



Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

# Trail Guide



Discover the trails  
of Whitchurch-Stouffville



# Legend: In Town Trails

## Trail Use



Wheelchair



Walking/Hiking/Running



Cycling



Horseback Riding



Cross-Country Skiing

## Trail Amenities



Parking



Washroom



Trail Access



Bench




Garbage Receptacle

## Trail Surface Type

 Asphalt/Concrete

 Crushed Limestone

 Natural

 Roadway

This project was made possible with the support from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport through the Ontario Sport & Recreation Communities Fund

Portions of this guide have been reprinted from the York Region Trail Guide with consent from the Regional Municipality of York

**Disclaimer:** Users of this trail guide are fully responsible for their own safety. The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Trail Guide was created by the Town, with excerpts from the York Region Trail Guide [york.ca/trails](http://york.ca/trails), for personal, non-commercial use to provide assistance to residents and visitors planning walks/hikes along various trails throughout the community. Although every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy the Town makes no warranties of any kind concerning the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the trail guide including, but not limited to, the designation of a particular trail. All routes should be evaluated individually based on their respective level of experience, difficulty, surface type, weather conditions and time of day. The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is not responsible for any unforeseeable or unreasonable acts or offences committed by trail users or third parties, which may cause a hazard or injury. You can download a trail guide by going to the Town website, [townofws.ca/trails](http://townofws.ca/trails)

# Parks & Trails

There are now 35 parks and parkettes managed and maintained by parks staff in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Parks include a dog park, outdoor fitness trails, community gardens, and the new Stouffer Street accessible parkette, with wide pathways, accessible swing, play equipment, picnic tables and sensory garden. There are many trails throughout the community, both in town associated with local parks, and regional. The Town is in the process of developing an extensive trail system which includes sensitive areas for wildlife habitat that should not be disturbed. We are happy to be able to introduce to you the first edition of the Town Trails in Whitchurch-Stouffville. This project will be an ongoing “work in progress” and updated online as trails are completed.

## New Fitness Trails!

New fitness trails include a full circuit with outdoor fitness equipment. Trails located at both Sunnyridge and Greenwood Neighbourhood Parks. *Coming Soon: Equipment Demo on Facebook!*



For more information about Parks and Trails in Whitchurch-Stouffville contact:  
Leisure Services general inquiries, 905-642-PLAY (7529)  
or [leisure.services@townofws.ca](mailto:leisure.services@townofws.ca)



# Planning Your Trip

## Trail Difficulty

**Easy Trails:** Intended for just about anybody. These trails are appropriate for children above the age of four or a parent wearing a child carrier.

**Moderate Trails:** Intended for the fit family. These trails are uneven or rocky or include sections that might be difficult for children, backpackers or someone with a new mild injury.

**Difficult Trails:** Intended for those with a great amount of physical activity experience and physical conditioning who are looking for a challenging adventure.

- ☐ **Check the weather before heading out on a trail**
- ☐ **Make sure someone knows the trail you will be following and how long you plan to be there**
- ☐ **Know your fitness level and choose an appropriate trail**

## What to Pack

### What To Wear

- ☐ Backpack or small daypack
- ☐ Bug repellent
- ☐ Clothing depending on the season, weather, or time of day
- ☐ Extra layers (sweater and socks)
- ☐ Rainwear
- ☐ Comfortable and supportive shoes appropriate for activity
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Sunscreen

### For Your Enjoyment

- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Notebook or sketchbook
- ☐ Pencil or pen

### Safety Items

- ☐ Water and healthy snacks
- ☐ Cellphone (fully charged)
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Compass or GPS (fully charged)
- ☐ Map
- ☐ Proper safety equipment for specific activity (example: bike helmet for cycling or in-line skating)
- ☐ Whistle

### For Your Convenience

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Garbage bag
- ☐ Walking pole
- ☐ York Region Trail Guide
- ☐ WS Trail Guide

# What You Should Know

## Poison Ivy

Poison ivy is an important native plant however it can cause a rash if you come in contact with it. Poison ivy is particularly common along trail edges throughout York Region, so please stay on the trails.



## Giant Hogweed

Giant hogweed is a poisonous invasive plant that can cause skin rashes, burns and blisters. If you suspect you have found giant hogweed, do not touch any part of the plant. If you think you have come in contact with it, wash the affected areas immediately, keep the area out of the sun and seek medical attention. If you find giant hogweed, immediately notify your local municipality. [york.ca/gianthogweed](http://york.ca/gianthogweed)



## Lyme Disease & West Nile Virus

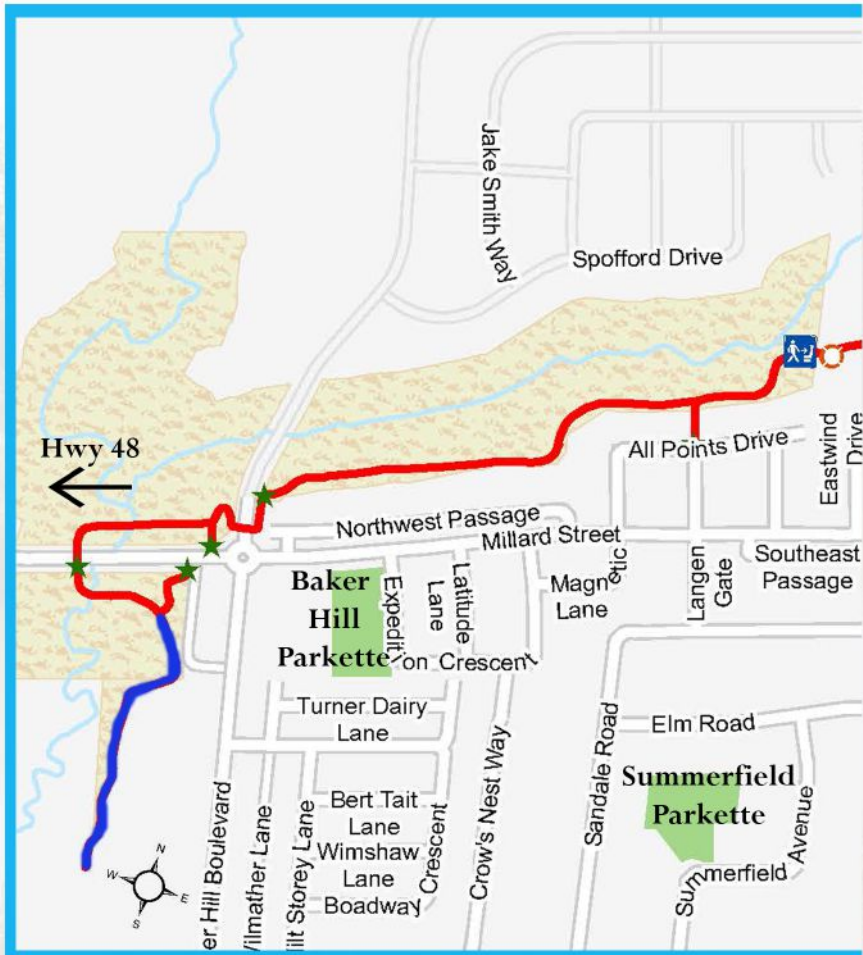
Fight the bite! West Nile virus is an illness spread through the bite of an infected mosquito and Lyme disease is spread through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick. Blacklegged ticks have been found in York Region. Cover up in light colours. Wear long-sleeved shirts or jackets, long pants and socks. Pant legs can be tucked into socks for added protection. Use insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors. Always follow product instructions. Remove attached ticks as quickly as possible to reduce the spread of Lyme disease.



