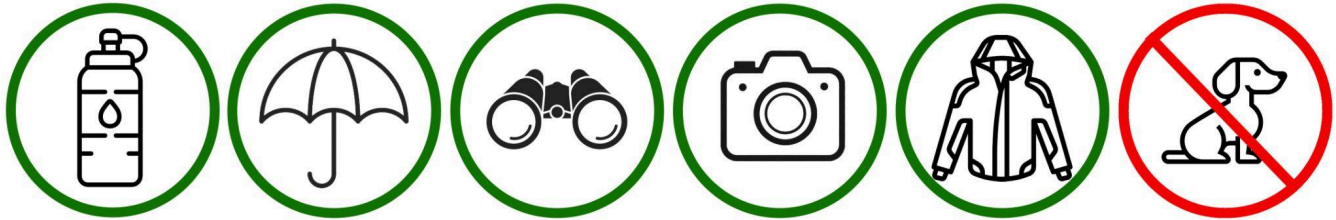


September 2026 – TFN Walk Schedule

Remember to bring water with you!

Nothing ruins an enjoyable walk faster than being thirsty or dehydrated!



Outings Etiquette

- Follow our [Naturalist's Code of Ethics](#) to minimize your impact on nature.
- Photographers, please read our [Ethical Nature Photography Best Practices](#).
- Let the walk leader know if you are leaving a walk early.
- See our outing cancellation policy [here](#).

Always check for cancellations on the [Outings Schedule](#) page before heading out!

 Check yourself for ticks after the walk.

 Photos taken on TFN outings can be emailed to walk.photos@torontofieldnaturalists.org

Tuesday, September 1st at 2:00 pm – Sketching Afternoon at Gardens of Spadina House

Leader: Ellen Schwartzel

Location: Spadina House

Description: Join other TFNers for an informal afternoon of garden sketching in the gardens of Spadina House. You are welcome, whether you sketch daily or have not sketched since grade 3. We will gather at Dupont Subway station, street-level, and then walk north and up the Baldwin Steps (103 steps!) to Spadina House. We'll begin with short warm-up sketches and then we'll each find our preferred subjects. There is much to delight the eye; the grand old mansion set among trees and expansive lawns, the generous flower gardens, the old apple orchard, a picturesque greenhouse and of course the turrets of Casa Loma beyond a crenelated wall. We'll regroup at 4 pm to share our experiences and images, and then walk back down the stairs to Dupont subway station. For those preferring to drive, meet us at the entrance to Spadina House around 2:20 pm. For those wanting to add a guided tour of the house, the last guided tour begins at 4:00 pm. No air conditioning in the historic building.

Details: A 2.5-hour, 1.5 km circular Nature Arts outing on mostly paved surfaces with some steep slopes. Some stairs

Meeting Spot: Dupont Subway Station, street level

Getting There: By TTC: Subway to Dupont Subway Station: Go up to street level: We will then exit the station and walk north to the Baldwin Steps at the intersection of Spadina Road and Davenport Road. Spadina Museum is located at the top of the Baldwin Steps next door to Casa Loma.

There is no parking available at Spadina Museum, but Paid parking is available next door at Casa Loma (1 Austin Terrace) in the shared parking lot. Contact Spadina House if you require accessible parking.

Accessibility: Baldwin Steps have 103 steps

Washrooms: Washrooms are at Spadina House, but not wheelchair accessible

What to Bring: A sketchpad; pencils of various weights such as 2H, HB, 2B; drawing markers, and colour pencil crayons or chalk pastels; Also bring a sun hat, snack, drink. A foam cushion for sitting is an option.

Friday, September 4th at 9:30 am – Toronto Islands: Wards and Snake Islands

Leader: Zunaïd Khan

Location: Toronto Islands

Description: From the Ward's Island ferry dock, we will head east towards the Eastern Gap and make our way towards Ward's Island beach, then follow the boardwalk west towards Snake Island, then make our way back to our starting point. Opportunities to see birds as fall migration will be underway, as well as great views of the city skyline and the lake.

