



# EVERYDAY GUIDE TO THE

York Regional Forest

## Disclaimer

This guide is intended as a navigational tool for trail users as they plan their journey. York Region works to ensure the accuracy of trail information is up-to-date. York Region makes no warranties, either expressed or implied, and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the data presented. The trail user assumes the entire responsibility and risk as to the use of any or all information presented. All trails and Forest tracts are to be used at your own risk.

## Accessible format information

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Please contact us by email at [accessyork@york.ca](mailto:accessyork@york.ca) or by phone at 1-877-464-9675.





# LAND



## Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations. Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land. We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.







Chairman & CEO  
Eric Jolliffe

"The York Regional Forest offers a beautiful natural setting for all visitors to connect with and learn about nature while creating lasting memories. The Forest includes over 150 kilometres of scenic trails in 24 forest tracts, with seven kilometres accessible to wheelchairs, strollers and other assistive devices that can be enjoyed year-round.

In 2024, we commemorated the centennial anniversary of the Forest with a year-long celebration of activities and events to honour its rich heritage and vibrant future. This important milestone demonstrates York Regional Council's strong commitment to protecting and restoring the natural environment and providing access to greenspace. As stewards of this precious resource, we look forward to the next one hundred years to continue the legacy of conservation and our shared commitment to preserving the Forest for generations to come."

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'E' followed by a cursive 'J' and 'L'.

Eric Jolliffe  
York Region Chairman and CEO

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## PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

Things to consider before you visit the Forest.

### Welcome to the York Regional Forest

The York Regional Forest is the perfect place to enjoy fresh air and connect with nature. With more than 150 kilometres of scenic trails in 22 public Forest tracts, including almost 7 kilometres accessible to wheelchairs, strollers and other assistive devices, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Popular activities include hiking, running, dog walking, horseback riding, mountain biking, snowshoeing and nature appreciation.



## COVER UP

The York Regional Forest offers a beautiful natural setting for visitors. While enjoying the trails, it's good to be aware of local plants and wildlife. Enhance your experience by staying on the trails and, depending on the season, use insect repellent and wear close-toed shoes with long pants tucked into your socks. This helps to avoid poison ivy and protect against mosquitos and ticks.

### Poison Ivy

Poison ivy is a natural part of the forest ecosystem, often found along the edges of trails. While it serves as a vital food source for various forest animals, contact with any part of the plant may cause allergic reactions in humans, with symptoms typically developing 24 to 48 hours after contact.



#### Identifying Poison Ivy

- The plant typically has three almond-shaped leaflets
- Leaflets feature pointed tips, with the middle leaf having a longer stem
- Initially green, the leaflets darken as they mature and turn red in autumn
- Its berries are greenish-yellow, remaining on the plant throughout the winter

#### Responding to Poison Ivy contact

- Immediately wash any exposed skin or pets using mild soap and cold running water
- Clean affected clothing separately with soap and water, wearing gloves for protection
- If symptoms like blistering or severe irritation occur, seek medical advice



## Fight the bite

Mosquitos and Blacklegged Ticks may be found in the York Regional Forest. These insects can carry diseases - West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito and Lyme disease through infected Blacklegged Ticks.



## How to protect yourself from insects

- Wear long-sleeved shirts or jackets and long pants, tucked into socks
- Apply insect repellent that contains DEET or Icaridin
- Remain on marked trails
- If you find a tick on your skin, remove it promptly to lessen the risk of Lyme disease

**For more information on West Nile virus and Lyme disease, including guidance on safe tick removal, contact:**

**York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 (TTY 1-866-512-6288) or visit [york.ca/WestNile](http://york.ca/WestNile) and [york.ca/LymeDisease](http://york.ca/LymeDisease)**

## YOUR ROLE IN PROTECTING THE FOREST

The York Regional Forest is a community asset and we all play a role in ensuring that it is a healthy, safe and enjoyable place for all.

