November 2024 - Walk Schedule

Outings Etiquette

Please note that members are asked to follow our Naturalist's Code of Ethics on all outings in order to minimize 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 on how to do so:

Wildlife Disturbance: Why Now and Why Does It Matter?

Wildlife Disturbance & Ethics In Nature

Special Lecture: Ethical Nature Viewing

Saturday November 2 10.00 AM

Subway Series: Victoria Park to Main Street Station (Public Walk)

Leader: Joanne Doucette

Meeting Spot: In the entrance to Victoria Park Subway Station

Walk Details: A 4-hour, 6 to 10 km linear walk over mostly unpaved and uneven surfaces with both gentle and steep slopes. There are stairs and some spots may be muddy and slippery

Washrooms: Not available

Walk description: We will be walking from the Victoria Park subway station to Taylor Creek Park and along the trail by the stream west to Barrington Avenue and from there south to the Main Street Subway Station. This is a general nature walk, looking for birds, talking about plants and trees, with some of the history of Taylor Creek Park and the Woodbine Golf Course that used to be there.

Other information: This is a public walk, one of a series usually held on the first Saturday of the month. The walk goes rain, snow or shine so dress for the weather.

Park map:

https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/parks-recreation/places-spaces/parks-and-recreation-facilities/parks-and-community-recreation-centres-map/#location=260%20Dawes%20Rd&lat=43.6998842885&lng=-79.3105665855&zoom=11

For more information:

https://www.toronto.ca/data/parks/prd/facilities/complex/29/index.html

https://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/trail/taylor-creek-trail

https://torontonaturestewards.org/sites/taylor-creek-park/

https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1497179

https://www.facebook.com/groups/319742575167756/

Thursday November 7 9:00 AM

Rouge Park - Nature Walk

Leader: Charles Bruce-Thompson

Meeting Point: Rouge National Urban Park, Twyn Rivers Day Use Area, 55 Twyn

Rivers Drive

Getting There: No public transport accessibility. Free parking. Car-pooling is

encouraged.

Walk Details: 3 hr 7 km circular walk over mostly unpaved and uneven trails. Some

stairs. Steep slopes. Not accessible.

Washrooms: At the beginning and the end.

Walk Description: We'll walk up Orchard Trail to the Cedar Trail wetlands and return on the Vista Trail. We'll be walking through a variety of terrains: mature pine and deciduous forests, wetlands and meadows. The Rouge always has something interesting to offer, both floral and faunal.

What to Bring: Binoculars.

Walk Leader's Cell Number: (416) 778-5340

Saturday November 9 10:00 AM

Todmorden Mills and Vicinity: Stewardship in and near a Heritage Site (Public Walk)

Leaders: Paula Davies and Kathy Chung

Meeting Point: In front of the Todmorden Mills Papermill Gallery at 97 Pottery Rd.

Getting There: TTC: Many buses stop at the intersection of Broadview and Mortimer/Pottery Road, including the #8 Broadview, #62 Mortimer, #87 Cosburn, #100 Flemingdon, or #925 Don Mills Express buses. Get off at Broadview and Mortimer/Pottery Road. Walk to the NW corner of intersection and down the paved multi-use path down Pottery Rd to the Papermill Gallery or take the concrete stairs about half way down Pottery Rd and walk down the grass slope to the Papermill (building with the brick chimney). Along either way, enjoy the view down and across the Don Valley. By car: street address is 67 Pottery Rd. There is free public parking at the site.

Walk Details: A 2-hr, roughly 1.5 km, circular walk over mostly paved or hard packed gravel, some grassy areas.

Accessibility: Certain areas may be soggy and wet. Some uneven ground and grassy areas.

Washrooms: in the Papermill Gallery at the beginning and end of walk

Walk description: We will explore the natural and human history of this heritage site as well as TFN's involvement in supporting heritage and conservation projects at the site. We will discuss stewardship activity at the site over the years and the challenges and necessary considerations for conservation and stewardship at a heritage site. We will observe urban influence on the natural environment, invasive species, native species and their planting initiatives

What to Bring: The walk will take place rain or shine so dress for the weather. Bring warm clothes, layers are good. Binoculars optional; birding is not the focus of the walk.

Other information: The Papermill Gallery has changing art exhibits which participants are invited to visit at the end of the walk. Those arriving by transit will have to walk back up Pottery Road to take a bus either north or south on Broadview.

City of Toronto's website for Todmorden Mills:

https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/museums/todmorden-mills/

Link to 1987 survey by Toronto Field Naturalists on the human and natural history of Todmorden Mills. You may wish to compare what has changed over 37 years! https://torontofieldnaturalists.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/todmorden_mills_c.pdf

There are two nearby cafes on Broadview: Supernova at 897 Broadview (near Mortimer) and Broadview Espresso at 817 Broadview (near Broadview Stn).

Walk Leader's Cell Number: (647) 774-0755

Tuesday November 12 10:00 AM

Fall in the Humber Arboretum

Leader: Lynn Short

Meeting Point: Welcome Kiosk at Entrance to Arboretum at back of Humber Polytechnic, 205 Humber College Blvd.

