

GETTING THERE

You can reach the suggested starting point on public transit by taking the BLOOR-DANFORTH subway to Christie Station. 121 FRONT-ESPLANADE bus and 511 BATHURST streetcar serve the vicinity of the suggested tour end point near the Lake Ontario shoreline.



Trinity Bellwoods Park

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 College/Shaw or Sanderson 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: Don Valley Hills and Dales; Eastern Ravine and Beaches; Western Ravines and Beaches; Northern Ravines & Gardens; and Central Ravines, Beltline and Gardens.

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, Community History Project, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Public Health and the Garrison Creek Community Group for their support.

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

DISCOVERY WALKS

GARRISON CREEK

One In A Series of Self-Guided Walks



Trinity Bellwoods Park

Photo by Gera Dillon



Trace the path of the buried Garrison Creek Ravine. Explore parklands, traditional neighbourhoods and vibrant main streets.

THE ROUTE

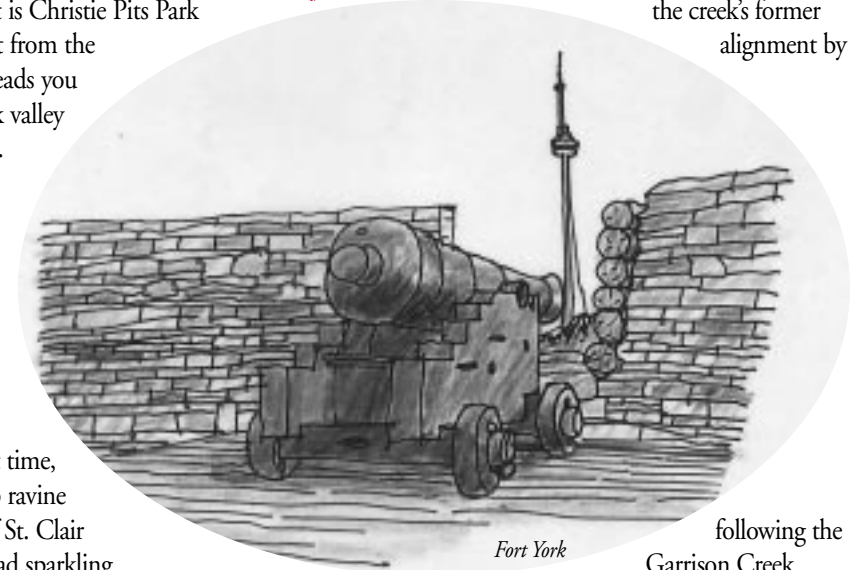
Although you can begin this Discovery Walk at any point along the route, a good starting point is Christie Pits Park ① (see top of map), across the street from the Christie Subway Station. The route leads you along the now-buried Garrison Creek valley from the park down to Lake Ontario. You'll visit other parks including Trinity Bellwoods ② and one of Toronto's premier historical sites, Fort York ③.

Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe founded modern urban Toronto (i.e. Town of York), when he established Fort York in 1793. At that time, Garrison Creek flowed in a large deep ravine with several tributaries, from north of St. Clair Avenue to Lake Ontario. The creek had sparkling clear water and was famous for its salmon fishing. The British built Fort York at the mouth of the creek to guard against possible American attempts to invade Canada.

As the new town of York grew, breweries were built on the creek to take advantage of the clean water. Soon, other entrepreneurs developed land beside the creek, as abattoirs, market gardens, Trinity College and residential country estates. Dozens of bridges were built over the ravine.

By 1880, development along the ravine had polluted the creek. The City buried the creek in an underground sewer where it flows today. Later, the city gradually filled in sections of the ravine and demolished or buried the bridges. At least two of these original bridges remain invisible but intact, buried under Harbord Street and under Crawford Street.

Today, you can find evidence of the creek's former alignment by



Fort York

following the Garrison Creek

Discovery Walk as it meanders along curving neighbourhood streets and through a series of interconnected parks and open spaces.

Community groups and the City of Toronto are attempting to raise awareness of the existence of the buried creek and its tributaries and to honour it as an important public amenity. Civic improvements to parks, roads, sidewalks and boulevards found along the creek's original route are planned. As well, extensions of this walking route are planned to the north and west.

