techniques, and actually be able to harvest some seeds for their own gardens. Monarch butterflies will also be beginning their migration, so viewing numbers should be high. Recommend that participants wear long pants and closed-toed shoes. What participants should bring: Camera, binoculars, scissors Washrooms: At the beginning TTC info: Take the subway to Kennedy station on line 2, and then take Kennedy bus #43 northbound to the Ranstone Gardens stop (stop #4117). Once at the stop, walk west along Ranstone Gardens, until you get to Givendale Road, where you turn right and walk north to the meeting spot. Parking: is available along either side of the road at the Givendale Allotment Gardens. Walk Leaders cell phone: 4164564844</p>
<p>Sunday August 28th 2:00 pm</p>	<p>Lost Crookshank Creek and Corktown Common - Lost Rivers - Public Walk Leader: Helen Mills Meeting spot: Southeast corner of Queen Street and Power Street Location: Corktown and Distillery Neighbourhoods This a 2 hour linear walk covering 1.75 km over mostly paved surfaces. Flat route with gentle slopes. There are no stairs. We will follow the course of lost Crookshank Creek to the Don River, passing interesting historical sites and new developments, ending with a lingering visit to Corktown Common and the Don River. Hat, sunscreen, dress for the weather. Several cafes and restaurants near the end. What participants should bring: Possibly binoculars could be helpful at Corktown Common Washrooms: At the end TTC info: Parliament St Bus 65 to Parliament St and Queen St Walk one block east to Power St Queen Streetcar 501 to Parliament St and Queen St Walk one block east to Power St Parking: Parking limited on local streets Walk Leaders cell phone: 4167314582</p>

<p>Monday August 29th 9:00 am</p>	<p>Nordheimer Ravine - Nature Walk Leader: Rachel Gottesman Meeting spot: St. Clair W subway station exit across the street from the Loblaws Location: Nordheimer Ravine This a 3 hour circular route over flat, mostly paved surfaces with gentle slopes. There are stairs. Ambling through the ravine, looking at the trees, birds, butterflies and flowers. Climb the stairs to go past Spadina House and Casa Loma to return to our beginning place. Washrooms available in the park. Snacks, coffee, washrooms and parking at Loblaws. What participants should bring: binoculars, water, snack, guides Washrooms: At the end TTC info: Line 1 to St. Clair West subway station or #512 streetcar. Parking: available on side-streets and Loblaws. Walk Leaders cell phone: 647 636-1455</p>