

September 2025 – TFN Walk Schedule

Outings Etiquette

- Please do not go on any outing if you are ill.
- Follow our [Naturalist's Code of Ethics](#) to minimize your impact on nature.
- Photographers, please read our [Ethical Nature Photography Best Practices](#).
- Dogs are not allowed on TFN outings, apart from leashed registered service dogs.
- Let the walk leader know if you are leaving a walk early.

Cancellation Policy

An outing will be cancelled if there is a 70% or higher chance of thunderstorm or if other hazardous weather arises. See our full cancellation policy [here](#).

Wednesday, September 3rd at 3:00 pm – All About Birds: Diversity, Adaptations, and Evolutionary History

Leader: Clara Guadagni

Location: James Gardens (Humber River Trail), 99 Edenbridge Dr, Etobicoke, ON M9A 3G4

Description: This walk is for new to moderate birders who are okay with seeing mainly common birds and learning more about why they are the way they are. The Humber River Trail has spots that look out onto the river, and others that walk through more forested areas which is great for spotting birds from many families. But, it is not guaranteed that we will see every bird discussed in the walk. Some scientific language will be used but will be explained with simple terms. Many interesting bird facts will be shared!

The route is circular so we will begin and end in the James Gardens parking lot, where there are washrooms accessible.

Details: A 1.5 to 2 hour, 2.5 to 3km circular birding hike over mostly unpaved but even surface with some steep slopes. No stairs.

Meeting Point: Building with washrooms at the entrance of James Gardens parking lot.

Getting There: There is a large parking lot with free parking. It is also TTC accessible: if taking the Line 2 subway, get off at Royal York station, take the 73B/73C bus north to Edenbridge, and walk for 7 minutes east on Edenbridge (steep downhill) to James Gardens. There may be faster TTC routes depending on your starting location, so it is best to check.

Accessibility: Some muddy small trails, a few steeper slopes, a bridge with wood panels.

Washrooms: At the beginning and end.

What to Bring: Sunscreen, water, binoculars (if you have them).

Other Information: Please make sure to wear shoes that are ok to get dirty, since there are often goose droppings and muddy spots after rainfall. Long pants and sleeves are good to protect from mosquitos and ticks, but since we are on trails the risk is low so this is up to you.

Download the Merlin ID app on your phone if you can. Here is more information about it:
<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

Thursday, September 4th at 10:00 am – Spiders 101

Leader: Richard Schwarz

Location: Morningside Park, 390 Morningside Ave.

Description: Join us on a search for spiders and webs. Spiders are a major part of the ecology for being major predators of insects. People with a phobia can easily keep apart.

Details: A 2-hour, 3 km circular walk on mostly unpaved but even, fairly flat surfaces. No stairs.

Meeting Point: First parking lot in the park, 50 metres from the entrance.

Getting There: By car: Entrance is off Morningside just south of Ellesmere. By TTC: From Victoria Park station take East 12D Kingston bus going to U of T.

Accessibility: Not suitable for a mobility device

Washrooms: At the beginning and end

Saturday, Sept 6th at 10:00 am – Subway Series: Trees of Rosedale and Yorkville (public)

Leader: Joanne Doucette

Location: Rosedale and Yorkville

Description: We will be walking north on Sherbourne Street over the Rosedale Valley to Crescent Road and west to Yonge Street at the Rosedale Subway Station. We will walk west through Ramsden Park and then south through Yorkville to finish at the Yonge Station. (Ramsden Park is the site of the lost Aura Lea Golf Club. The Yorkville Golf Club, also long gone, was further north.) We will talk about the natural and built history of the area, and play **Tree Bingo**.

Details: A 3-hour, 5 km linear nature and heritage walk on mostly paved, fairly flat surfaces. No stairs.

Meeting Point: Outside the Sherbourne Subway Station on Sherbourne Street

Getting There: Easy access by subway. Parking is expensive and sometimes hard to find.

Washrooms: Yes

What to Bring: Water, hat, sunscreen or umbrella (depending on weather), field guide (or app), good walking shoes

Other Information: Slow paced ramble with a break in Ramsden Park. If people want to drop out the Rosedale subway station is en route.

Sunday, September 7th at 10:00 am – Birds at Col. Sam's, Fall Migrants, 1 of 2

Leader: David Creelman

Location: Colonel Samuel Smith Park

Description: We will take a leisurely, but observant walk through various habitats, searching for migrating birds.

Details: A 2-3 hour, 3 km circular bird walk over mostly unpaved but even with some gentle slopes. No stairs.

Meeting Point: Southeast corner, Kipling and Lake Shore Blvd W.

Getting There: Kipling bus 44 or 944 from Kipling subway, 501 Streetcar via Lake Shore Blvd. W.

