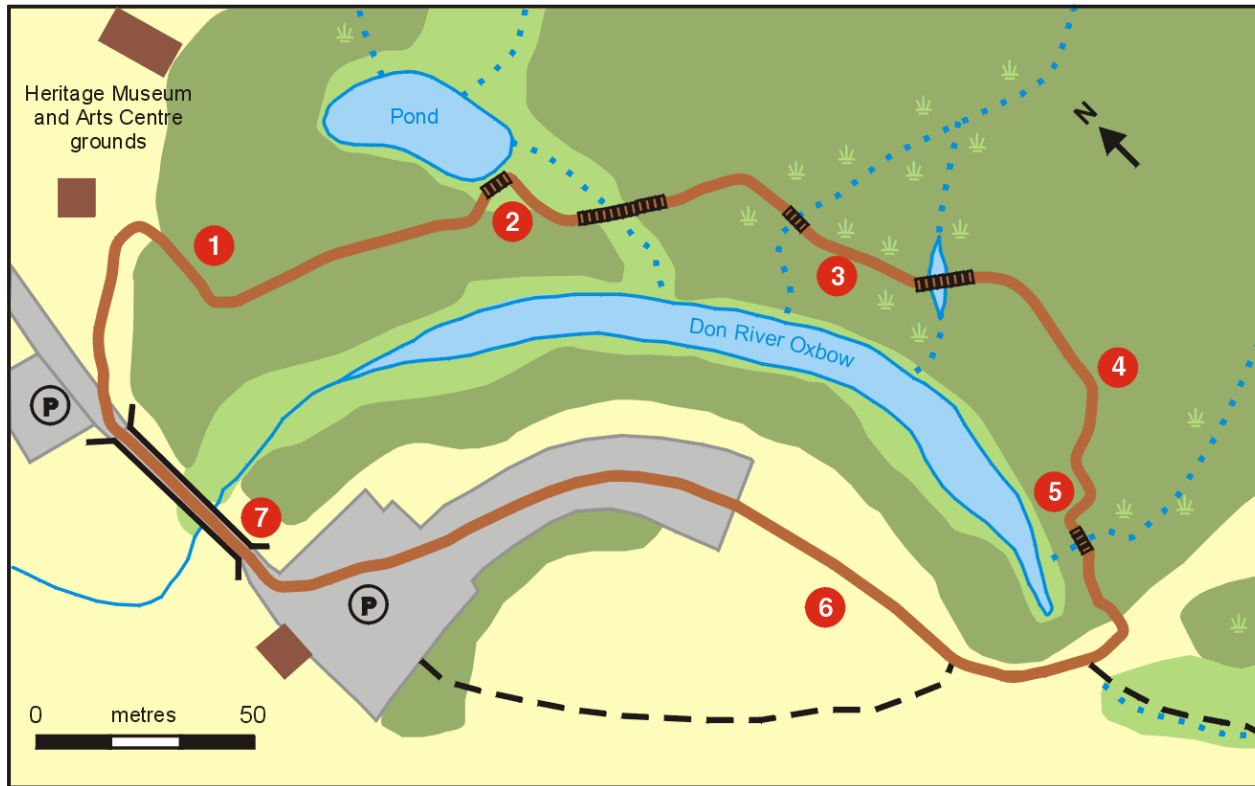















# Oxbow Trail



## Map Legend

	Forest		Main Trail		Wet Forest		Building
	Water		Informal Trail		Vehicle Bridge		Feature
	Marsh / Wet Meadow		Creek		Boardwalk / Bridge		Parking Lot
	Dry Meadow / Open Area						

## Walking The Oxbow Trail

The Oxbow Trail is a 0.5 km loop around a section of the Don River that was severed during construction of the Don Valley Parkway in the early 1960s. Allow yourself at least 15 minutes to walk the trail and enjoy some of its natural features.

- 1 Begin your walk by entering the **lowland forest** behind the Don Train Station entrance. The tree canopy here is mainly crack willow and Manitoba maple. We are gradually replacing these with native trees such as sugar maple and red oak. On the forest floor, trilliums and bloodroot provide a spectacular flowering display for a few weeks in spring before the trees leaf out.
- 2 From the viewing stand you can see the **pond** which was constructed in 1994 by enhancing and deepening a natural depression. This area has a cattail marsh, and the edges of the pond have been planted with sedges, blue flag iris and many other wetland plants and shrubs. Dragonflies, frogs and fish have colonized the pond.
- 3 As you cross the long boardwalk, you enter a **forested wetland** created by seepage from springs on the slopes. Look for white cedar, black ash, ferns and dogwoods—all of which like “wet feet”.
- 4 After a short ascent you reach **upland forest** on top of a knoll. The soil here is drier, and favours white ash and sugar maple trees.
- 5 From the stairs you get a good view of the Don River **oxbow** below. The oxbow is spring-fed and does not dry out in summer.
- 6 The trail now rises up the west side of the oxbow to a **meadow**. The meadow is especially colourful in late summer and fall when cup plant, wild bergamot, goldenrod and asters are in bloom.
- 7 As you end your walk at the parking lot, have a look at the **step-pool channel** at the south-east corner of the bridge. Together with the swale (ditch) planted with grasses and shrubs, the pools slow down and cleanse contaminated stormwater which drains off the parking lot.