Getting there: The Arboretum is accessible by car or transit. Parking is free for Arboretum visitors, just check in at the Parking Kiosk at the front of the college for directions. **TTC:** Take the 927 bus from Kipling station or the 996 bus from York Mills station

Walk Details: A 2-hour, 5 km circular walk over mostly unpaved, even, flat surfaces, with a few steep slopes. There are stairs.

Washrooms: At the beginning and the end.

Accessibility: Uneven paths would be difficult to navigate in a wheelchair

Walk Description: The Humber Arboretum is located behind the North Campus of Humber Polytechnic. It is approximately 250 acres (100 hectares) of land which includes the West Branch of the Humber River. It is home to a large diversity of plant and animal life. We will walk through the demonstration gardens, a Maple/Beech forest and a meadow. Depending on time and the energy of the group, we may visit the Indigenous Teaching/Medicine Garden in the valley.

What to Bring: Dress for the weather (check the forecast), water, snack if needed, binoculars, camera, bug spray.

Other Information: You can learn about the Humber Arboretum at

https://humber.ca/arboretum/

Walk Leader's Cell Number: (647) 273-5966

Sunday November 17 1:00 PM

Trinity-Bellwood Park

Leader: Paul Overy

Meeting Point: SE corner of the Park, at Queen St. West and Gore Vale Avenue

Getting There: By TTC, take the Queen 501 to the Strachan Ave. stop, then walk east

1 block. By car, there is some street parking on local streets.

Walk Details: A 1.5 hr, 2 km, linear walk on mostly paved surfaces, flat with some

gentle slopes. No stairs.

Accessibility: We will mostly walk on paved paths, though there may be brief walks

across grassy areas, which may be muddy if it rains.

Washrooms: Along the way.

Walk description: We will explore the significance and evolution of the physical setting of the land that is now Trinity-Bellwoods Park and its many roles as a public space since the presence of Indigenous peoples, including as an arboretum of sorts and as a well-used park. The walk will end near 2 TTC routes at Shaw and Dundas Streets. There are washrooms in the community centre along the way.

What to Bring: Curiosity, clothing appropriate to the weather, water and a snack, if you like.

Walk Leader's Cell Number: (647) 229-1191

Friday November 22 1:30 PM

Lambton Woods

Leader: Lillian Natalizio

Meeting Point: Benches near the entrance of James Gardens (99 Edenbridge Dr)

Getting There: By TTC, take the #73 Royal York Rd bus (Romney Rd or Glendarling Rd stops) or the #79 Scarlett Rd bus (Edenbridge Dr stop), walking along Edenbridge Dr to James Gardens. Edenbridge slopes steeply down from Royal York and is partly lacking in sidewalks. The walk from Scarlett Rd is longer (1 km), but is relatively flat. Alternatively, take the Humber River Trail from Scarlett Rd. If **driving**, there is free parking at James Gardens

Walk Details: A 2-hr, 2.5 km, circular route over mostly unpaved but even surfaces. Flat with some steep slopes.

Accessibility: There are some stairs. There are rotating closures of trail sections due to trail maintenance work. We may not be able to avoid taking the stairs.

Washrooms: At the beginning

Walk description: We'll ramble through the woods as we head south towards the railway bridge, pausing to take in the features of a few significant tree species in this ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area). There may still be some fall colour to be seen, including blooms of witch-hazel. We'll take the Humber River Recreational trail on the return, with possible sightings of winter ducks.

What to Bring: Bring water and snacks for the journey home. Optional: Bring binoculars or camera to zoom in on smaller features or birds. Mushroom field guide or ID app.

Other information: Rain in the preceding days will result in muddy trails. Wear appropriate footwear. There is a cafe on Scarlett Rd just north of Edenbridge Dr.

Wednesday November 27 11:00 AM

A Green Space in Earlscourt

Leader: Lillian Natalizio

Meeting Point: Outside main gates of Prospect Cemetery, St. Clair Ave W, just west of Lansdowne Ave

Getting There: By TTC, take 512 St Clair streetcar (stop 13173) or 47 Lansdowne Bus (stop 11578). If driving, there is pay parking on St. Clair Ave.

Walk Details: A 2-hr, 3 km, circular route with mostly unpaved and uneven surfaces, gentle slopes, and some stairs,

Accessibility: We will be walking on lawns that may be wet and muddy. There are stairs.

Washrooms: Not available

Walk description: Spend a couple of hours exploring the largest green space in the Earlscourt neighbourhood. With some trees more than 100 years old, Prospect Cemetery has become a haven for wildlife. We'll head north along the east side of the grounds, crossing Rogers Rd into the northern half of the property, until we reach the ravine. From there, we'll head back to the entrance along the west side of the cemetery.

There are many trees with interesting bark or evergreen foliage to capture our attention. We may see the resident red-tailed hawk or flocks of dark-eyed juncos. What to Bring: Warm beverage, binoculars Other information: Dress warmly. We'll be walking on lawns that may be wet or muddy. There is a drop-out point at Rogers Rd (161 bus), or continue north to Eglinton Ave. There are several cafes and restaurants on St Clair for pre- or post-walks visits.
If members have any questions about our outings please send an email to walks@torontofieldnaturalists.org. The Outings committee is looking for volunteers to join the committee, lead walks and help support walk leaders on outings. If you are interested in helping please send an email to volunteering@torontofieldnaturalists.org