### Forest rules

The York Regional Forest accommodates a variety of activities. We ask all visitors to be considerate and respect the following rules to ensure a safe, equitable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

- Stay on designated trails
- Keep dogs on-leash, unless in designated off-leash areas
- Do not damage or remove plants, fungi or animals from the Forest
- Do not smoke, consume alcohol or litter
- Do not camp, light fires, use cooking or heating devices
- Do not use paintball, air or pellet guns
- Do not set off fireworks
- Do not operate unmanned aerial vehicles such as drones
- Do not use unauthorized vehicles including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), snowmobiles or dirt bikes



## Forest etiquette

As there are a diverse range of visitors to the York Regional Forest, here are some user-specific guidelines to keep in mind:

### Right of way

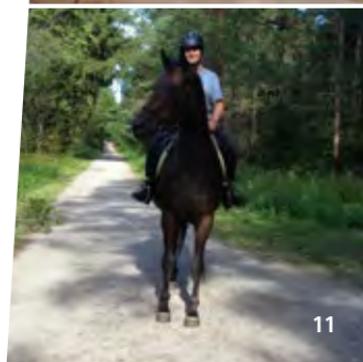
- Individuals with the greatest ability to maneuver or move easily should give way to those less agile
- Cyclists should yield to others
- Hikers and dog walkers should yield to horse riders

### Mountain biking

- Wear a helmet at all times
- Stay on designated trails
- Slow down and yield to other trail users
- Announce your presence when approaching from behind
- Avoid trails when they are wet

### Equestrian

- Stay on designated trails
- Park horse trailers considerately
- Manage horse waste responsibly
- If riding with a dog, adhere to leash rules





## Snowmobiles

### **Snowmobiles are not permitted in the York Regional Forest.**

The snowmobile trails in Pefferlaw Tract 24408 Lake Ridge Road in the Town of Georgina are no longer designated trails by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC).



## Hunting

In accordance with federal and provincial legislation and local municipal "Discharge of Firearms" bylaws, hunting is permitted in three York Regional Forest tracts:

- **Pefferlaw Tract, Town of Georgina**  
Hunting is permitted only in parts of the tract outside of the No Discharge of Firearms area, west of Pefferlaw Creek. Please refer to the Town of Georgina "Discharge of Firearms" Bylaw or contact the Town of Georgina at 905-476-4301 or [georgina.ca](http://georgina.ca)
- **Cronsberry Tract, Town of Georgina**
- **Metro Road Tract, Town of Georgina**  
Only bow hunting is permitted



Hunters should consult local, municipal and provincial hunting regulations before hunting in these tracts. **Hunting is prohibited in all other York Regional Forest tracts.**



## Dogs in the Forest

Dogs are required to be on-leash in the York Regional Forest, except in designated areas.

### Designated off-leash dog walking areas

- Bendor and Graves Tract in the Town of East Gwillimbury
- Davis Drive Tract in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

### In off-leash areas

- Dogs must remain in sight and return when called
- Do not let dogs chase wildlife
- Always carry a leash to restrain your dog(s) if necessary
- Maximum of 3 dogs per person

**The Forest is home to a variety of wildlife including coyotes, skunks and porcupines. Please respect their habitat by:**

- Staying on designated trails
- Picking up and properly disposing of pet waste

Owners are legally responsible for their dog(s) and any injuries or damages.

**For more information visit [york.ca/DogsInTheForest](http://york.ca/DogsInTheForest)**

# TAKE ACTION



## STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YORK REGION

### Look before you leave – what you need to know about invasive species

Invasive species refer to those not originally from a specific province or its regions, and their introduction or spread poses a threat to economic stability, environmental health, societal well-being or human health.

Invasive species can unknowingly be carried by mud on shoes, bikes, motorized vehicles, clothing and pets.

All Forest users can help prevent the spread of invasive species by cleaning their clothing, shoes, animals and bikes before entering and leaving the Forest.

To learn more about invasive species impacting the York Regional Forest visit [invasivespeciescentre.ca](http://invasivespeciescentre.ca)

**To help track the spread of invasive species in Ontario and view or report sightings in the York Regional Forest or your neighbourhood, visit [eddmaps.org/ontario](http://eddmaps.org/ontario)**



*Dog-strangling Vine*



*Garlic Mustard*  
Credit: Chris Evans



*Hemlock Woolly Adelgid*

### Forest safety

Ensuring visitor safety is a top priority. If an emergency arises, please direct emergency personnel to the Forest tract's address, which is provided on the maps in this booklet.