It is recommended that you purchase in advance. Here is the link to purchase tickets:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/FerryTicketOnline/tickets2/index.jsp>

Details: A 2-hour, 3-4 km circular nature walk on mostly unpaved but even surfaces with some gentle slopes. No stairs

Meeting Spot: Ward's Island ferry dock

Getting There: TTC: Line 1 to Union Station then streetcar to Ferry Terminal stop and walk south to the terminal. Paid parking lots near the ferry terminal. Take the 9:00 am to Ward's Island. The walk leader will meet at the ferry dock on Ward's Island.

Washrooms: At the beginning

What to Bring: Binoculars

Saturday, September 5th at 11:00 am – St Anne's Anglican Church After the Fire, Liberty Village (public)

Leader: Richard Longley

Location: St Anne's Anglican Church, Liberty Village

Description: For all, especially those who visited St Anne's Church with its magnificent art on previous walks prior to the fire of 9 June, 2024, who want to see the state of the church today, to explore its exhibit [Where Walls Meet the Sky](#) and learn about proposals for its restoration.

For those who do not want to leave by subway from Dufferin Station or via the Dundas streetcar, the walk will continue through Liberty Village with its memories of industries and prisons for men and women.

Walk ends at Liberty and Strachan, steps north of Exhibition Place (Manitoba Drive) for streetcars 509 Harbourfront to Union (TTC Line 1) or 511 Bathurst (TTC Line 2) or 29 bus back to Dufferin Station. Die-hards who want to go further will be welcome to join the walk leader over the Garrison Crossing bridges, through Trinity Bellwoods Park and Kensington Market to Spadina and College for streetcar to Union (Subway Line 1) or Bathurst Station (Subway Line 2)

Details: A 2.5-hour, 8 km linear heritage walk on mostly paved, fairly flat surfaces. No stairs

Meeting Spot: Dufferin Station Line 1, (NW corner, Dufferin/Bloor W)

Getting There: Subway Line 1, Dufferin 29 bus, 929 Dufferin Express bus

Washrooms: Along the way

Wednesday, September 9th at 10:00 am – Birds at Col. Sam's, Fall Migrants, 1 of 2

Leader: David Creelman

Location: Col. Samuel Smith Park

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

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

Meeting Spot: 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: Paths are good. Lawns may be bad for walkers/wheelchairs if saturated by rain.

Washrooms: At the beginning and along the way

What to Bring: Binoculars

Other Information: Wear layers, as it can be cooler by the lake.

Thursday, September 10th at 2:00 pm – Bluffer's Park and Beach

Leader: Jim and Jane Goad

Location: Bluffer's Park and Beach - 1 Brimley Road South, Scarborough M1M 3W3

Description: The Scarborough Bluffs are a natural geological wonder of Toronto. We will be on the beach at the foot of these stunning sandstone cliffs. Containing naturally forested areas and marshlands, this area is on the bird migration path and features a wealth of birds. The display of autumn wildflowers should be at its peak. We expect a good display of wild asters. Great photo opportunity.

During this walk, using established but unmaintained paths, we will discuss the storm water management system called the Dunkers Water System ponds. We will explain how the various holding ponds function. We will proceed to the beach area, where there are stunning lake and bluffer views. It is in this area that we will see natural potter's quality clay.

We will then proceed to the paved walkways that will allow us to see the bluffs from a different angle and the south end of the Dunker's Flow Balancing Water System. We will also see the extensive shoreline preservation project that protects these shores.

Proceeding along these paths, we will see a limited view of Toronto's skyline and the open expanse of Lake Ontario. We will look at the numerous memorial trees planted there, under a City of Toronto program.

Details: A 2-hour, 2.5-3 km circular nature walk on unpaved surfaces

Meeting Spot: Go south on the first roadway off of Brimley Road South, to the most westerly parking lot. We will meet just beside the brick washroom building beside this roadway on the boulevard. We will be holding a TFN sign.

