

GETTING THERE AND BACK

You can reach the suggested start and end point on public transit by taking the YONGE subway to Wellesley Station. Other subway stations providing close access include Bay, College, Dundas, Yonge/Bloor and Museum.



Allan Gardens

FOR MORE INFO

For walking brochures on this and other Discovery Walks, please call Parks and Recreation Information at (416) 338-0338. For more information on area history, inquire at the City Hall, Yorkville, Parliament Street or Toronto Reference Library branches 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; Don Valley Hills and Dales; Western Ravines and Beaches; Northern Ravines and Gardens; Eastern Ravine & Beaches; Garrison Creek; Humber River, Old Mill & Marshes; and Downtown Toronto.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The City of Toronto would like to thank the Toronto Public Library, Toronto Field Naturalists, Toronto Transit Commission, Heritage Toronto, Toronto Public Health, Toronto Heart Health Partnership, University of Toronto, St. Michael's College, Ryerson Polytechnic University, Ontario Realty Corporation and G.W.L. Realty Advisors Inc. for their support.

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

DISCOVERY WALKS

UPTOWN TORONTO

One In A Series of Self-Guided Walks



Village of Yorkville Park

Photo by Hiro Nakashima



Explore Uptown Toronto! Discover how parks, gardens and streetscapes link Uptown's public institutions, residential neighbourhoods and commercial areas.

This Uptown Discovery Walk leads you through neighbourhoods just north of the City's core. Hidden among the low-rise and high-rise residential, commercial and institutional buildings, you will discover a rich variety of parks, gardens and streetscapes. Since the 1960s, many of these parks and gardens have been created through building demolitions, land exchanges, street closures, lease agreements, land purchases and the City's development approval process for major projects.

These parks and gardens have design features ranging from traditional to contemporary, from pastoral to urban. Visit two of the City's traditional parks—Allan Gardens and Queen's Park. At Allan Gardens, admire the extensive horticultural displays both outdoors and inside the ornate greenhouses. Queen's Park provides a picturesque forested setting for the Provincial Parliament buildings. The more contemporary parks and gardens include quiet neighbourhood meeting spots, an award-winning park (e.g. Village of Yorkville Park) and outdoor recreation facilities. You will visit extensively landscaped institutional grounds and the remains of a ravine where Taddle Creek once flowed but is now buried in a sewer.

Many of these parks and gardens have been created over underground shopping concourses, parking lots and the subway, where a minimum of five feet of soil is provided for the healthy growth of trees. Opportunities to stop, look and listen are provided in these green spaces, most of which have seating, public art, water elements and nearby cafes and shopping.

A variety of wildlife finds habitat and refuge in these same green spaces, particularly during spring and fall when birds and some butterflies are migrating. Species seen most often throughout the year are pigeons, squirrels and racoons.

As you continue your exploration, you will encounter trees, shrubs and flowers growing along sidewalks and in planters on both public and private land. Trees are invaluable assets in improving the quality of urban life by reducing air pollution, creating shade, providing wildlife with food and habitat as well as beautifying neighbourhoods.