# York Regional Forest Tracts Overview

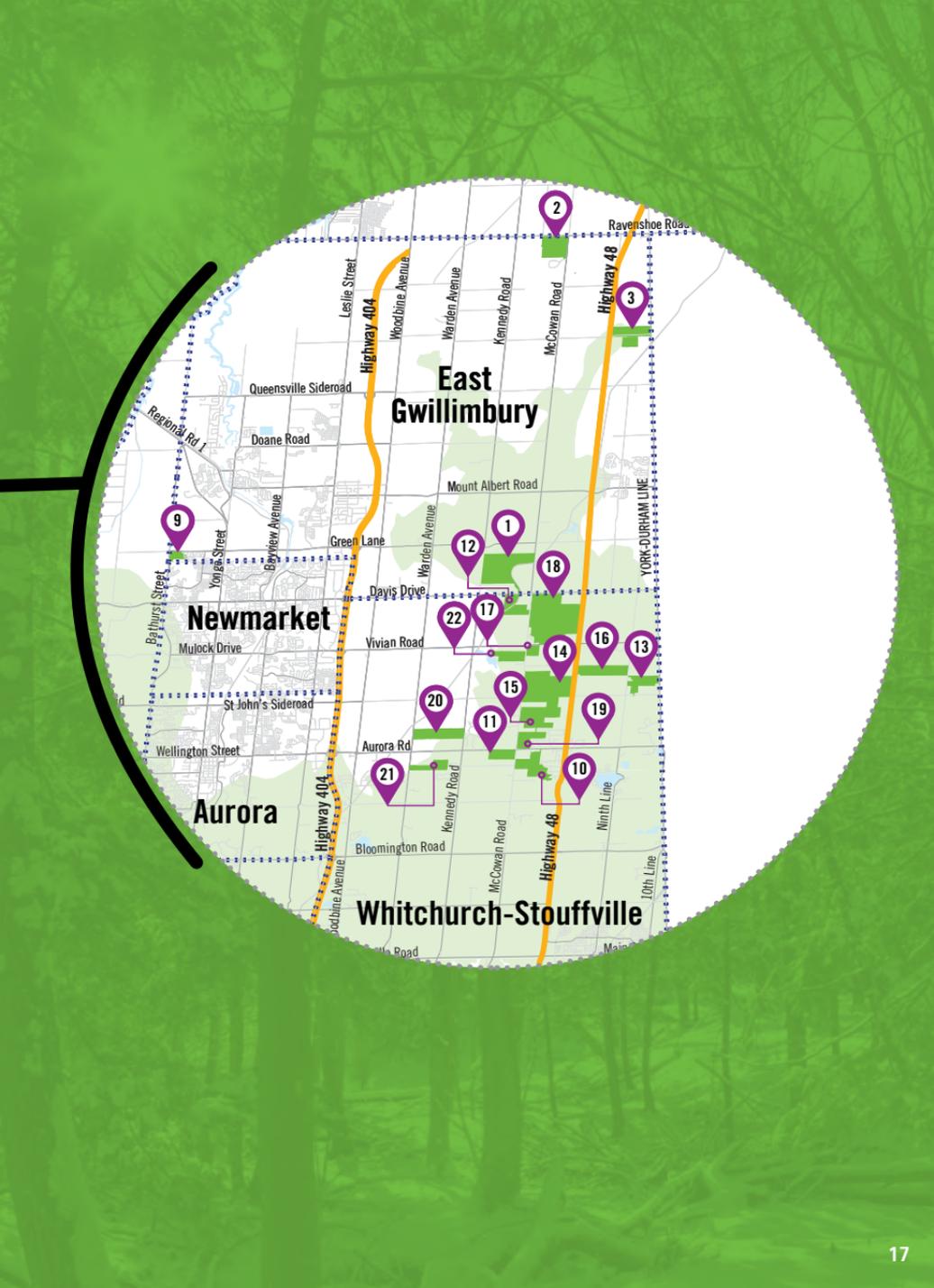
## LEGEND

- York Regional Forest Tract
- Oak Ridges Moraine
- Municipal Boundary
- Road
- Highway