## About the Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve

The Preserve is a nine-hectare natural area on the grounds of the Todmorden Mills Heritage Museum and Arts Centre. The Preserve was established in 1991 by two visionaries, conservationist Charles Sauriol and horticulturalist Dave Money, with the goal of restoring the natural area at Todmorden to pre-settlement conditions as much as possible.

When Europeans arrived in the late 1700s the Don River flowed through the site. A forest of giant white pines, bur oaks and massive elm trees supported bears and wolves, and wildflowers carpeted the ground in spring.

A lumber mill was built at Todmorden and much of the original forest was cleared to provide timber for the burgeoning city. Subsequently, a flour mill and a brewery were built at Todmorden and by the mid-1800s it was an important and bustling industrial centre.

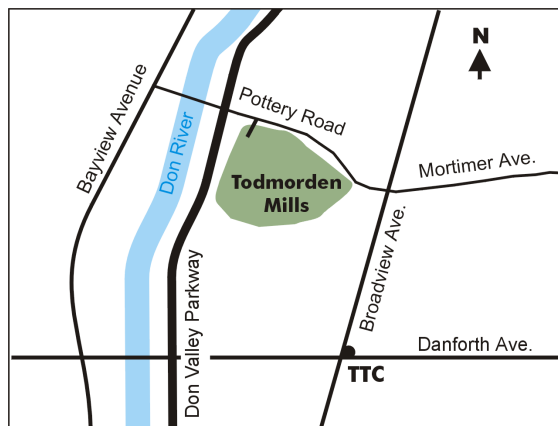
Todmorden was further transformed in the 1900s by the dumping of broken bricks from the adjacent Don Valley Brick Works, and later by the addition of fill from construction of the Don Valley Parkway about 1960.

Neglected, the site was invaded by exotic trees such as Manitoba maple and crack willow, and invasive plants such as garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed which shade out the native wildflowers. Garbage and salt-spray blowing in off the expressway added to the slow degradation of the site.

Today, volunteers are working with corporate and local government partners to restore the site. Gradually, native trees, shrubs and wildflowers are being re-established at Todmorden Mills. Wildlife is also reappearing. Local citizens can now stroll around the Oxbow trail and enjoy the natural environment.

The Todmorden Wildflower Preserve is a charitable organization run by volunteers. We conduct plantings, remove invasive plants, clean up garbage, and maintain the trail. Members give guided walks throughout the year, and visitors are encouraged to contribute their wildlife sightings to our monitoring scheme. Please contact us if you would like to get involved.

## Getting to Todmorden Mills



Todmorden Mills is a City of Toronto park which consists of the Todmorden Mills Heritage Museum and Arts Centre, and a nine-hectare natural area called the Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve. The park is located on Pottery Road just west of Broadview Avenue. There is on-site car parking. By transit, take any TTC bus north from Broadview Station on the Bloor-Danforth line, get off at Pottery Road and walk 5 minutes down the hill.

## Contact Info

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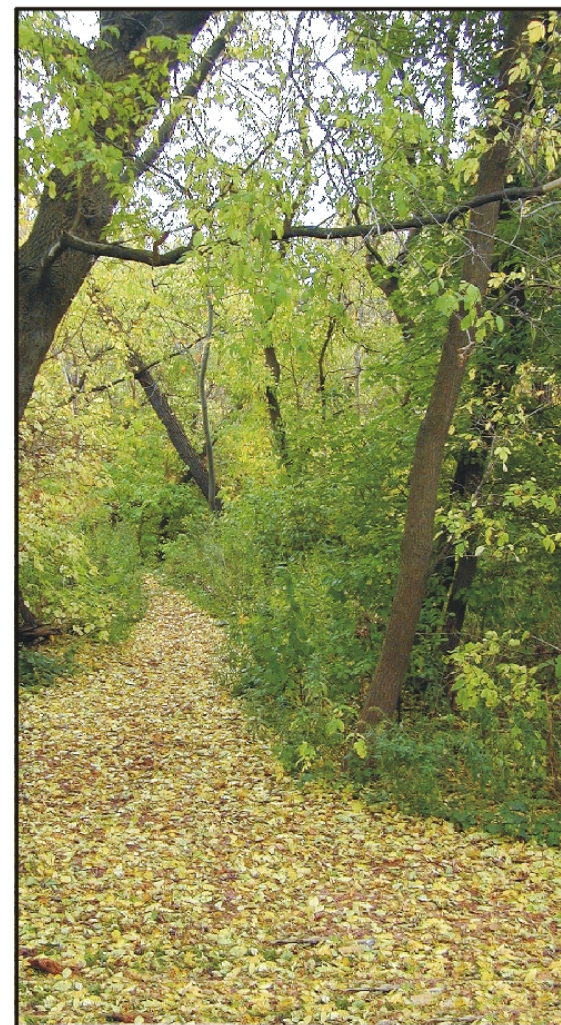
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# TODMORDEN MILLS WILDFLOWER PRESERVE



## NATURE TRAIL GUIDE