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

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, fringes, sand and/or bare earth
- Steps and paths are not lighted and not cleared of ice and snow
- Use at your own risk

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Christie Pits Park
- 2 Trinity Bellwoods Park
- 3 Fort York

"Walking relieves stress and tension."
Active Living Canada and
Toronto Public Health

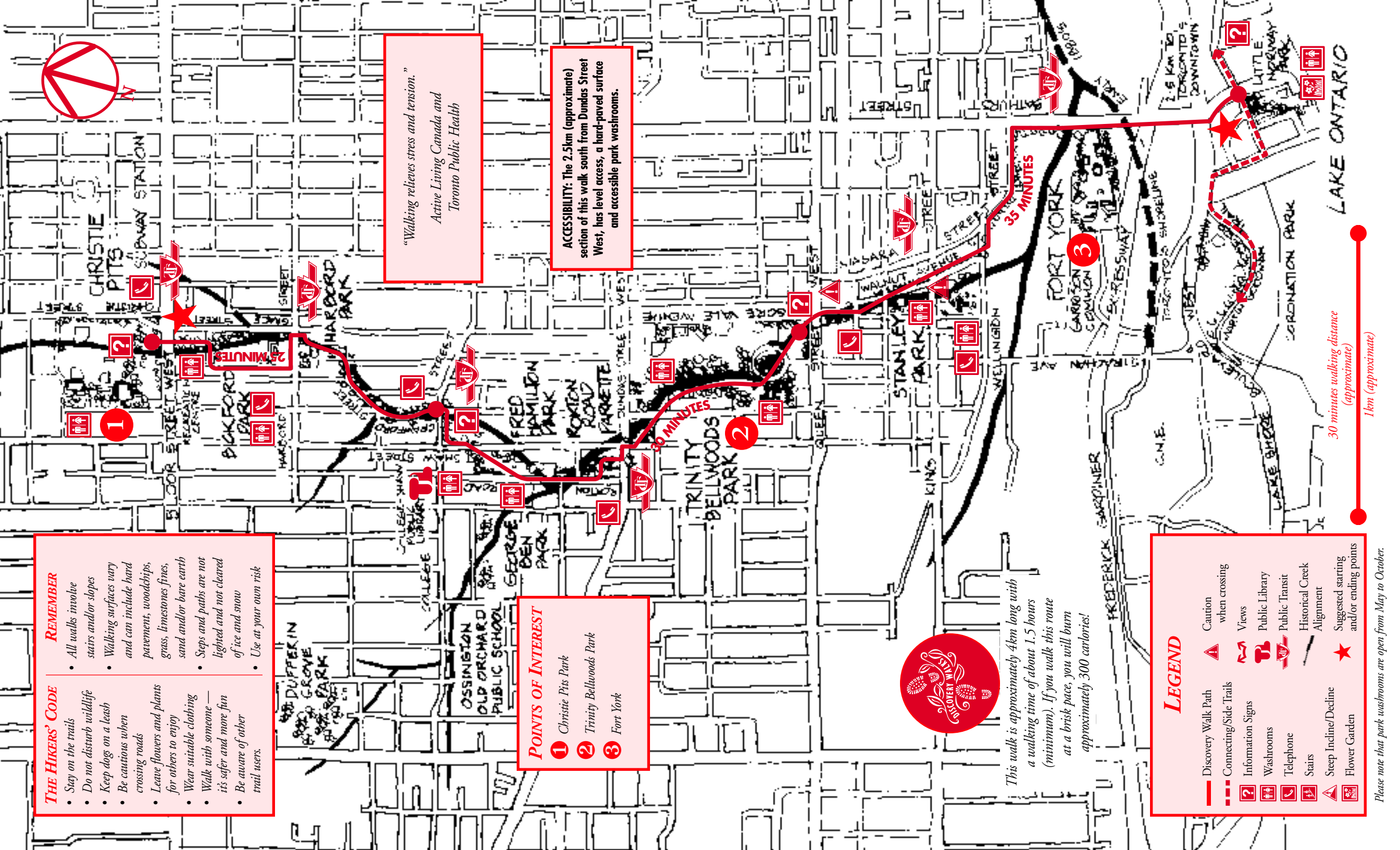
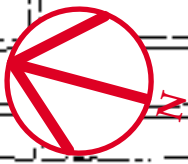
ACCESSIBILITY: The 2.5km (approximate) section of this walk south from Dundas Street West, has level access, a hard-paved surface and accessible park washrooms.

This walk is approximately 4km 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!

LEGEND

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

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



30 minutes walking distance
(approximate)
1 km (approximate)

1 km (approximate)