## York Regional Forest Tracts

1 Bendor and Graves	181 ha	9 Peggy's Wood	19 ha	17 Mitchell	21 ha
2 Brown Hill	83 ha	10 Clarke	84 ha	18 North	332 ha
3 Zephyr	87 ha	11 Dainty	41 ha	19 Patterson	50 ha
4 Cronsberry	39 ha	12 Davis Drive	58 ha	20 Porritt	81 ha
5 Metro Road	84 ha	13 Drysdale Woods	55 ha	21 Robinson	43 ha
6 Pepperlaw	579 ha	14 Eldred King Woodlands	221 ha	22 Scout	48 ha
7 Happy Valley	26 ha	15 Hall	110 ha		
8 Nobleton	44 ha	16 Hollidge	83 ha		

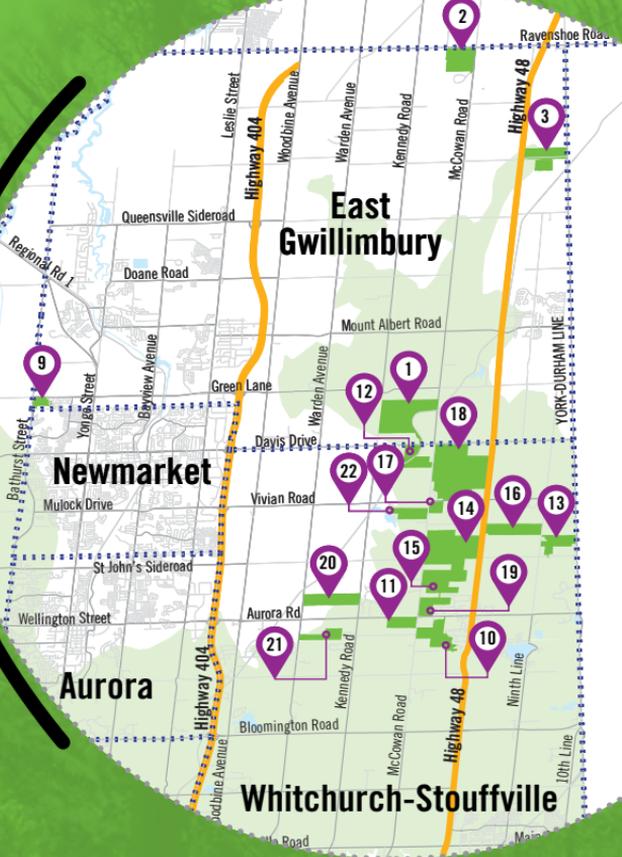


# East Gwillimbury

# Newmarket

# Aurora

# Whitchurch-Stouffville



## Bendor and Graves Tract

Established 1947  
18038 McCowan Road,  
Town of East Gwillimbury  
Tract Size: 181 hectares

Bendor and Graves is one of two Forest tracts where dogs are permitted off-leash. There is also an enclosed dog off-leash area.

During the spring and summer months, the tallgrass prairie stretches higher and higher. The grass, plants and wildflowers in the prairie provide a home to birds, moths, bees and the iconic Monarch Butterfly. Some years, the site is blackened from a controlled burn - an important step in maintaining the health of the prairie. Acorns and oak saplings have also been planted to encourage this area to transform into an oak savannah.