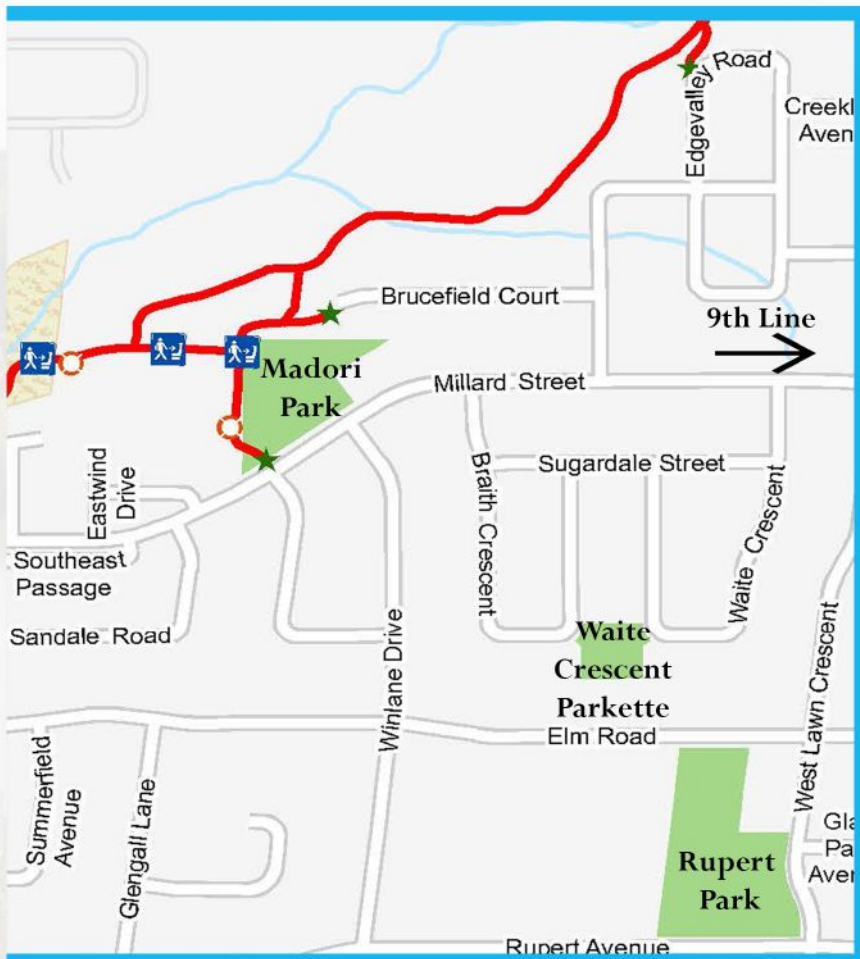
For more information about West Nile virus and Lyme disease, contact York Region Health Connection  
1-800-361-5653  
or visit [york.ca/westnile](http://york.ca/westnile) or [york.ca/lymedisease](http://york.ca/lymedisease)



# Millard Street West



At the Baker St & Millard St access point, to the west there is a stand of mature trees that parallel a tributary of the Little Rouge creek. To the north you can see the gradual rise of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Plantings of native trees and shrubs border the trails and surround storm water ponds. Dogwoods, willows, currants, sumac, serviceberry, grasses, maples, oaks, birch, evergreens, larch, wildflowers, and milkweed create a naturalized area that provides a habitat for wildlife, birds and pollinators which is low maintenance and prevents erosion.



1.87 km



**Trail Difficulty: Easy-Moderate**

Access Points: Millard St. west of Baker Hill roundabout,  
Millard St. at Madori Neighbourhood Park,  
Brucefield Court north of Madori Park



# Stouffville Town Trail

The Stouffville Town Trail starts south of Main Street and goes north through Memorial Park and along the Stouffville Creek to the shops on Main Street. The trail continues north up Mill Street along the Stouffville Creek to Millard Street. Crossing Millard Street, the trail winds in and around the Stouffville Reservoir. Consider starting or ending your hike at the Leisure Centre with a warm-up in the fitness room, swim in the pool, or relax with a book in the library.

Memorial Park is an excellent picnic area and offers many activities for the whole family. On Main Street, Stouffville there are opportunities for lunch or to visit the famous heritage buildings. The Stouffville Reservoir is 21 hectares and rich in environmental heritage. The natural footpath winds through assorted wood lots and around wetlands, allowing the hiker to explore some of the wildlife and bird watching that the Oak Ridges Moraine has to offer.