Getting There: There is no TTC access to the park on weekdays after Labour Day. The walk down the hill is very steep and the road is narrow, mostly without sidewalks. **THIS IS NOT A SAFE WALK.**

By car: within the city, go to Kingston Road and turn south down Brimley Road. From the 401: eastbound, take the Brimley exit. Westbound, exit at McCowan and go south to Ellesmere Avenue. Turn right and go west to Brimley and proceed south down Brimley Road to Bluffer's Park.

Accessibility: This walk is not accessible for wheelchairs or people with balance issues. Paths are established, but not all areas we will be going into are paved and some are relatively narrow.

Washrooms: There are washrooms beside our meeting place. The water bottle filling station is also located there.

What to Bring: Wear footwear with a good grip, that is waterproof, as parts of the path may have some flooding (~3 inches). Also, there is actual potter's quality clay along one of the paths! — so it can be slippery. Consider bringing hiking poles, if appropriate.

Friday, September 11th at 10:30 am – The World of Spiders

Leader: Richard Schwarz

Location: Milliken Park, Corner of McCowan and Steeles

Description: Join us on a search for spiders and webs. Often a source of fear, spiders are an important part of the ecology for being major predators of insects. People with a phobia can easily stay back a distance.

Details: A 2-hour, 3 km circular mushroom walk on mostly unpaved but even surfaces. Some stairs

Meeting Spot: 4325 McCowan Rd. Parking lot of Community Recreation Centre

Getting There: By TTC use McCowan or Steeles bus

Accessibility: We will be walking on rough surfaces

Washrooms: At the beginning and end

Sunday, September 13th at 10:30 am – Biidaasige Park (Port Lands)

Leader: David Stonehouse

Location: Biidaasige Park

Description: A walk through Biidaasige Park, created by Waterfront Toronto with the support of the three levels of government. The Park reconnects the Lower Don with Toronto's Inner Harbour, consistent with the 1991 plan developed by Canadian Landscape Architect Michael Hough and others.

Details: A 2-hour, 3-4 km circular waterfront revitalization walk on mostly unpaved but even surfaces with some gentle slopes. Some stairs

Meeting Spot: Meet at Firehall 30, 39 Commissioners Street

Getting There: See this link:

<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/parks-recreation/places-spaces/beaches-gardens-attractions/biidaasige-park/how-to-biidaasage-park/>

Washrooms: At the beginning

What to Bring: Very little shade so sunscreen is important.

Tuesday, September 15th at 1:00 pm – Introduction to Trees and Tree Ecology of the Toronto Area

Leader: Justin Peter

Location: Taylor Creek Trail, East York

Description: Toronto has about 40 native tree species, plus several naturalized, introduced species, each with adaptations that allow it to exploit certain conditions successfully. We will walk the down Alder Steps into the Taylor Creek Valley, identifying various trees along the way while looking at how their presence as species and their individual forms can inform us about local environmental conditions, both present and historic. Besides the abundant Sugar Maple, we expect to see various other common and less common trees, drawing on tree lore and on our own field observations. This excursion should appeal to those who are interested in how various trees fit into our local forested environments as well as those who would like a better grasp of tree identification.

Details: A 3-hour, 4 km circular tree identification walk over mostly paved, fairly flat surfaces. Some stairs

Meeting Spot: Alder Road in the green above Alder Stairs, coordinates: 43.702633, -79.325848

Getting There: Alder Road is accessible via St. Clair East west of O'Connor Drive. There is plenty of street parking along Alder Road (dead-end).

Accessibility: We will initially walk down Alder Stairs — 112 steps — down onto Taylor Creek Trail, which is otherwise flat. We will need to walk up the Alder Stairs to return to our vehicles. The stairs are well-maintained and navigable by anyone with a good level of fitness.

Washrooms: Not available

What to Bring: Binoculars

Wednesday, September 16th at 10:00 am – Exhibition Place Architecture History and Future (public)

Leader: Richard Longley

Location: Exhibition Place

Description: Explore the history and diversity of Exhibition Place architecture from the 19th Century to Mid-20th Century Modern and beyond, and the aspirations for the future Exhibition Place as Ontario Place is "developed".

