

April - 2024 Schedule

	<p>Outings Etiquette</p> <p>Please note that members are asked to follow our Naturalist's Code of Ethics on all outings in order to minimise our impact on nature. Please review them here. It is essential that all members behave ethically while using our green spaces and on our outings, in order to reduce our impact on the species that inhabit them, here are some additional resources how to do so:</p> <p>Ethical Nature Viewing</p> <p>Ethical Nature Photography</p>
Saturday 6 April 11.00 AM	<p>Nature Arts: It's All Happening At The Zoo</p> <p>Leader: Joanne Doucette</p> <p>Meeting Point: Outside the main ticket entrance to Toronto Zoo, 2000 Meadowvale Road, Toronto, Ontario, M1B 5K7</p> <p>TTC: The TTC operates three bus routes to the Toronto Zoo, from four rapid transit stations. At the Zoo, all TTC buses serve a bus stop conveniently located close to the main entrance.</p> <p>The 86A Toronto bus route operates to the Zoo from Kennedy Station every day during the summer. Buses run from about 6am to 8pm. After Labour Day, 86A Toronto buses operate to the Zoo from Monday to Friday only.</p> <p>The 85 Sheppard East bus route operates to the Zoo from Don Mills Station and Rouge Hill GO Station on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. 85A "Via Toronto Zoo" and 85B "To Toronto Zoo" buses serve the Zoo directly, from about 7am to 8pm. Other 85 Sheppard East buses serve the Sheppard Avenue/Meadowvale Road intersection, where customers can transfer for 86A Toronto buses for the short trip to the Zoo.</p> <p>Zoo Visit Details: Four to 5 hours. Washrooms available</p> <p>Walk Description: This is a chance to draw mammals and birds up close and personal. Some will be native; some not so much. Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! The focus will be on drawing and or painting, not photography as such, since I wish to revive this form of Nature Arts. I will talk a little about the history of drawing nature, its pros and cons, and we will encourage each other with gentle critiques of our work. Instruction will not be given.</p> <p>What to bring: Drawing pad, pens, pencils, a portable stool (if required), money, lunch, water.</p> <p>Walk Leader's Cell Number: 647-236-4980</p>

<p>Tuesday 9th April 10.00 AM</p>	<p>Don Valley Brickworks Park 100th Anniversary Walk</p> <p>Leader: Zunaid Khan</p> <p>Meeting Point: In front of the main Evergreen Brickworks building</p> <p>Walk Details: A 2-hour, 4 km circular walk over mostly unpaved, even surfaces with some gentle and steep slopes. There are stairs. Washrooms available. Please dress for the weather conditions.</p> <p>TTC: Take Line 1 to Davisville and take 28 Bayview south bus to Brickworks. Or take the (free) Evergreen Shuttle bus from Broadview station https://www.evergreen.ca/evergreen-brick-works/visitor-info/plan-your-visit/getting-here/</p> <p>Parking (paid) is available in Evergreen Brickworks lot.</p> <p>Walk Description: From our starting point we will follow a looping route through the ravine and trails that make up the Don Valley Brickworks park. We will enjoy what nature has to offer and discuss TFN's connection to this area.</p> <p>What to bring: Snacks, beverages, binoculars and/or camera</p> <p>Walk Leader's Cell Number: 416-716-6464</p>
<p>Sunday April 14 10.00 AM</p>	<p>Trees of Centennial Park Part 2</p> <p>Leader: Lillian Natalizio</p> <p>Meeting Point: The entrance to Centennial Park Conservatory, 151 Elmcrest Rd</p> <p>Walk Details: A 2-hour, 3.5 km circular walk over mostly unpaved - but even - surfaces with some steep slopes. A rainy spring will guarantee muddy trails (gravel, grass, earth); wear appropriate footwear. Washrooms are available at the beginning</p> <p>TTC: Take the 48 Rathburn bus from Royal York Station to Elmcrest Rd. Walk 200 m north to the conservatory entrance.</p> <p>By car: take Rathburn Ave. to Elmcrest Rd. There are several parking lots along Elmcrest Rd</p> <p>Walk Description: We'll continue our exploration of some of the more than 100 species of trees found in Centennial Park, this time heading to the northeastern section of the park. We'll see a remnant woodland, coniferous plantations, and restoration plantings over the past few decades. Some trees will have started to bloom or leaf out, and hopefully we'll spot some early spring migrants.</p> <p>What to bring: Field guide or ID app, camera, binoculars, water</p>