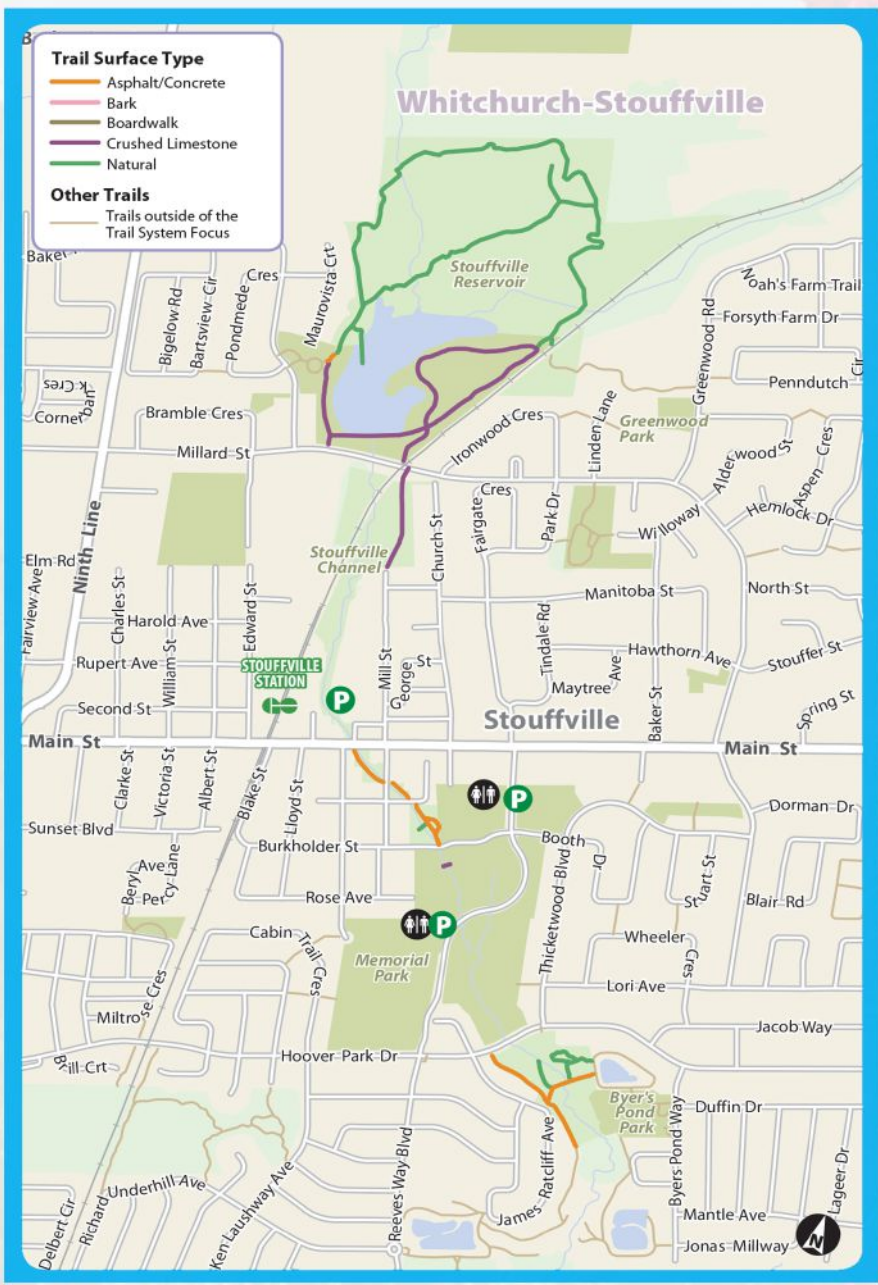
7km  

**Trail Difficulty: Easy-Moderate**

**Access Points: Main Street Crossing, Millard Street Crossing**

Portions reprinted from York Region Trail Guide





Portions reprinted from York Region Trail Guide

# Stouffville Town Trail South

This trail can be picked up from the Leisure Centre, heading south. It circles Byers Pond Park as well as the pond itself, a natural habitat to local wildlife. The Park features a splash pad, sport court with basketball equipment and play equipment for all ages.

Access from Hoover Park runs parallel to Stouffville Creek (tributary of Duffin Creek) a mature forested area that protects local wildlife. Native plantings along the west side of the trail maintains a naturalized area. Access from James Ratcliff Avenue has plantings of dogwoods and currants.

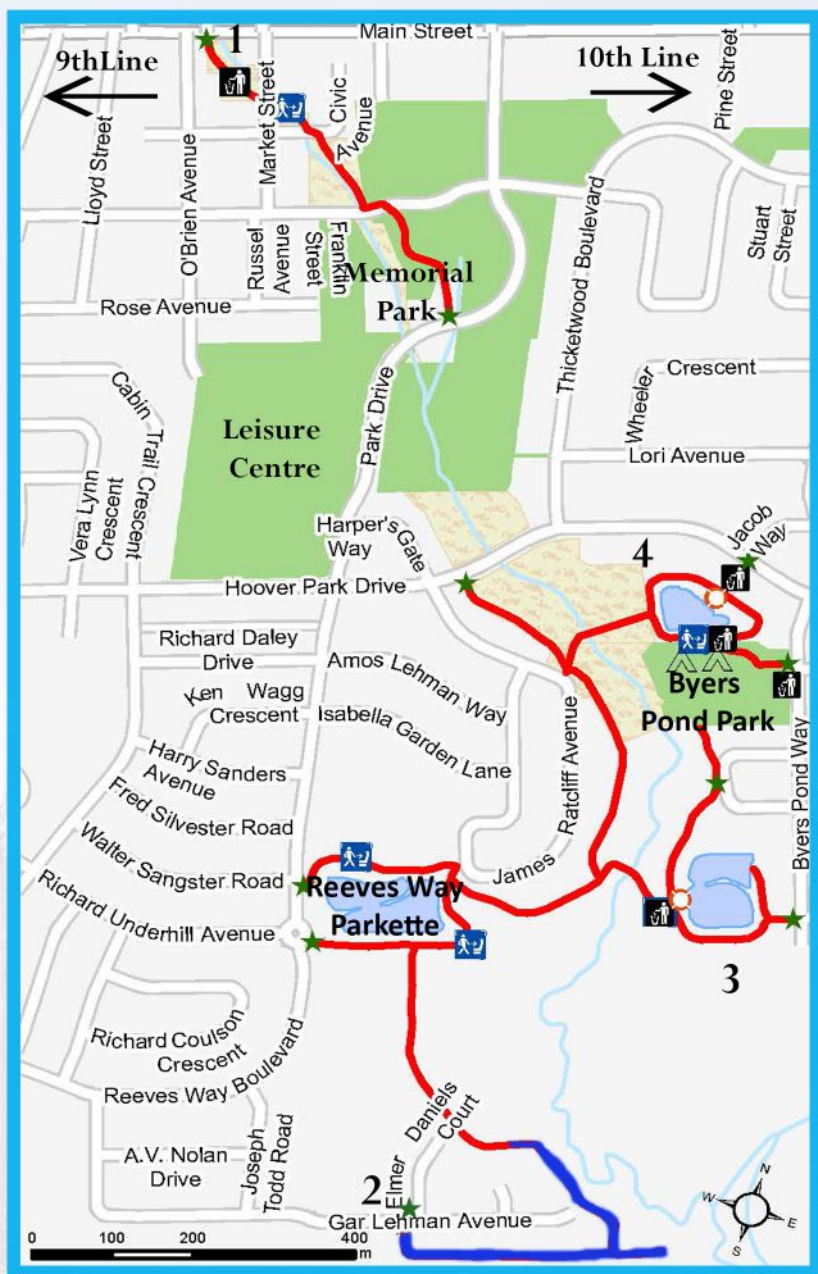
## WS Walks



**Indoor Walking Program at SoccerCity (45 Innovator Ave.)**  
Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 10:30am, until Victoria Day.

Walk inside at our indoor soccer facility. Climate controlled, state of the art field surface is level and cushioned. Fully staffed for support and urban poles provided for those that wish to use them. 8 laps of the full field are 1 mile; 5 laps are 1 km. Walkers, runners, strollers and all fitness levels are welcome. \$3 per visit / 10 visits for \$27 / 20 visits for \$49 FREE with Fitness Club Membership.

**Outdoor Program at Stouffville Track (12483 Ninth Line)**  
Wednesdays, June 7 through September 27, 9 to 10am  
Staff on hand for encouragement and support. Urban Poles provided! Perfect for stroller, walkers or runners of all ages.





**2.43km (1-3-4) 2.8km (1-2)**  

**Trail Difficulty: Easy-Moderate**

**Access Points:** Hoover Park Drive east of James Ratcliff Ave.,  
Byers Pond Way, Park Drive South, Walter Sangster Rd.

# Hoover Park East of 9th Line

This trail runs parallel to the railway tracks with periodic plantings of grasses and small shrubs.



## Wetlands

Be water smart- spring floods can be dangerous. Creeks, streams and ponds wind their way through many of the naturalized trails and parks in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Please be Water Smart and stay safe. Whenever children are near the water, activities should be directly supervised. There are many opportunities available for supervised fun in the water and for learning water safety and drowning prevention information. Please refer to the aquatics section on the Town website for swimming and water safety information.





