

GETTING THERE AND BACK

You can reach the suggested starting point on public transit by taking the YONGE subway to Lawrence Station. The 11 BAYVIEW bus serves the suggested tour end point on Bayview Avenue.



Burke Brook

FOR MORE INFO

For more information on Discovery Walks, including brochures, please call Parks and Recreation Information at (416) 392-1111. For more information on area history, inquire at the Locke Branch of the Toronto Public Library.

Discovery Walks is a program of self-guided walks that links City ravines, parks, gardens, beaches and neighbourhoods. Other Discovery Walks include: Central Ravines, Belt Line and Gardens; Eastern Ravine and Beaches; Western Ravines and Beaches; Don Valley Hills and Dales; and Garrison Creek.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The City of Toronto would like to thank the Toronto Public Library, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Field Naturalists, Toronto Transit Commission, Heritage Toronto, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Public Health, Community History Project and the Task Force to Bring Back the Don for their support.

Discovery Walks name and logo are official marks of the City of Toronto.

DISCOVERY WALKS

NORTHERN RAVINES & GARDENS

One In A Series of Self-Guided Walks



Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens

Photo by Gera Dillon



Drop out of the City. Follow peaceful Burke Brook to experience enchanting Sherwood Forest, quiet ravines and a spectacular formal garden.

THE ROUTE

Although you can begin this Discovery Walk at any point along the route, a good place to start is the Lawrence Subway Station (see top of map). The route leads you through Lawrence Park, Chatsworth, Blythwood and Sherwood Park ravines.

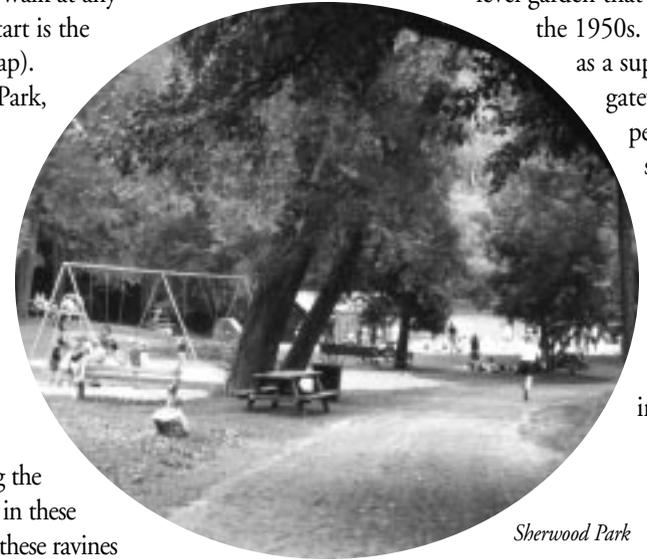
1 RAVINES AND BURKE BROOK

This series of ravine parks, displaying a wide variety of natural and human-made scenic landscapes, is connected by Burke Brook. First Peoples used these ravines as early as 4000 years ago. They camped, hunted and traveled in these areas. During the early to mid 1800s, logging was common in these ravines. Today, municipal by-laws protect these ravines and the City is restoring much of the vegetation.

Burke Brook once flowed naturally through these ravines. Walking beside the brook today, you'll be amazed at the number of ways people have modified the water course, including straightening, ditching, tunneling and burying, in order to accommodate excess storm sewer water. In sharp contrast to these modifications, you'll find the eastern-most section of the brook, in Sherwood Park Ravine, in a nearly untouched natural state. The City is trying to return the brook to as natural a state as possible.

2 ALEXANDER MUIR MEMORIAL GARDENS

Stroll among the herbs and flowers that bloom in this magnificent formal multi-level garden that was planted in the 1950s. The gardens act as a superb public gateway into the peaceful ravine system. Alexander Muir wrote the patriotic song, "The Maple Leaf Forever", in 1867.



Sherwood Park

3 SHERWOOD PARK

Explore Sherwood Park Ravine, one of the largest remaining protected natural areas in the city. The park contains a small remnant of the vast Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest, which once covered this region. Species you can see include white pine, hemlock, beech, oak and sugar maple. Some of the huge trees growing on the ravine slopes are at least 150 years old!

Enjoy this Discovery Walk at different times of the year. You'll be surprised how it changes from season to season.

LEGEND

Discovery Walk Path	Flower Garden
Connecting/Side Trails	Caution when crossing
Information Signs	Views
Washrooms	Public Library
Telephone	Public Transit
Stairs	Suggested starting and/or ending points
Steep Incline/Decline	

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1** Ravines and Burke Brook
- 2** Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens
- 3** Sherwood Park

8 minutes walking distance (approximate)
 1/2km (approximate)

ACCESSIBILITY: The .5km (approximate) section of this walk in Sherwood Park Ravine, north of Sherwood Avenue, has level access, a hard-packed surface and an accessible park washroom.

"Regular brisk walking can reduce elevated blood fats or blood pressure and improve digestion and elimination."
 Active Living Canada and Toronto Public Health

THE HIKERS' CODE

- Stay on the trails
- Do not disturb wildlife
- Keep dogs on a leash
- Be cautious when crossing roads
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy
- Wear suitable clothing
- Walk with someone — it's safer and more fun
- Be aware of other trail users.

REMEMBER

- All walks involve stairs and/or slopes
- Walking surfaces vary and can include hard pavement, woodchips, grass, limestones fines, sand and/or bare earth
- Steps and paths are not lighted and not cleared of ice and snow
- Use at your own risk



This walk is approximately 4.8km long with a walking time of about 1.5 hours (minimum). If you walk this route at a brisk pace, you will burn approximately 300 calories!

Please note that park washrooms are open from May to October.