

October 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](#).

Saturday, October 4th at 10:00 am – Subway Series: Rainbow Stripes to Pin Stripes

Leader: Joanne Doucette

Location: Church Street to Bay Street

Description: We will talk about the natural and built history of the area and explore a number of small parks seeing how nature can survive and even thrive in the dense urban downtown: George Hislop Park, Norman Jewison Park, James Canning Gardens, Barbara Hall Park & the 519 Church Street Centre, along Maitland to Dr. Lillian McGregor Park, north on Bay Street to Clover Hill Park, through the University of Toronto campus to Bloor Street, ending at the Bay Subway Station.

Details: A 3-hour, 6 km linear nature and heritage walk on mostly paved, fairly flat surfaces. Some stairs.

Meeting Spot: Outside the main entrance of the Toronto Reference Library, one block north of Bloor on the East side of Yonge St

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

Washrooms: Available

What to Bring: Dress for the weather, good walking shoes

Other Information: No pets please. Service animals are welcome.

Sunday, October 5th at 10:00 am – Seed collection in The Meadoway

Leader: Sarah Kotsopoulos

Location: The Meadoway

Description: Come out for a fun morning of seed collection in The Meadoway. Participants will walk from the dog park north to the meadows, while learning about the meadow restoration undertaken in the hydro corridor. Once there we will be collecting seeds to be given back to the project to help increase diversity in other areas. No ID experience is necessary, as we will be going through species identification and how to collect different seeds.

Details: A 2.5-hour, 1 km, circular route on unpaved but even surfaces with some gentle slopes. No stairs.

Meeting Spot: Botany Hill Dog Park, 325 Orton Park Road, Scarborough

Getting There: Ellesmere and Orton Park. Park on the side of Orton Park Road or in the small parking lot. The closest bus stop is 16551/16552.

Washrooms: Not available

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

Thursday, October 9th at 2:00 pm – Mimico Creek, A Modest Ravine (public)

Leader: Lillian Natalizio

Location: West Deane Park

Description: Mimico Creek is the smallest watershed within Toronto and has been highly altered in recent centuries. However, there are still remnants of original habitats. Come see how recent restoration efforts are helping to improve ecosystem function in this ravine. The walk will start at West Deane Park and take the paved trail downstream through Ravenscrest and Hampshire Heights, returning by a similar route, and enjoying the fall colours along the way.

Details: A 1.5-hour, 3km circular walk celebrating Ravine Days. On mostly paved surfaces with some gentle slopes. Some stairs.

Meeting Spot: Park sign at entrance to West Deane Park

Getting There: By TTC, take the 46 Martin Grove bus to Sabine Rd or Princess Margaret Blvd stops, walking south on Martin Grove Rd, or the 48 Rathburn bus from Royal York station to Martin Grove Rd, walking north on Martin Grove. If driving, park in the West Deane parking lot or street parking spots on either side of Martin Grove Rd.

Washrooms: At the beginning

What to Bring: Water, snack, binoculars

Other Information: There is an opportunity to drop out of the walk roughly halfway, to Rathburn Rd on the east side of the creek. Alternatively, you can continue downstream on the paved trail through Echo Valley Park, exiting at Wingrove Hill and Kipling Ave, an additional 700 m.

Monday, October 13th at 1:00 pm – Colourful Trees, River and Garden (public)

Leader: Martin Chen

Location: Humber Arboretum

Description: Thanksgiving for nature! Walk through the forest at peak colours for easy identification. The goal is to reach the Humber River, then return to the well-maintained gardens of the Humber Arboretum.

Details: A 1-hour, 1.5 km circular nature walk on mostly paved surfaces with some steep slopes. Some stairs.

Meeting Spot: 221 Arboretum Blvd-Arboretum Sign

Getting There: From Kipling Subway, Take Kipling 45A north, then Rexdale 47A West.

Washrooms: At the beginning

What to Bring: Good shoes, water.

Wednesday, October 15th at 4:00 pm – Tree ID

Leader: Kasturi Bhatt

Location: Humber Marshes

Description: Enjoy a walk in a beautiful location overlooking the Humber River where the trees are up close and perfect to teach tree identification.

Kasturi is a forestry student at UofT and the Co-President of UofT's Foresters' Club. He completed the TFN walk leader training in July and this is his first TFN walk. Members of the Foresters' Club will be attending along with Eric Davies, Forest Ecologist, UofT.

Details: A 1.5-2 hour, 2 km circular nature walk with some dirt trails. Stairs.

Meeting Spot: Blue sign at the top of the stairs east of Old Mill Station on Bloor St. W, north side.

Getting There: TTC: Line 2, Old Mill Station stop.

Washrooms: Not available

Thursday, October 16th at 10:00 am – Small's Creek

Leader: Linda McCaffrey

Location: East Toronto

Description: Have you heard about the famous York Christmas party of 1799 and Upper Canada's first duel? How are they connected with Metrolinx and the Metro Store on Coxwell Avenue? They are connected by John Small who blew away the Attorney General of Upper Canada as a result of insults exchanged at the Christmas party. Small's Creek is named for John Small.