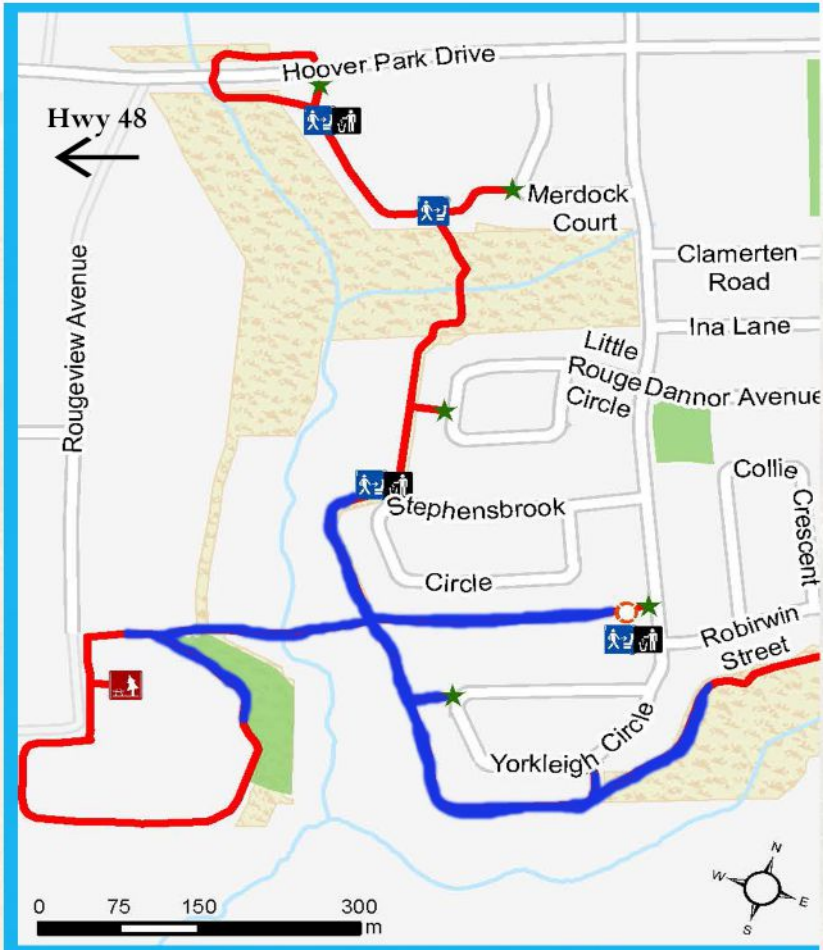
1.3km  

**Trail Difficulty: Easy-Moderate**

Access Points: Richard Underhill Ave., Cabin Trail Cres.,  
Richard Underhill Ave. and Reeves Way Blvd.

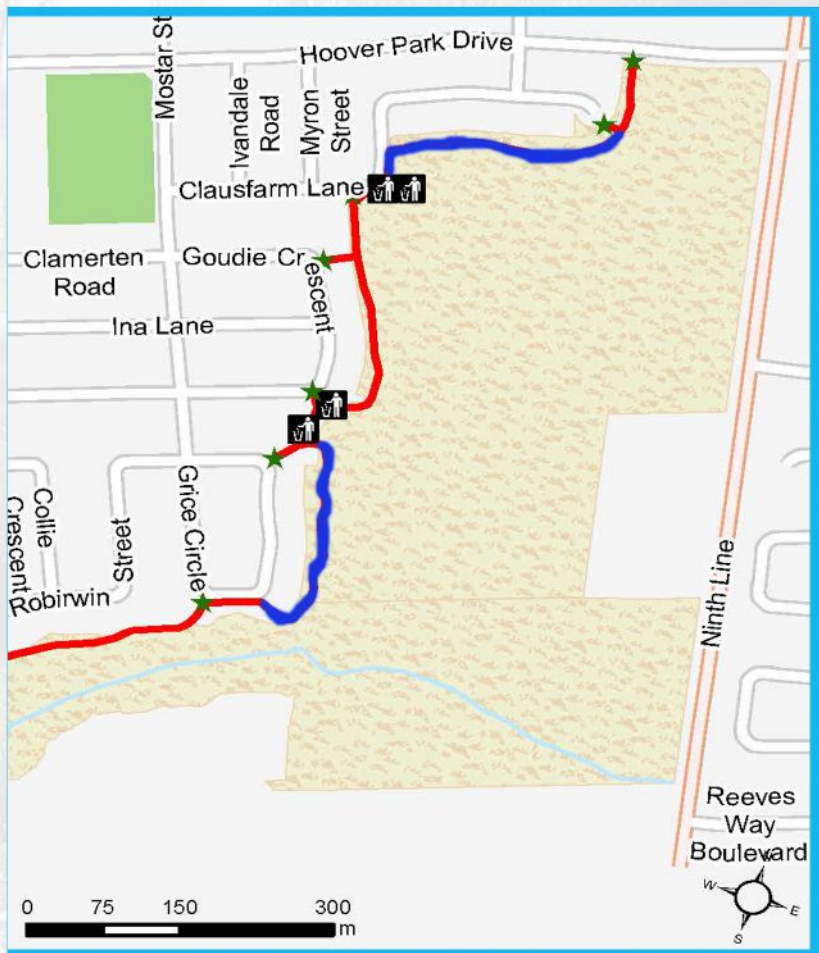
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# Stormwater Pond



This wooded trail runs along the perimeter of the urban area, but takes you through natural forests. Starting on the west, the trail passes under the bridge on Hoover Park Dr. and circles the ecosystem that exists at the Stormwater Pond. This is used for local 5km runs because of its natural beauty. Mixed vegetation, mature forested area, and recent native plantings are in this area to protect the natural habitat.





### **5km Making a loop starting and ending at**

### **Stouffville Clippers Complex**

### **Trail Difficulty: Easy-Moderate**

Access Points: West entrance at Hoover Park Dr. west of Sandiford Dr., at the bridge and Stormwater Pond, East entrance at Hoover Park Dr., east of Weldon Rd., and various points along the perimeter of the subdivision.



# York Regional Forests

Outside the urban area of Whitchurch-Stouffville, York Region has developed an extensive trail system.

Many trails are in the WS boundaries and are free for use by all. Hosted walks are scheduled on these trails.

Details are at [york.ca/forestry](http://york.ca/forestry)