	<p>Walk Leader's Cell Number: 416-577-7618</p>
<p>Thursday April 18 10.00 AM</p>	<p>Lost Rivers: Russell Creek and Denison Avenue</p> <p>Leader: Linda McCaffrey</p> <p>Meeting Point: Christie subway station</p> <p>Walk Details: A 2.5-hour, 5 km linear walk over mostly paved, fairly flat surfaces. There are stairs. No washrooms - there are dry toilets in some parks. Vile graffiti and not very sanitary. Dress for the prevailing weather</p> <p>Walk Description: Have you read Denison Avenue? It's a charming new novel about the gentrification of ChinaTown along the Spadina corridor. There are great sketches of the neighbourhood. The protagonist, whose probable home is still standing, hangs in as others move to Scarborough and Markham, We will see some physical evidence of Russell Creek, a very lost river buried in 1876, and the parapet of a buried bridge on Harbord Street. There is a row of tilted houses on Grange Avenue about where the creek once sparkled. But the route takes us through several urban parks and richly historic neighbourhoods. And maybe someone will spot a white squirrel in Trinity Bellwoods Park.</p> <p>The walk ends just west of the Union Station where Russell Creek once spilled into Toronto Harbour.</p>
<p>Saturday April 20 10 AM</p>	<p>German Mills Earth Day Litter Clean Up and Nature Walk. Public Walk</p> <p>Leader: Theresa Moore</p> <p>Meeting Point: The northeast corner of Leslie St. and Steeles Ave.</p> <p>Walk Details: A 2.5-hour, 5 km circular walk on mostly paved, flat surfaces with a few gentle slopes. No stairs. The closest washrooms are at the Tim Hortons at 1567 Steeles Ave E</p> <p>TTC: The 53B Steeles East (not the 53E Express!) runs from Finch Station all the way out to Scarborough and has a stop at Leslie. The 51 Leslie Bus is another option but has less frequent service.</p> <p>Parking: Free parking is available on weekends on Equestrian Court, which is one very short block south of Steeles on the west side. There is also free street parking on Leslie north of Steeles (beware of the soft shoulder on the west side of Leslie).</p> <p>Walk Description: We'll look for signs of Spring, especially early wildflowers and returning birds, and talk about local history and environmental issues as we collect litter along our route. After meeting on the northeast corner of Leslie and</p>

	<p>Steeles, we will walk north on Leslie (where the vast majority of the litter is) to the German Mills Settlers' Park entrance. We'll then proceed along the paved path on the east side of the creek up to John Street before crossing over to the German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat and making our way south.</p> <p>What to bring: Binoculars. A reacher if you have one. Bags and Gloves will be provided by the Town of Markham.</p> <p>Other information: The group will likely not reach the park entrance until about 10:30. Kindly allow enough time to park and join the group at Leslie and Steeles at 10.</p> <p>Walk Leader's Cell Number: 416-493-3201</p>
<p>Sunday April 21 10.00 AM</p>	<p>Northline Restoration: Nature and Heritage</p> <p>Leader: Lynn Miller</p> <p>Meeting Spot: Southwest corner of Bermondsey Rd. and Sunrise Ave.</p> <p>TTC: The 91 bus from Donlands stops right at Bermondsey Rd and Sunrise Ave. The entrance is in an industrial area so there is no public parking available.</p> <p>Walk Details: A 1.5-hour, 2 km circular walk over mostly unpaved, uneven Surfaces with both gentle and steep slopes. There are no paved trails, and the start of the walk includes walking down a heavily eroded slope, so wear sturdy shoes.</p> <p>No washrooms</p> <p>Walk Description: Walk through this little known and rarely visited section of the Don Valley. Learn how this land was converted from a waste dumping site to a natural area filled with native trees and is now home to deer and other wild animals. Hear about the ongoing stewardship work being done to combat invasive species and to introduce native perennials</p> <p>Walk Leader's Cell Number: 647.828.5966</p>