This feisty little creek is struggling to overcome the depredations of Metrolinx at the Merrill Bridge Ravine. It undermined the Metro Store on Coxwell Avenue forcing an immediate and unanticipated closing.

John Small survived the duel and subsequent opprobrium. Small's Creek has also survived. It continues to flow through exquisite ravines and to undermine structures whenever it can.

Details: A 2.5-hour, 4 km linear nature and heritage walk over mostly paved surfaces with some steep slopes. Some stairs.

Meeting Spot: Outside the east entrance to the Woodbine Subway Station on Line 2

Getting There: Access Line 2 from Line 1 or any of the bus routes connecting with Line 2

Accessibility: Deep ravines are inaccessible for mobility devices. But the walk can still be enjoyed along city streets.

Washrooms: Not available

Saturday, October 18th at 10:00 am – Annual Hurricane Hazel Commemoration (public)

Co-leaders: Madeleine McDowell and Lance Gleich

Location: Humber Valley

Description: This walk, dealing with Hazel's 71 year old legacy, will visit the Humber River and sites related to the 1954 Hazel Flood disaster, combining both recollections and 1954 photos of the sites. Salmon may be leaping. The walk ends at the Lambton House — a Search and Rescue site in 1954, where there will be a cup of tea and maybe a related exhibit. The #55 Warren Park bus returning to Jane Subway Station stops there.

Details: A 3-hour, 3+ km linear nature and heritage walk on mostly unpaved but even surfaces with some gentle slopes. Some stairs.

Meeting Spot: Old Mill Subway Station Entrance

Getting There: TTC

Accessibility: The stairs into the Ravine at Bloor St. can be circumvented by streets. The leader will be using a wheelchair.

Washrooms: Along the way and at the end

What to Bring: Camera, binoculars, possibly snacks

Other Information: The leader will be using a wheelchair (and some gumption).

Friday, October 24 at 10:00 am – Autumn Mushrooms

Leader: Richard Schwarz

Location: Mast Trail, Rouge Park

Description: We will look for mushrooms, but we stay on the trail and no picking.

Details: A 2-hour, 3 km circular walk on mostly unpaved and uneven surfaces with some steep slopes. Some stairs.

Meeting Spot: 7450 Kingston Road

Getting There: Parking is at the park entrance. TTC: Take Sheppard East 85A. Exit at Kingston Road and Sheppard Ave. Walk east on Kingston Road. It is a 15 minute, 1.2 km walk down the hill.

Accessibility: Not suitable for mobility devices

Washrooms: At the beginning and end

Saturday, October 25 at 2:00 pm – Necropolis and Riverdale Farm

Leader: Ellen Schwartzel

Location: Necropolis and Riverdale Farm

Description: A walk through historic Cabbagetown offers charming residential streetscapes at every time of year. Our destinations will be the picturesque Necropolis and Riverdale Farm directly south. We'll reflect on the many remarkable people buried at the Necropolis, including the leaders of the 1837 Upper Canada Rebellion, trail blazers such as the first Canadian-born black surgeon and social reformers such as George Brown. Fine gothic architecture and autumnal colours will also feature on this outing. Riverdale Farm will be a spot to consider our society's evolving relationships with livestock and wildlife. Our round trip will start and end at Castle Frank subway station. The washroom at Riverdale Farm Simpson House is open.

Details: A 2.5-hour, 4.5 km circular nature and heritage walk on mostly unpaved but even surfaces with some gentle slopes. Some stairs.

Meeting Spot: Castle Frank Subway station, main entrance at street level; We will walk to Parliament Street, then south to Winchester Street, then east to the Necropolis

Getting There: Subway to Castle Frank subway station

Washrooms: Along the way

What to Bring: Snacks, binoculars; dress for the weather

Wednesday, October 29 at 2:00 pm – An Oasis of Oaks on Kipling Ave

Leader: Lillian Natalizio

Location: Princess Margaret Park and Kipling Ave

Description: Just north of Rathburn Rd, the streetscape of Kipling Ave changes, with the tree canopy appearing to dominate. Many of the very large trees are red and black oaks, and hickories, reminiscent of earlier forests. The walk starts with a ramble through Princess Margaret, looking at a remnant of these oak-hickory woods, and continues north along Kipling Ave, stopping by some of the finer tree specimens. The walk will end at The Kingsway, with an option to continue on to Eglinton Ave W.

Details: A 1.5-hour, 2-2.5 km linear tree walk on mostly paved surfaces with gentle slopes. No stairs.

Meeting Spot: Entrance to Princess Margaret Park, 1297 Kipling Ave

Getting There: TTC: take the 45 Kipling Bus. Northbound bus stops right at the entrance to Princess Margaret Park. Southbound stops at Princess Margaret Blvd or Prince George Dr (no crosswalk). If driving, street parking is available on side streets.

Washrooms: Not available

What to Bring: Beverage, binoculars, tree field guide

Other Information: Dress warmly and stay alert; Kipling is a 4-lane, 60 km/h thoroughfare along this stretch. There are coffee shops on the north side of Eglinton, just east of Kipling.

Tips for cold-weather walks:

- Layered clothing is a must for cold-weather hiking.
- Make sure your head and hands are warm.
- Wear warm non-slip boots.
- A thermos with a hot drink is a good idea!

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