

# April 2026 – 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.

## 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.
- Bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent and your cell phone.
- Check yourself for ticks after the walk.

## 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](#).

 Photos taken on TFN outings can be emailed to [walk.photos@torontofieldnaturalists.org](mailto:walk.photos@torontofieldnaturalists.org)

## Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 am – Celebrating Women on the Lanes

**Leader:** Joanne Doucette

**Location:** Bathurst to Christie, north of Harbord, south of Bloor

**Description:** Laneways hold many secrets and surprises so join us as we explore the many laneways and cul-de-sacs in the area south of Bloor. This is a great way to celebrate International Women's Day as many are named after women including Loretto Lane, Elizabeth Balmer Lane, Lucie Tuch Lane, Rosie Lenco Lane, and Nancy Pocock Place. Others also celebrate our human rights heritage including Alan Borovy Lane and the area's Jewish and Italian heritage. Learning about the trees and shrubs and the architecture and history along the way. Slow pace so dress warm. The walk ends at the Christie Subway Station.

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**Details:** A 2.5-hour, 6 km linear nature and heritage walk over mostly paved, even, flat surfaces. No stairs

**Meeting Spot:** Outside the Markham Street entrance (655 Markham Street) of the Bathurst Subway Station, to the Christie Subway Station.

**Getting There:** Easiest by TTC, parking is very limited.

**Washrooms:** At the beginning and end

**What to Bring:** A hot drink and/or camera if desired

**Other Information:** No pets please. Service animals are welcome. Dress for the weather.

## **Wednesday, April 8th at 1:30 pm – Sketching Afternoon at Allan Gardens**

**Leader:** Ellen Schwartzel

**Location:** Allan Gardens Conservatory

**Description:** Join other TFNers for an informal afternoon of sketching botanical forms, as another way to experience nature. You are welcome, whether you sketch daily or have not sketched since grade 3. Gesture drawing and contour drawing are two techniques we'll try together. The newly restored Palm House at Allan Gardens includes several round tables and chairs for seating, with one or two benches elsewhere among the displays. Sketching while standing also works.

We will briefly tour the Six Display Houses, to admire the prickly protuberances of cacti; bask under bananas and ferns; and luxuriate among the orchids and bromeliads. Free Entrance.

**Details:** A 2-hour, 0.5 km circular Nature Arts outing on mostly paved, flat surfaces with some gentle slopes. No stairs

**Meeting Spot:** In the main circle of the newly restored Palm House

**Getting There:** by TTC: from College Subway station, walk east about 0.6 km, along Carlton Ave, till you see the greenhouses of Allan Gardens in the park. We'll gather in the Palm House.

**Accessibility:** Allan Gardens includes some good accessible features, including flat and ramped pathways, though some paths may be narrow.

**Washrooms:** New accessible washrooms are available from 10am to 5pm just off the Orchid-Bromeliad House, the southernmost house in the Conservatory.

**What to Bring:** A sketchpad; pencils of various weights such as 2H, HB, 2B; drawing markers, and perhaps pencil crayons; a snack.

## **Saturday, April 11th at 2:00 pm – Ashbridges Bay Park Walk**

**Leader:** Jane and Jim Goad

**Location:** Ashbridges Bay Park - 1561 Lake Shore Blvd E. Toronto, M4L3W6

**Description:** We will walk along the paved path, which follows along the shore of the marina area. There are usually a variety of waterfowl in the lake in this area. This path then circles around the tip of the park, from which one can view a city skyline, Tommy Thompson Park and catch a glimpse of the islands. As we round around the lake side of the park and approach the beach, we will discuss the current rehabilitation project which is underway to protect this shoreline.

**Details:** A 1.5-2-hour, 3 km circular nature walk on mostly paved, flat surfaces with gentle slopes. No stairs

**Meeting Spot:** The most southerly parking lot. Turn off Lakeshore Blvd E into Ashbridges Bay Park and go past the parking lots, to your left, that border on Lakeshore Blvd. You will be going deeper into the park, with the marina to your right. There is a boat launch in the parking lot, where we will meet up.

**Getting There:** By car: turn onto Ashbridges Bay Park Rd from Lake Shore Blvd E., situated in the east Beeches area By TTC: take 92 Woodbine South directly from Woodbine Station or the 501 Queen Street streetcar East at Kingston Rd/Connaught Ave.

**Accessibility:** We may follow some informal paths by the water; however, the main park path is accessible.

**Washrooms:** Not available

**What to Bring:** Cameras, binoculars, water bottles and snack if desired. It can be windy!

**Other Information:** There are a large number of mature trees in this area.

## **Sunday, April 12th at 10:30 am – The Hidden Life of Trees**

**Leader:** Richard Schwarz

**Location:** Morningside Park

**Description:** The Hidden Life of Trees. The book and film with the same title teach us many lessons about trees. Trees communicate and share resources with each other. A forest is much like a family gathering. We will find locations along the trail that demonstrate the relationships between the trees.

**Details:** A 2-hour, 3 km circular birds, insects and plants walks on mostly unpaved but even surfaces with some gentle slopes. No stairs

**Meeting Spot:** 390 Morningside Ave. We will meet in the small building just off the first parking lot which is 100 metres from Morningside.

**Getting There:** By car - The park entrance is off Morningside just south of Ellesmere. By TTC - From Kennedy Station take the 905 Eglinton East Express bus going to University of Toronto Scarborough.