<p>Wednesday April 24 9.30 AM</p>	<p>Todmorden Mills</p> <p>Walk Leader: Ellen Schwartzel</p> <p>Meeting Point: at the entrance sign to Todmorden Mills, just off Pottery Road.</p> <p>TTC: take the 100 Flemington Park bus north from Broadview Subway Station and exit at Broadview & Mortimer Ave/Pottery Rd. Then walk down Pottery Rd., a very steep hill, to the Todmorden Mills Heritage Site – about 10 minutes,</p> <p>Parking: For drivers, there is a small, free public parking lot at the trailhead, once you drive into Todmorden Mills</p> <p>Walk Details: A 2-hour, 1.5 km circular walk over mostly unpaved, even surfaces with some gentle - and steep - slopes and stairs. It could be muddy, so comfortable walking shoes are recommended. No washrooms.</p> <p>Walk Description: Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve is a small gem of restored valleyland, thanks to the vision and tireless effort of dedicated volunteers over decades. Todmorden Mills offers the perfect venue to admire plant diversity. With hundreds of species of wildflowers, shrubs and trees to enjoy – including spring ephemerals – this could be one of the best short walks Toronto has to offer. We may see ducks on the oxbow pond and other spring migrants.</p> <p>What to bring: water, binoculars and a snack</p> <p>Walk Leader's Cell Number: 647 463-5562</p>
<p>Saturday April 27 10.00 AM</p>	<p>Lost Rivers: Along Ashbridges Creek</p> <p>Leader: Joanne Doucette</p> <p>Meeting Point: Outside Greenwood Subway Station on Linsmore Crescent</p> <p>Walk Description: A 3.5-hour, 10 km linear walk over mostly paved, flat surfaces with some gentle slopes. There are stylish. Washrooms available along the way</p> <p>Walk Description: We will look and listen for signs of the lost creek along the way. Also the group will visit the site of several brickyards, now converted to other uses (including Felstead Park, the TorBrick Road housing community, St. Patrick's Secondary School and Monarch Park), discussing the geology that gave rise to these industries and the pre-existing ecosystems, including tall grass prairie/oak savannah (the Gerrard Prairie). Two branches of the creek flowed through this area and we will go east to follow Ashbridge's Ravine, including a section of "Tiny Town" – Craven Road, a very unique street. Then we will walk west to the junction of the two branches of the Creek near Highfield and Gerrard and from there south to the Ashbridge's Estate where a remnant of the ravine remains and to Eastern Avenue where originally the stream entered Ashbridge's</p>

	<p>Bay. We will finish, somewhere, for something to drink and/or eat and a discussion.</p> <p>What to bring: Binoculars, field guides (trees, birds)</p> <p>Other information: A pre-walk slide show will be shown via the Internet. If you wish to be part of this event (Friday, April 26, 10:00 a.m. you must register by email to Joanne Doucette joannedoucetteto@gmail.com by April 25 at 10:00 a.m. A volunteer is needed to take photos along the route.</p> <p>Walk Leader's Cell Number: 647-236-4980</p>
<p>Sunday April 28 10.00 AM</p>	<p>Bestview Woods & East Don Parklands: Signs of Spring Nature & Heritage</p> <p>Leader: Theresa Moore</p> <p>Meet by the Shoppers Drug Mart at 1515 Steeles Avenue East on the southeast corner of Steeles and Laureleaf</p> <p>TTC: The 53B Steeles East (not the 53E Express!) bus runs from Finch Station all the way out to Scarborough and has a stop at Laureleaf.</p> <p>Walk Details: A 2-hour, 6 km circular walk over mostly unpaved, even surfaces with some gentle slopes. There are a few tree roots on the woodland trails and, if there have been recent heavy rains, these trails can be a bit muddy and/or slippery. There are stairs. Washrooms available</p> <p>Walk Description: We will look for signs of spring—especially early wildflowers and returning birds and will discuss the local heritage, especially the tremendous influence of the Cummer family, who were among the first settlers here in 1797. After meeting at the Shoppers Drug Mart, we will walk south on Laureleaf to the Bestview Park entrance. We will explore the Bestview Woods trails before joining the main East Don Parkland trail. We will turn back near the Finch Hydro Corridor and return to our starting point, where there is a coffee shop, pizza place, subway, and noodle house. Those who wish to do so, can drop out early at Cummer Avenue, or continue on their own to Finch or Sheppard rather than returning to Steeles Avenue.</p> <p>What to bring: Binoculars</p> <p>Walk Leader's Cell Number: 416-493-3201</p>