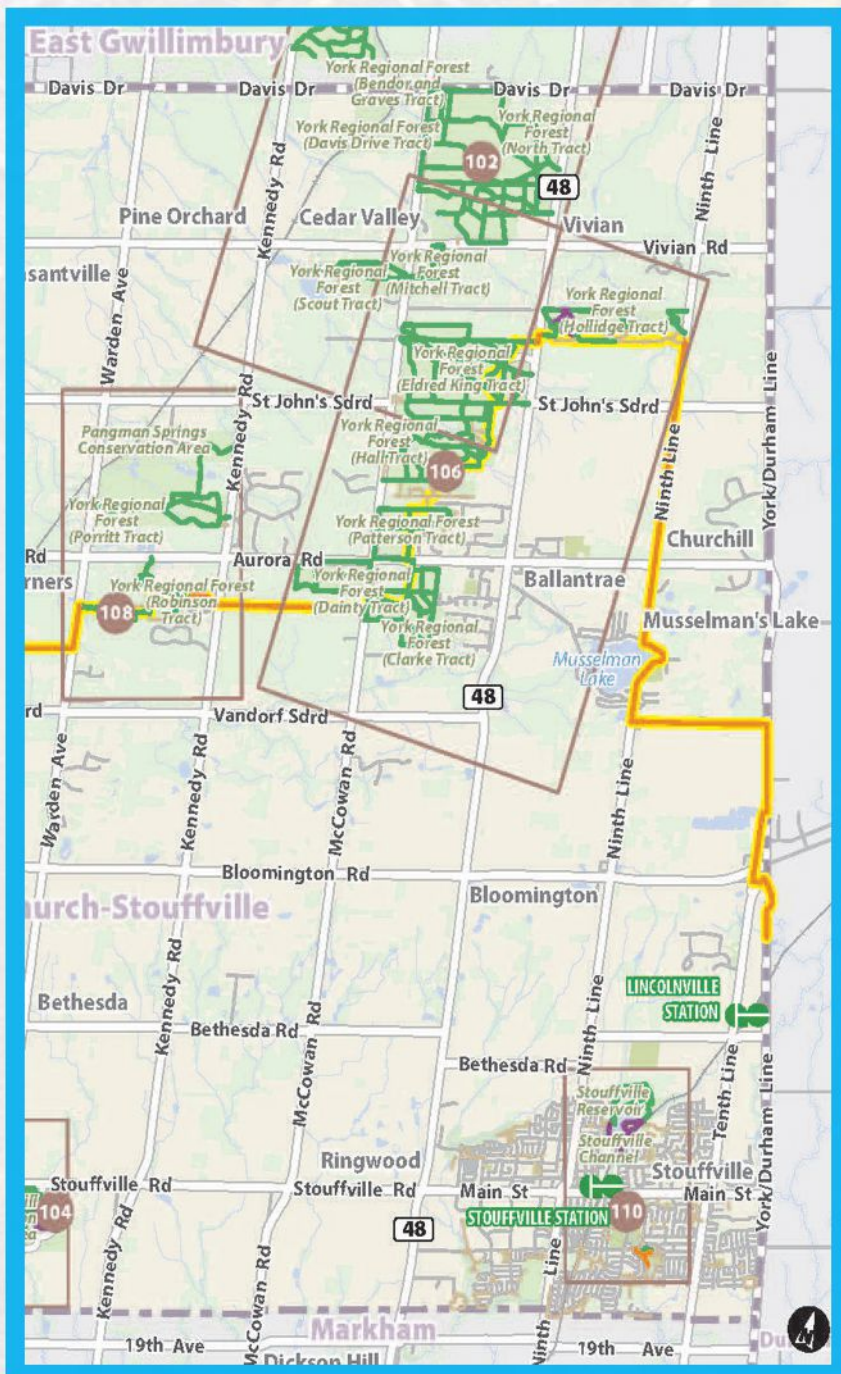
## Caring For Park and Trails

All Parks and Trails are designed for the enjoyment of everyone, of all ages and abilities. Please obey the posted regulations in Town parks and on Town trails.

- \* Playgrounds are inspected regularly as per Canadian Safety Association (CSA).
- \* You are welcome to bring your dog(s) to any of our parks, leashed at all times and all litter picked up.
- \* All parks have recycling bins for cans and bottles. Please help to pitch in.
- \* Parks and parklands are pesticide free except when previously mentioned dangerous plants are found. Notice must be given if pesticides are used to remove those plants. Signs will be posted.
- \* Many parks and trails allow for natural growth creating an environment suitable for local plant and animal species.
- \* Take it with you. What you pack in on the trails, pack it out.
- \* During winter months, use caution when using the walkways within the parks, as they are not maintained during that period. Pathways can be slippery when wet or snow covered.







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# York Regional Forest Tracts

## Scout Tract - 3km

### Mitchell Tract - 1.5km

The Scout Tract ponds were created for forest fire suppression. They have since evolved into an ecological system providing a habitat for turtles, frogs and fish. Severe thunderstorms in 2006 damaged many trees within the Scout Tract. These trees were removed to create a suitable environment for regeneration.

## Bendor and Grave Tract - 10km

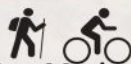
The Bendor and Graves Tract pond was created to serve as a water source for fire suppression. It has since evolved to an ecological system providing a habitat for turtles, frogs and fish. This is a sensitive area for wildlife habitat and should not be disturbed. The Tract contains several unique forest communities which will be allowed to develop naturally.

## North Tract - 20km

### -1.7km

The North Tract is home to the only documented pair of breeding ravens in York Region. The ravens have used the tract's pine plantations for several years.

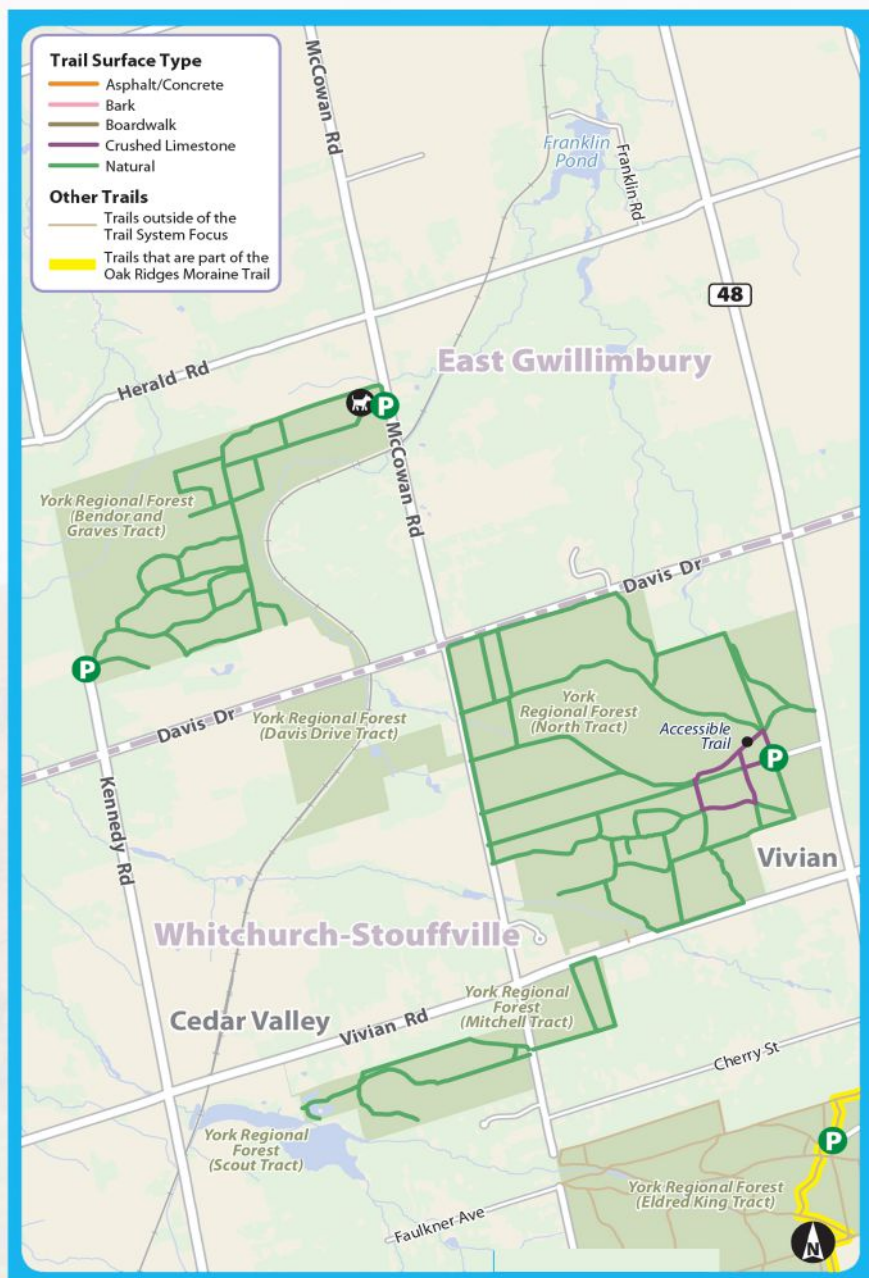
7km



**Trail Difficulty: Moderate**

Access Points: Bendor and Graves Tract, McCowan Road north of Davis Drive, North Tract, Hwy 48 south of Davis Drive, Mitchell Tract, McCowan Road south of Vivian  
For more information: [www.york.ca/forestry](http://www.york.ca/forestry)





Portions reprinted from York Region Trail Guide



# York Regional Forest Tracts

## Dainty Tract - 4km

## Clarke Tract - 7.5km

The young hardwood forest was formed in 1985 when the original red pine and scots pine plantation was removed due to disease. Since then, the hardwoods continue to thrive and grow in size.