**Accessibility:** Not suitable for mobility devices

**Washrooms:** At the beginning and end

**What to Bring:** Basic hiking gear. Boot chains if there may be icy trails.

## **Thursday, April 16th at 10:00 am – High Park - Old Mill (public)**

**Registration required to manage numbers:** Register on [EventBrite](#)

**Co-leaders:** Richard Longley & David Creelman

**Location:** High Park - Lake Shore - Humber Valley - Old Mill

**Description:** Nature and history walk. Nature: whatever we can find in mid-April. History: Howards of High Park, Royal visit of 1939 and opening of QEW; Hurricane Hazel; Hume Smith and the creation of Old Mill; Teiaigon First Nations village on the Humber at Baby Point.

**Details:** A 3-hour, 8 km linear nature and heritage walk on mostly paved surfaces with some gentle slopes. Some stairs

**Meeting Spot:** High Park TTC main entrance

**Getting There:** Subway line 1 to High Park

**Washrooms:** Not available

**What to Bring:** Camera, binoculars, water, munchies

## **Thursday, April 16th at 1:30 pm – Lambton Park - Old Growth and Rejuvenation**

**Leader:** Lillian Natalizio

**Location:** Lambton Park

**Description:** An Environmentally Significant Area looming over the Humber River valley, Lambton Park contains a fragment of remnant black oak savannah, with old growth red pines and oaks. We'll look at how this rare habitat is being rejuvenated with prescribed burns and native plantings. We'll also look out for emerging spring wildflowers. Entering the park from Dundas St, we will move through meadow, savannah, and woodland habitats towards the top of the hill, finishing at Lambton Arena.

**Details:** A 1.5-hour, 2 km circular nature walk on mostly unpaved and uneven surfaces with some steep slopes. No stairs

**Meeting Spot:** Northeast corner of Dundas St W and Howland St

**Getting There:** By TTC, take 55 bus from Jane Station, 40A bus from Dundas West Station, 40 bus from Kipling Station, or 79B bus from Runnymede Station. If driving, there is parking available at the Lambton Arena at the top of Howland St.

**Washrooms:** Along the way

**What to Bring:** Binoculars, ID guide(s), beverage

**Other Information:** If sensitive to smoke, monitor for the date of the 2026 prescribed burn. There is usually 2 days notice given. If the burn coincides with the walk date, we will be able to observe it. However, parking may not be available.

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/trees/forest-management/urban-forest-management/prescribed-burn/>

## **Friday, April 24th at 9:00 am – Spring Clean-up at Toronto Island**

**Leader:** Ellen Schwartzel

**Location:** Toronto Island

**Description:** Join other TFNers on a spring Clean-up outing to Toronto Island. As part of the City of Toronto's annual Spring Clean-up Days, we will pick up litter on a designated patch at the Island – most likely at Centre Island. The exact location will be finalized with advice and advance scouting by Toronto Island Community Association. We will take breaks to look out for spring migrants.

Weather permitting, we will find a picnic table to chat over lunch, before returning to the city. (Bring your lunch.)

**Details:** A 4-hour, 1.5 km circular clean-up outing to collect litter on mostly unpaved but even, fairly flat surfaces. No stairs

**Meeting Spot:** Jack Layton Ferry terminal

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

**Accessibility:** We will likely be walking and collecting litter on loose beach sand

**Washrooms:** Washrooms are available on the island and at Jack Layton Ferry terminal.

**What to Bring:** Plastic garbage bags, sturdy garden gloves, drinking water, a snack or lunch, and a hat for sun. Bring binoculars too; we will likely see spring migrants.

## **Saturday, April 25 – Natural and Built Heritage at Todmorden Mills Heritage Site (public)**

**Registration Required to manage numbers:** Register on [EventBrite](#)

**Co-leaders:** Paula Davies and Kathy Chung

**Location:** 67 Pottery Road at Todmorden Mills Heritage Site

**Description:** The walk will begin and end at the entrance to the Wildflower Preserve. On our walk through the five kinds of habitats at the Preserve, we will look for early signs of spring and take particular note of work by TMWP stewards in the Preserve. Recovery of natural areas is impacted by legacy structures which are remnants from European settlement, industrial and even recent times. We will look for these structures... some are hidden in plain view!

Participants are encouraged to take advantage of staff guided tours of the historic buildings and reach out to the environmental community groups on site at this special Eco-Fair day!

**Details:** A 1.5-hour, 1km circular nature and heritage walk on mostly unpaved but even surfaces with some gentle slopes. Some stairs

**Meeting Spot:** On the brick road by the pedestrian bridge

**Getting There:** Take the 8 Broadview, 87 or 86 Cosburn bus from Broadview Station. Get off at Pottery Road and walk down the path to the site. Parking available at the back of the site, entrance off Pottery Road.

**Washrooms:** At the beginning and end

## **Sunday, April 26th at 10:00 am – Bestview Woods & East Don Parklands—Signs of Spring & Heritage**

**Leader:** Theresa Moore

**Location:** Bestview Park, North York

**Description:** We'll look for signs of Spring—especially early wildflowers and returning birds—and touch on the local Indigenous heritage. 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. There will be several opportunities for those who wish to drop out early.

**Details:** A 2-hour, 6 km circular nature and heritage walk on mostly unpaved but even surfaces with some gentle slopes. Some stairs

**Meeting Spot:** By the Shoppers Drug Mart at 1515 Steeles Avenue East on the Southeast corner of Steeles and Laureleaf

**Getting There:** TTC: The 53B Steeles East (not the 53E Express!) runs from Finch Station all the way out to Scarborough and has a stop at Laureleaf. Parking available at the plaza.

**Washrooms:** At the end

**What to Bring:** Binoculars

**Other Information:** There are some tree roots on the woodland trails and, if there have been recent heavy rains, these trails can be a bit muddy and/or slippery.

If members have any questions about our outings please send an email to [walks@torontofieldnaturalists.org](mailto: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](mailto:volunteering@torontofieldnaturalists.org)