Accessibility: Lawns may be difficult to navigate if saturated by rain.

Washrooms: Along the way

What to Bring: Binoculars, snacks/lunch, water. Wear layers, as it can be cooler by the lake.

Thursday, September 11th at 10:00 am – Thompson Memorial Park

Leader: Linda McCaffrey

Location: Scarborough

Description: Have you heard of the Lowland Clearances? Not so notorious. It was easier to evict orderly lowlanders than the wild Celts of the Highlands. Renowned David and Mary Thomson were the founding settlers of Scarborough. Relatives soon followed. Fine stone dwellings and their Presbyterian Church survive and thrive along verdant St Andrews Road.

We will ramble along a creek and through a charming woodland.

Scarborough Historical Museum maintains pioneer buildings in the Park. You can visit this 'hamlet' and chat with historical interpreters at the conclusion of the walk.

Details: A 2.5-hour, 5km circular nature and heritage walk on mostly paved surfaces with gentle slopes. Some stairs.

Meeting Point: Main Parking Lot 1005 Brimley Road [north of Lawrence]

Getting There: Brimley Road bus service from Kennedy Station

Washrooms: At the beginning and end

What to Bring: Dress for the weather. Water.

Saturday, September 13th at 2:00 pm – Corktown Common (public)

Leader: Ellen Schwartzel

Location: Corktown Common

Description: This afternoon walk will take us from the cobblestones of the Distillery District east along Mill Street to Corktown Common; a compact city park painstakingly transformed from an industrial wasteland into a green urban gem planted entirely with native trees, shrubs and forbs. Think of Corktown Common as the little sister of the celebrated new Biidaasige Park at the Don's Mouth; both were designed by the same landscape architects: Michael van Valkenburgh Associates. Corktown Common is typically ablaze with fall asters, golden rod and other autumn colours by September. The tiny marsh features cattails, pickerel weed and arrowhead. Fall migrant birds might drop by. Corktown Common's main job is to function as a flood protection berm, designed to withstand a 500-year flood, but the park also offers wonderful natural habitats as well as children's play areas and lawns for picnicking. We will double back to the Distillery District, with the option of a drink together at the Mill Street Brew Pub.

Details: A 2.5-hour, 3 km circular nature and heritage walk along mostly paved surfaces with some gentle slopes. No stairs.

Meeting Point: Meet at the Distillery District, outside Balzac's Coffee Shop at 1 Trinity Street. Beside the very large abstract sculpture "Still Dancing".

Getting There: By TTC to Distillery District: Subway from the Bloor Line: Take Subway to Castle Frank station on the Bloor line. Connect to Bus 65A Parliament. Ride the bus straight down Parliament. Exit at Front St. and walk one block South to Mill St. King Streetcar: Take 504 King East Streetcar. Exit at the Distillery Loop. Cross Cherry Street at the Mill Street intersection and enter via Tank House Lane or Distillery Lane. From Union Station: Walk 7 minutes North on Bay Street to King Street; board the 504 King East Streetcar and ride it to the Distillery Loop. Cross Cherry Street at the Mill Street intersection and enter via Tank House Lane or Distillery Lane.

Washrooms: Along the way

What to Bring: Sun hat, water and a snack.

Tuesday, September 16th at 10:00 am – Earl Bales Park Nature Walk

Leader: Zunaid Khan

Location: North York

Description: From our meeting point in front of the [community centre](#), we will head east into the park and towards the Don River via a steeply sloped, paved path. We will then follow the trail along the river towards the retaining ponds, the largest of which is shared with the Don Valley golf course. The Toronto Regional Conservation Authority completed work in this area early this summer, which we will discuss. From there, we will proceed around the pond up into a ravine where Toronto Water has recently completed work on the sewer system in this area. From the ravine we will follow a trail up to the top of the ravine, then make our way back to our starting point.

Details: A 2 to 2.5 hour, 4-5 km circular walk on mostly paved surfaces with some steep slopes. No stairs.

Meeting Point: In front of the Earl Bales Community Centre, 4169 Bathurst St.

Getting There: TTC info: Line 1 to Sheppard subway station, then take the 84 Sheppard West bus to Bathurst Street, then walk south on the east side of Bathurst to the park and into the park to the meeting spot. Parking: There is parking in the park, near the community centre.

Accessibility: Portions of the ravine quite uneven, with gravel, sandy & steep slopes.

Washrooms: Available

What to Bring: Water, snacks, binoculars and/or camera

Thursday, September 18th at 10:00 am – Seed collection in The Meadoway

Leader: Sarah Kotsopoulos

Location: The Meadoway

Description: Come collect native wildflower seed in The Meadoway! After an introduction to the meadow restoration project, participants will join TRCA staff in seed collection. No experience necessary, we will teach you how to identify the species and how to properly collect it. The seed will then be used on future restoration sites.