## Eldred King Tract - 18km

Severe thunderstorms in 2006 damaged 10 hectares of trees. Damaged trees were removed and recycled as wood products where possible. A pond was created to serve as a water source for forest fire suppression. It has since evolved to provide a habitat for turtles, frogs and fish.

## Hall Tract - 10km

In 2004, York Region partnered with the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation to acquire lands south of the Hall Tract expanding the York Regional Forest. From 2005 to 2008, tree seedlings were planted and now a new forest thrives.

## Hollidge Tract - 8km - - 1km

Vivian Creek runs through this Tract and provides habitat for native fish species. Spawning can be observed in the Fall.

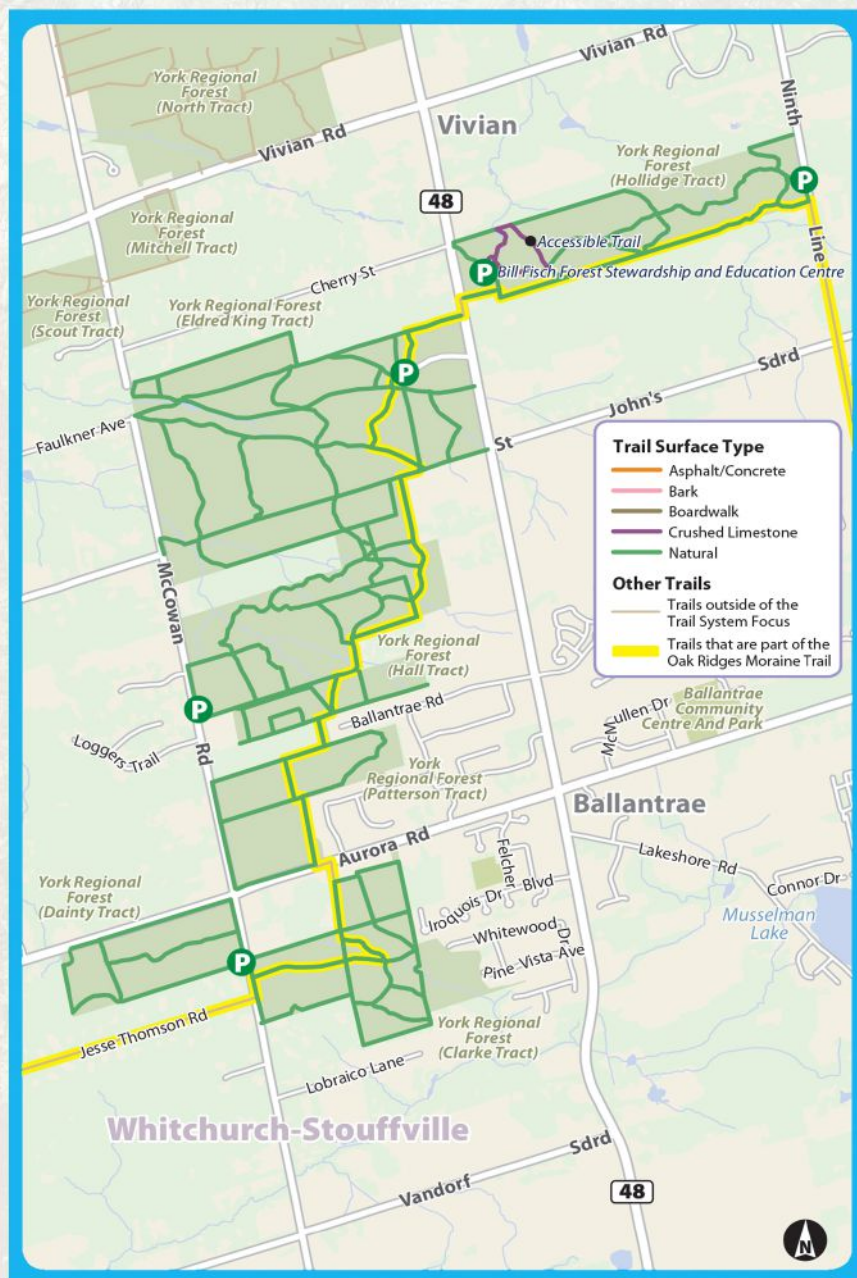


### Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Access Points: Dainty and Clarke Tract:, McCowan Rd. south of Aurora Rd., Eldred Tract: Hwy 48 south of Vivian Rd., Hall Tract: McCowan Rd. north of Aurora Rd., Hollidge Tract: Hwy 48 south of Vivian Rd.

For more information: [york.ca/forestry](http://york.ca/forestry)





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# Forest Tracts

## York Region

### Porritt Tract - 4.5km

Located in the headwaters of the East Holland River, the creek which runs through the tract is fed by groundwater and provides important habitat for native fish species. This forest provides protection for the creek including erosion control and moderating water temperatures.

### Robinson Tract - 3.5km

Stripped of trees by early settlers for farming, the area soon became a desert wasteland of shifting sand. The Robinson property has since been reforested to stop the erosion. Conifer plantations date from 1946-1949 in this area, along the Oak Ridges Trail where it passes through the Tract. This forest is important for wood production, recreation, research and protecting air, soil, water and wildlife.

## Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

### Pangman Springs Conservation Area - 1.2km

A 100 hectare property on the Oak Ridges Moraine, this is a mature moraine ecosystem, including both wetlands and upland hardwood forests.

### Whitchurch Conservation Area - 1.2km

An 11 hectare wooded property on the northern margins of the Moraine, the property consists of conifer plantations, natural forested areas, hiking trails, a pond and picnic pavilion.