(A visit to Ontario Place is not possible but we will be able to see, from a distance, what is and is not going on there.)

Details: A 2.5-hour, 5 km circular heritage walk on mostly paved, fairly flat surfaces. No stairs

Meeting Spot: Princes' Gates, NE corner Strachan and Lakeshore

Getting There: 511 streetcar from Bathurst Line 2 subway, 509 Streetcar from Union station Line 1 subway, 29 Dufferin bus

Washrooms: Along the way

Other Information: Meet at Starbucks on site at end of the walk

Thursday, September 17th at 11:00 am – Yonge and Lawrence Park (public)

Leader: Martin Chen

Location: 2901 Yonge St

Description: Summer walk starting and ending at Alexander Muir Memorial Garden. Trees and shrubs in full foliage, some blooming flowers. We will visit Sherwood Park near Bayview then turn around.

Details: A 1.25-hour, 2.2 km circular nature walk on mostly unpaved but even surfaces with some gentle slopes. No stairs

Meeting Spot: 2901 Yonge St

Getting There: Lawrence Subway. Drivers can look for parking on the side streets.

Washrooms: At the beginning and end

Other Information: We can find some peppermint tea at a tea shop near Sporting Life afterwards.

Saturday, September 19th at 10:00 am – Birds at Col. Sam's, Fall Migrants, 2 of 2

Leader: David Creelman

Location: Col. Samuel Smith Park

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

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

Meeting Spot: 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: Paths are good. Lawns may be bad for walkers/wheelchairs if saturated by rain.

Washrooms: At the beginning and along the way

What to Bring: Binoculars

Other Information: Wear layers, as it can be cooler by the lake.

Monday, September 21st at 10:00 am – Seed collection in The Meadoway

Leader: Sarah Kotsopoulos

Location: The Meadoway

Description: Participants will learn about The Meadoway restoration project and help collect seeds from native plants. No experience necessary, participants will be taught species identification and collection methods. This seed will be used on restoration projects or can be taken home for the garden!

Details: A 2.5-hour, 0.5 km circular seed collection outing on mostly unpaved but even surfaces. No stairs

Meeting Spot: The back of the Top Food Supermarket parking lot. 2715 Lawrence Avenue East, Scarborough. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/CVQPSzcZ3PvNTZsf6>

Getting There: Can park in the Top Food parking lot. TTC bus stop 5286 is closest. Lawrence Ave E and Brimley Rd is the closest major intersection.

Washrooms: At the beginning

What to Bring: Secateurs or scissors to deadhead plants

Other Information: Participants will be going into the meadow, so long pants and closed toed shoes are highly recommended.

Wednesday, September 23rd at 10:00 am – Springmount Creek: Vanished but not vanquished (public)

Leader: Linda McCaffrey

Location: Earls court to Christie Pits

Description: Earls court was one of Toronto's 'Liberties', an area outside of municipal boundaries, without municipal by-laws or services. Shacktowns grew up on small lots. They were cheap. One identifiable 'shack' is still standing close to where Springmount Creek once rose.

Learn what St Clair Ave has to do with slavery, how St Clair Ave West became the centre of Italian life in Toronto, and why the escarpment is called 'the Iroquois Buffs'. See madly tilted houses on Shaw Street. Remember the Christie Pits Race Riot of 1933. And enjoy the unique beauty of the Springmount Creek Valley, a portion of the valley that survived the depredations of municipal engineers.

Details: A 2.5-hour, 5 km linear nature and heritage walk over mostly paved surfaces with some steep slopes. Some stairs

Meeting Spot: North-west side of St Clair Ave at Earlscourt

Getting There: Take the 512 St Clair Streetcar to Earlscourt Stop or the Dufferin Bus to St Clair Ave and walk west on the north side of St Clair Ave to Earlscourt Ave.

Accessibility: No charging stations and no accessible bathrooms

Washrooms: At the end

What to wear on nature 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.

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