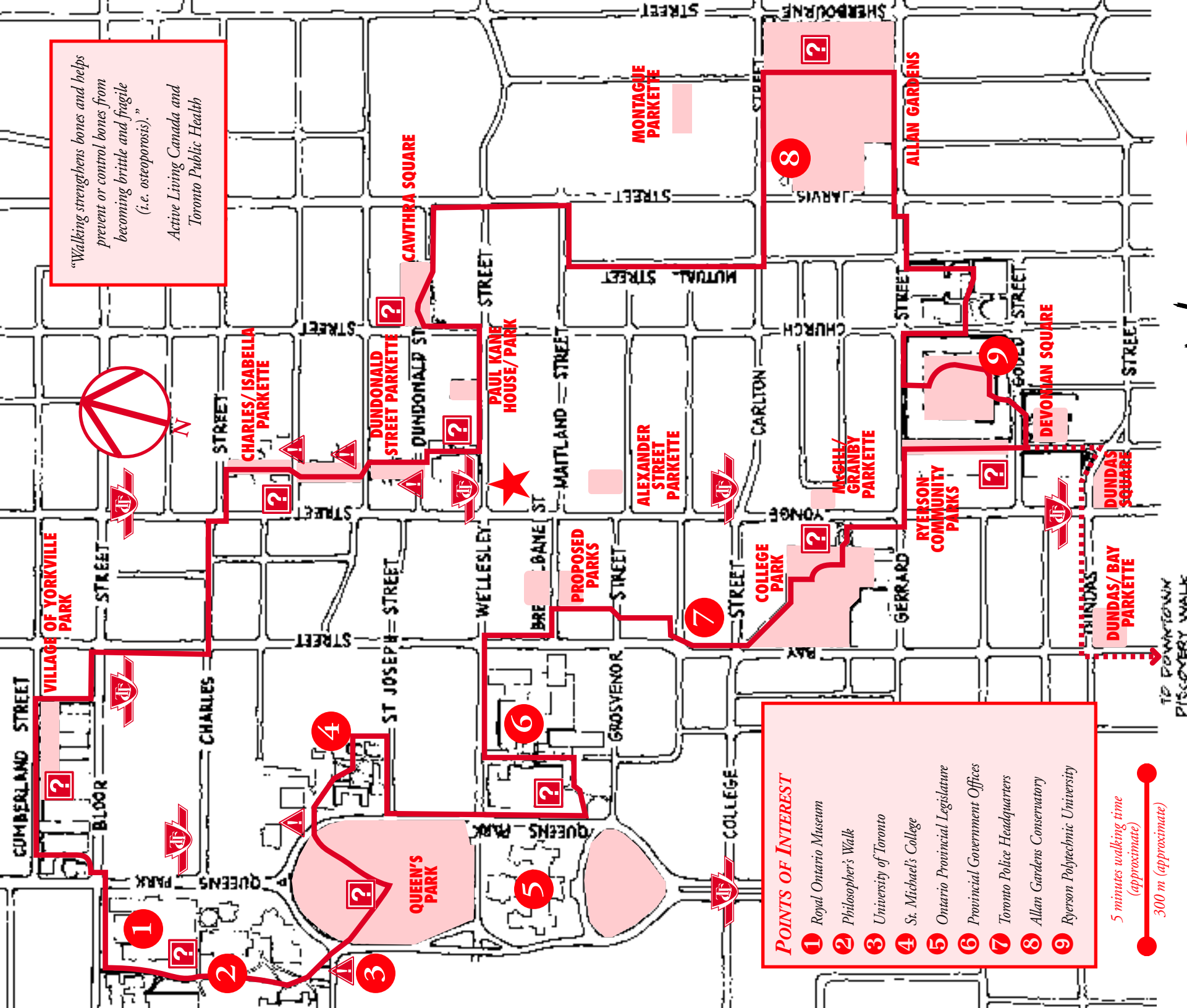
Parks, gardens and streetscapes provide dramatic contrasts with surrounding historic and contemporary buildings. Note the wide variety of building materials used.

Murals, sculptures and statues located in the parks, gardens and streetscapes along this Walk are representative of the impressive collection of public art that embodies the spirit of Toronto.

On this urban adventure, many hidden treasures, sights and sounds will be revealed to you. Discover Uptown Toronto, the "City within a Park!"

Devonian Square
Photo by Brian Byrnes





“Walking strengthens bones and helps prevent or control bones from becoming brittle and fragile (i.e. osteoporosis).”
Active Living Canada and Toronto Public Health



- POINTS OF INTEREST**
- 1 Royal Ontario Museum
 - 2 Philosopher's Walk
 - 3 University of Toronto
 - 4 St. Michael's College
 - 5 Ontario Provincial Legislature
 - 6 Provincial Government Offices
 - 7 Toronto Police Headquarters
 - 8 Allan Gardens Conservatory
 - 9 Ryerson Polytechnic University

5 minutes walking time (approximate)
300 m (approximate)

ACCESSIBILITY: The 7 km (approximate) route has a combination of level access with some moderate slopes and a hard-paved surface.

- THE HIKERS' CODE**
- 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

- REMEMBER**
- Walking surfaces vary and can include hard pavement, woodchips, grass, limestone fines, sand and/or bare earth
 - Not all steps and paths are lighted and cleared of ice and snow
 - Use at your own risk

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON:

- 1 Royal Ontario Museum guided walking tours — (416) 586-8000
- 3 University of Toronto guided walking tours — (416) 978-5000
- 5 Ontario Provincial Legislature guided walking tours — (416) 325-7500
- 6 Government of Ontario Art Collection (on the first two floors of and outside the MacDonald Block, Provincial Government Office)
- 7 Toronto Police Museum — while walk-ins are welcome, groups larger than 5 must call ahead — (416) 808-7020
- 8 Allan Gardens Conservatory events — (416) 392-7288
- 9 Ryerson Polytechnic University guided walking tours — (416) 979-5030



Love Your Heart!
Toronto Heart-Health Partnership

This walk is approximately 7 km long with a continuous walking time of about 2 1/2 hours (minimum). If you walk this route at a brisk pace, you will burn approximately 500 calories!

LEGEND

- Discovery Walk Path
- - - Connecting/Side Trails
- Information Sign
- Caution when crossing
- Subway
- Suggested start and/or end point

Given the large number of attractions, you may wish to walk only a portion of the route at any one time

Food, washrooms and telephones are readily available along this walk.