Details: A 2-hour, 1.5 km wildflower seed collecting outing on mostly unpaved but even surfaces. No stairs.

Meeting Point: Givendale Allotment Gardens (1 Givendale Road, Scarborough)

Getting There: Parking at garden, closest TTC stop is 4117/4118

Accessibility: Some walking on grass

Washrooms: At the beginning

What to Bring: **Secateurs or scissors to deadhead plants**

Saturday, September 20th at 10:00 am – Birds at Col. Sam's, Fall Migrants, 2 of 2

Leader: David Creelman

Location: Colonel Samuel Smith Park

Description: We will take a leisurely, but observant walk through various habitats, searching for migrating birds.

Details: A 2-3 hour, 3 km circular bird walk over mostly unpaved but even surfaces with some gentle slopes. No stairs.

Meeting Point: Southeast corner, Kipling and Lake Shore Blvd W.

Getting There: Kipling bus 44 or 944 from Kipling subway, 501 Streetcar via Lake Shore Blvd. W.

Accessibility: Lawns may be difficult to navigate if saturated by rain.

Washrooms: Along the way

What to Bring: Binoculars, snacks/lunch, water. Wear layers, as it can be cooler by the lake.

Sunday, September 21 at 10:00 am – Centennial Park Nature Walk

Co-Leaders: Leslie Fitzgibbons and Andra Dalrymple-Alford

Location: Centennial Park

Description: A nature walk through the small forest and then a walk around the park to discuss the details of the Centennial Park Master Plan Implementation and look at the progress on the work underway.

Details: A 2-hour, 2-4 km circular walk on mostly unpaved and uneven surfaces with some gentle slopes. No stairs.

Meeting Point: 151 Elmcrest Rd

Getting There: Parking lot of Centennial Park Conservatory. TTC: Eglinton bus to Renforth Station, then walk to the park.

Washrooms: At the beginning and end

What to Bring: Patience and open mind as this park is under major construction. We will do our best to safely manoeuvre around any potential obstacles.

Other Information: In the event of rain we have the Centennial Park Conservatory to walk in and view indoor plant displays.

Tuesday, September 23 at 9:15 am – Ward's Island and the Fringed Gentian

Leader: Ellen Schwartzel

Location: Ward's Island

Description: The Fringed Gentian is one of the hidden autumn beauties of Wards Island; we hope to find it blooming. Come explore the best nature bits of Wards Island, while savouring cool lake breezes, and watching for migrating monarch butterflies.

Ward's Island Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) has one of the two last remaining natural dune systems on the Toronto Islands; the only other place to see dunes is at Hanlan's Beach. The comparatively small area at Wards offers habitat for at least 23 locally significant plant species such as Sphinx Ladies tresses and Greater Fringed Gentian. It is also special for offering breeding habitat for leopard frogs and common toads, in the interdunal wet swales. Birds we might see include Killdeer, Flycatchers, Chimney swifts and Yellow Warblers. The invasive reed, Phragmites, has been increasing at this site in recent years, unfortunately. We will discuss how Wards Island ESA could be better cared for, what might be some first steps and what the role of the nature community could be. If time allows, we will also check out one or two other nature areas around Wards Island.

We will return to the Wards Island ferry dock. Optional: bring lunch and we can eat at a picnic table on Wards.

Details: A 3-hour, 2 km circular walk on mostly unpaved but even surfaces. No stairs.

Meeting Point: Jack Layton Ferry Terminal – gate for Ward's Island; Ferry departs 9:30 am for Wards

Getting There: Take TTC to Union subway station; walk south on Bay Street, (under the Gardiner Expressway), 15 minutes to ferry docks

Accessibility: Sandy paths

Washrooms: Along the way

What to Bring: Water, sun hat, binoculars, insect spray and lunch, if you like.

Friday, September 26th at 10:00 am – Autumn Mushrooms

Leader: Richard Schwarz

Location: Morningside Park, 390 Morningside Ave.

Description: This is the fall mushroom season so we can expect a good variety.

Details: A 2-hour, 3 km circular walk on mostly unpaved but even, fairly flat surfaces. No stairs.

Meeting Point: First parking lot in the park, 50 metres from the entrance.

Getting There: By car: Entrance is off Morningside just south of Ellesmere. By TTC: From Victoria Park station take East 12D Kingston bus going to U of T.

Accessibility: Not suitable for a mobility device

Washrooms: At the beginning and end

Tips for warm-weather walks:

- Hiking boots or running shoes will keep you steady on uneven ground.
- Long pants can protect your legs from thistles, poison ivy and ticks.
- High socks should be worn to protect you from ticks.
- A wide brimmed hat offers sun protection.
- Bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent and your cell phone.
- Check yourself for ticks after the walk.

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