



Factsheet

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Wild in the City!

Description

Rouge Park is Canada's premier urban wilderness park. At 47 km² (11,500 acres) in size, it is protected park land in the Rouge River, Petticoat Creek and Duffins Creek watersheds, in and near Toronto, Canada's largest city.

The award-winning Park provides a reservoir of biodiversity in the Greenbelt and the only link to Lake Ontario in the Greenbelt in Toronto. Its ecological values gained the Park special recognition in Ontario's *Greenbelt Plan* (Section 3.2.6).

Location

The Park is in east Toronto and Markham, Ontario, Canada.

Southern boundary: Lake Ontario at Lawrence Avenue East in Toronto, and at Dyson Road in Pickering.

Northern boundary: roughly 16th Avenue, Markham, with a non-contiguous block on the north side of Donald Cousens Parkway and Ninth Line, Markham.

Western boundary: uneven boundary close to Reesor Road, Markham. In Toronto, the uneven boundary is closest to the east side of Morningside Avenue, following Morningside Creek.

Eastern boundary: York-Durham Line, Markham and Scarborough-Pickering Townline in Toronto with a contiguous parcel containing a wetland complex on the west side of Scarborough-Pickering Townline at Finch Avenue in Pickering. South of Highway 401, the Rouge River forms the boundary between Toronto and Pickering and the riverbanks are in the Park.

Bob Hunter Memorial Park is also in Rouge Park. It is centred on 14th Avenue and Reesor Road in Markham.

Two municipal park areas (Milne Park, Markham and Phyllis Rawlinson Park, Richmond Hill) and one Conservation Area (Bruce's Mill, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority) are also part of Rouge Park.

Size

4672 hectares, or approximately 47 square kilometres.

Age

Created by the Ontario government in 1995.

Visitor Services

- Rouge Park is open 365 days a year. Admission is free but permits are required for any group activity with 25 people or more.
- Visitors are reminded that not all areas are open for public access.
- No motorized vehicles are allowed on the river or in the Park at any time.
- There is no visitor centre in the Park. Visitors use the Park at their own risk and discretion.
- Emergencies: dial 9-1-1.

- Public washrooms are at the Beach only. Open from dawn to dusk in Spring, Summer and Fall.
- There is no drinking water available in the Park.
- There are no group picnic areas in the Park in Toronto. Group picnic facilities are available at satellite areas in York Region.
- Dogs are welcome but must be leashed at all times in accordance with municipal by-laws. Please “stoop and scoop”.
- Many areas of the Park are accessible by public transit, see www.rougepark.com for details.

Hiking: 12 kilometres of marked hiking trails in the Park in Toronto. Visitors are asked to stay on marked trails for their safety and to protect the natural environment.

Cycling: cycling is permitted on roadways only. Cycling on park lands is NOT permitted.

Camping: Seasonal camping at the full-service Glen Rouge Campground. Fees apply. Camping is NOT permitted outside of the campground.

Swimming: Rouge Beach is open for seasonal swimming. Toronto Public Health posts water pollution conditions during summer months and lifeguards are only on duty when the water meets their health requirements.

Canoeing: Marshes at Rouge Beach are best starting point. Visitors must bring their own equipment. No rentals are available.

Fishing: Fishing with a seasonal license from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is permitted.

Photography: Commercial photography and filming requires permits from Toronto Parks. Many locations are scenic or picturesque. Visitors are reminded not to alter, damage or remove any items or features in the Park, it is illegal and unethical. Please do not approach, feed or disturb animals in the Park, it is their home.

Governance and Administration

Rouge Park is a partnership park, with land and funds from the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, municipal governments and other agencies. The board of directors for Rouge Park is the Rouge Park Alliance, a partnership of 12 government organizations and one not-for-profit group. Gord Weeden is the Chair. Member organizations are:

1. Government of Canada
2. Province of Ontario
3. Region of Durham
4. Region of York
5. Town of Markham
6. City of Pickering
7. Town of Richmond Hill
8. City of Toronto
9. Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
10. Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
11. Toronto Zoo
12. Waterfront Regeneration Trust Corporation
13. Save the Rouge Valley System Inc.

A small, professional staff of 6 coordinates activities and resources of the member organizations to achieve Park objectives.