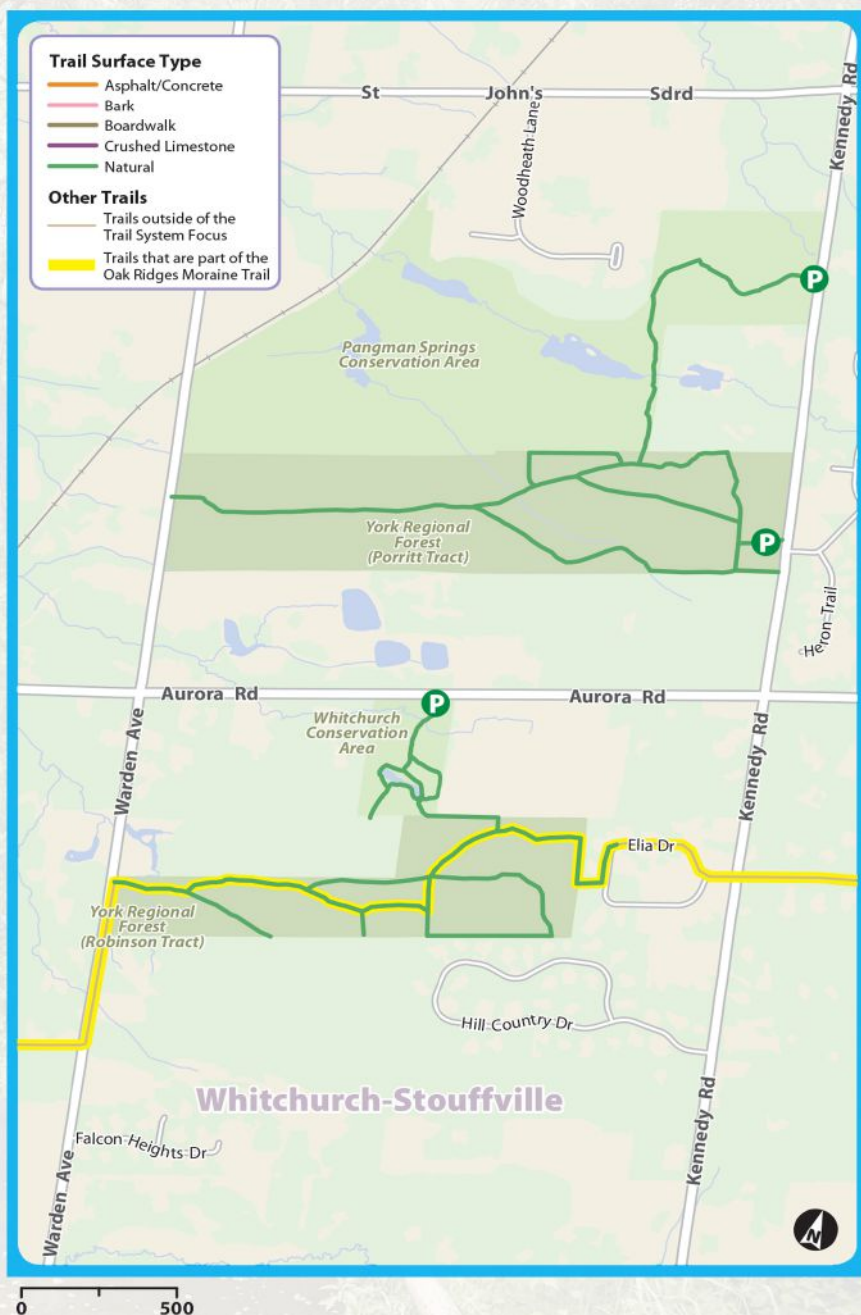
### Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Access Points: Porritt Tract: Kennedy Rd. north or Aurora Rd., Pangman: Kennedy Rd. north or Aurora Rd., Whitchurch: Aurora Rd. west of Kennedy Rd., Robinson: Warden Ave. south of Aurora Rd.

For more information: [york.ca/forestry](http://york.ca/forestry)

Portions reprinted from York Region Trail Guide





Portions reprinted from York Region Trail Guide



# Bruce's Mill Conservation Area

Bruce's Mill Conservation area takes its name from a restored water-powered mill located here on a tributary of the Rouge River. The 10km of trails in this area are both open and forested. In addition to hiking activities, there are many other ways to spend leisure time here: picnicing, BMX biking or exploring the forests through Treetop Trekking. In the spring, Bruce's Mill is home to the Sugar Bush Festival.

## Smoke Free

All Public Parks are now smoke free. It is illegal to Smoke tobacco and hold lighted tobacco in outdoor sporting areas, on spectator areas adjacent to sporting areas and within 20 metres of any point on the perimeter of a children's "playground" which is defined as an area that is primarily used for the purposes of children's recreation, fitted with children's play equipment, open to the public (whether or not a fee is charged for entry), and not part of a residential location (e.g. condominium, apartment building, and campground). Play equipment includes, but is not limited to, slides, swings, climbing apparatuses, splash pads, wading pools and sand boxes.

**10.3km**



**Trail Difficulty: Moderate**

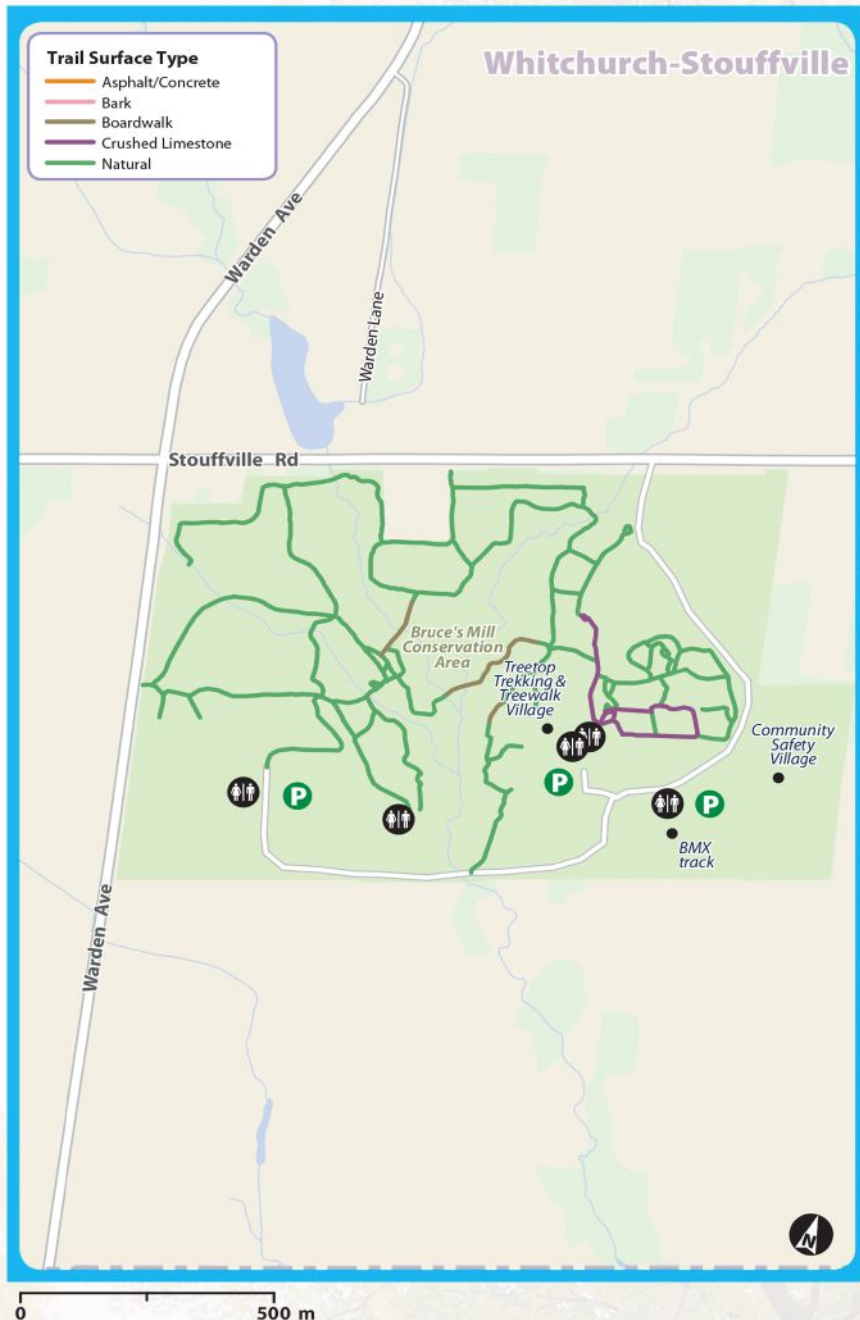
Access Points: Stouffville Rd. and Warden Ave.

Parking: Pay to Park

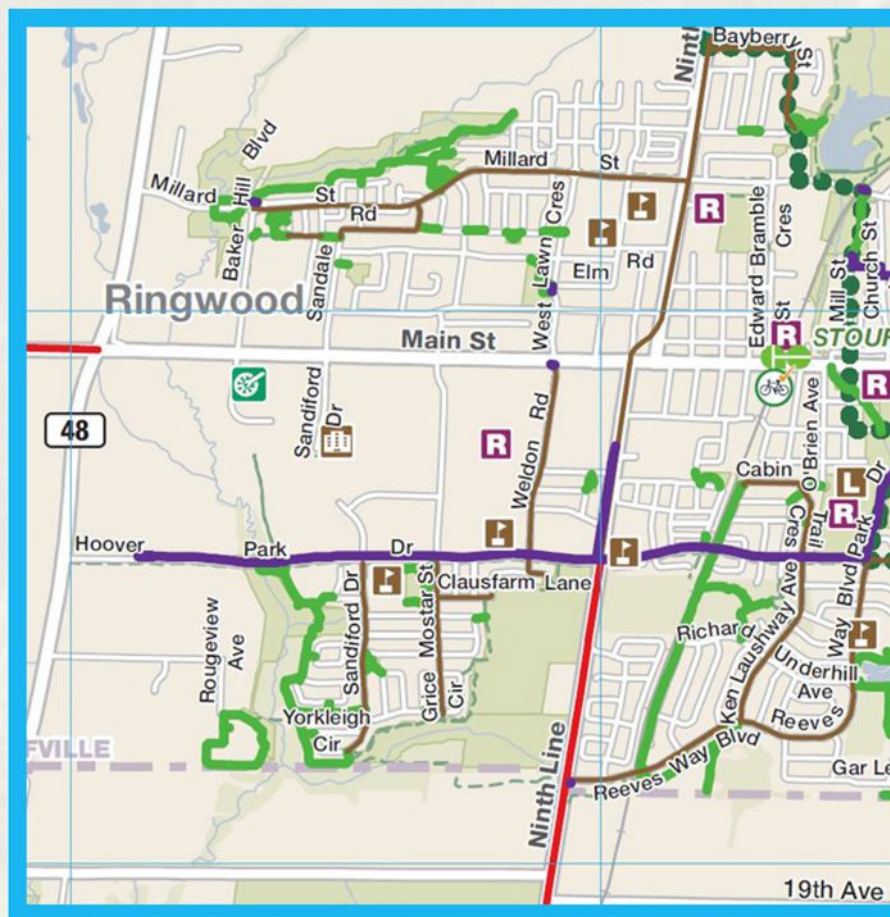
For more information: [trcaparks.ca](http://trcaparks.ca)

[stouffvillebmx.ca](http://stouffvillebmx.ca)    [treetoptrekking.com/en/stouffville](http://treetoptrekking.com/en/stouffville)

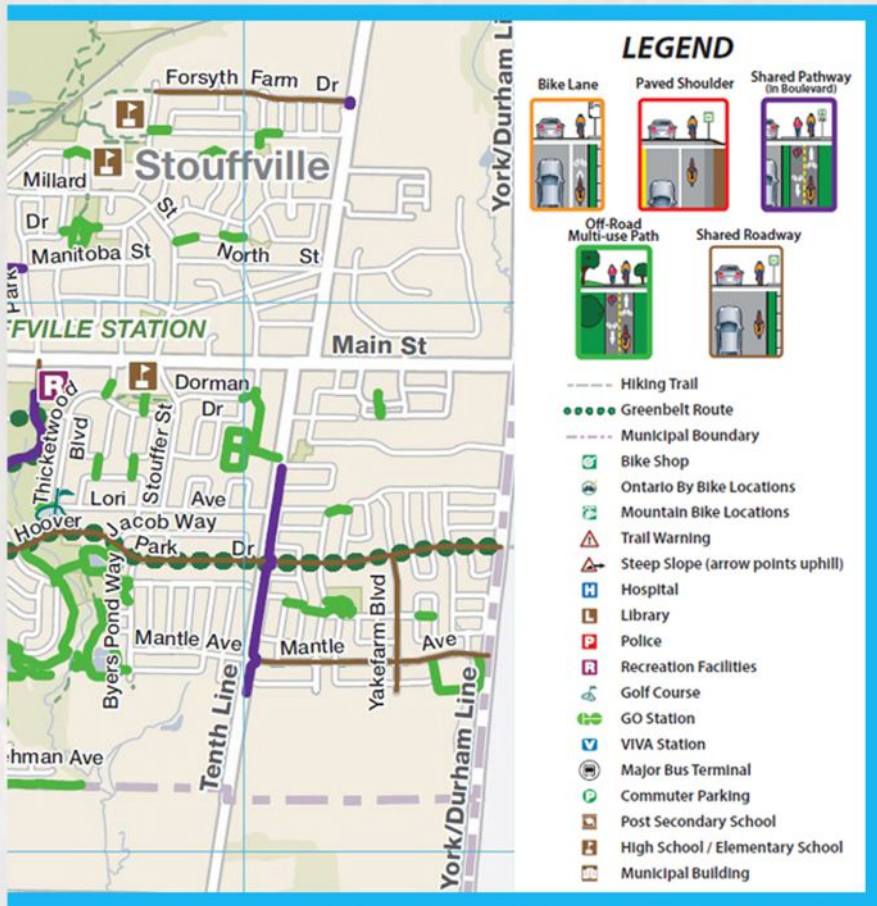




# In-Town Stouffville Cycling Map







To view complete online York Region Cycling Map, visit  
[http://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/695f3394-71af-4f81-9ff8-01659b6fa9eb/YorkCycling\\_SouthBikeMap\\_2015.pdf?MOD=AJPERES](http://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/695f3394-71af-4f81-9ff8-01659b6fa9eb/YorkCycling_SouthBikeMap_2015.pdf?MOD=AJPERES)

# Signage in Town Parks

## What Do These Symbols Mean?



Free Play, Have Fun



This Park has a Playground



Pick up after your Pet



Use Garbage Receptacles, No Dumping



No Open Fires



No Golfing



No Motorized Vehicles

In accordance with Town bylaw, Pet owners are required to clean up after their pets, not just in Town Parks but on all properties in Whitchurch-Stouffville.





# Trail Etiquette



Show courtesy to all trail users by adhering to the etiquette listed below and share responsibilities for a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience.

- \* Stay on the trail to preserve natural vegetation, sensitive habitat and private property.
- \* Stay to the right of the trail and obey all posted signs and warnings.
- \* Stop, sit and enjoy.
- \* “Wheels yield to heels” - pedestrians always have the right of way.
- \* When overtaking others, warn them when passing from behind by bell or voice and always pass on left.
- \* Take out what you bring in. Use trash bins provided.
- \* Keep dogs on a leash at all times and “Stoop and Scoop”.

(portions from “The Green Sward” Fall 2011)



# Community Gardens

Rent an allotment type garden, located at both Sunnyridge and Greenwood Neighborhood Parks.

There are 25 allotments available to book in each park:

- \* 20 plots at 10ft x 20ft, and
- \* 5 raised beds at 4ft x 12ft. in size.

These are traditional garden beds which require maintenance and care. Each gardener has access to water. All day to day gardening tools are to be provided by the gardener.

Pathways must be kept clear for physical accessibility, allowing comfortable mobility for all participants.

There is a tool shed and room to store personal items.

Many share a plot as a group and grow and harvest together.

Registration for garden plots required. All applications must be in by April and will be selected by lottery process.

Visit [townofws.ca](http://townofws.ca) for details.





# Special Thanks

Special thanks to all those who participated in making this publication possible. We encourage feedback and photos to help make our trail guide improvements.

E-mail us at [leisure.services@townofws.ca](mailto:leisure.services@townofws.ca)







This guide was made possible with the support from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport through the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund.



[york.ca/trails](http://york.ca/trails)

1-877-464-9675

#yorkregiontrails



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