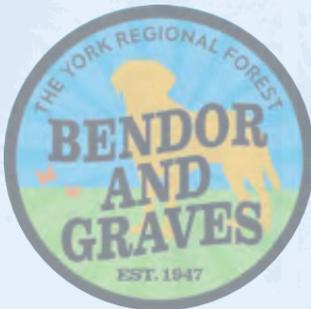
Monarch Butterfly



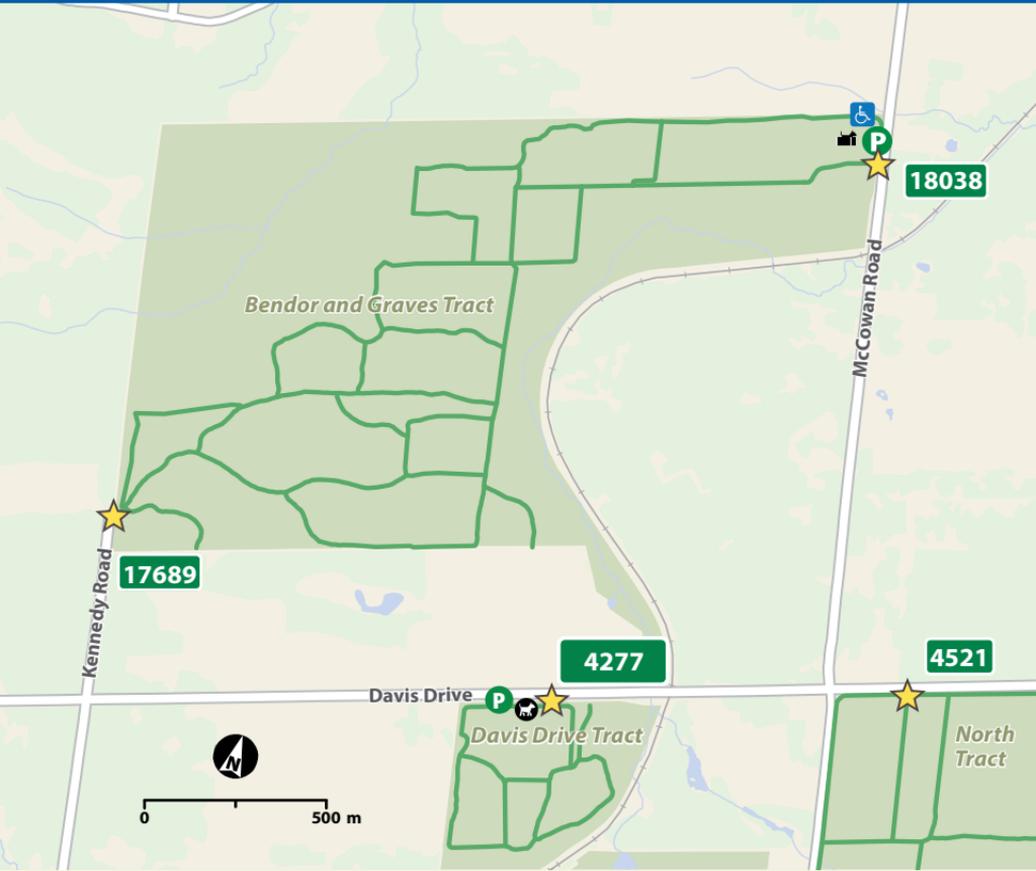
Eastern Meadowlark



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



The Bendor and Graves Tract marks the beginning of York Region's grassland restoration efforts. It is a haven for rare and at-risk birds like the Grasshopper and Clay-coloured Sparrows and the Eastern Meadowlark.



### Legend

	Trail		Road
	Accessible Parking		Railway
	Parking		Watercourse
	Access Address Number		Waterbody
	Pedestrian Access		Regional Forest Area
	Dog Off-leash Area		Wooded Area
	Dog Off-leash Tract		



## Brown Hill Tract

Established 1944  
4389 Ravenshoe Road,  
Town of East Gwillimbury  
Tract Size: 83 hectares

This tract contains an extensive system of trails that provide excellent mountain biking opportunities and is known as one of the best mountain biking destinations in the Greater Toronto Area. York Region works with organizations such as the York Mountain Biking Association to ensure trails are developed in a safe and sustainable manner.



White Baneberry



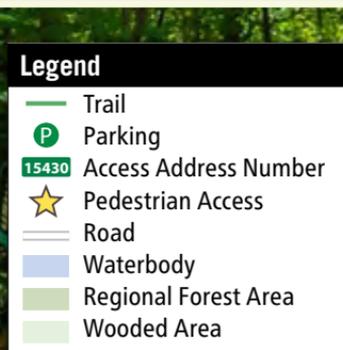
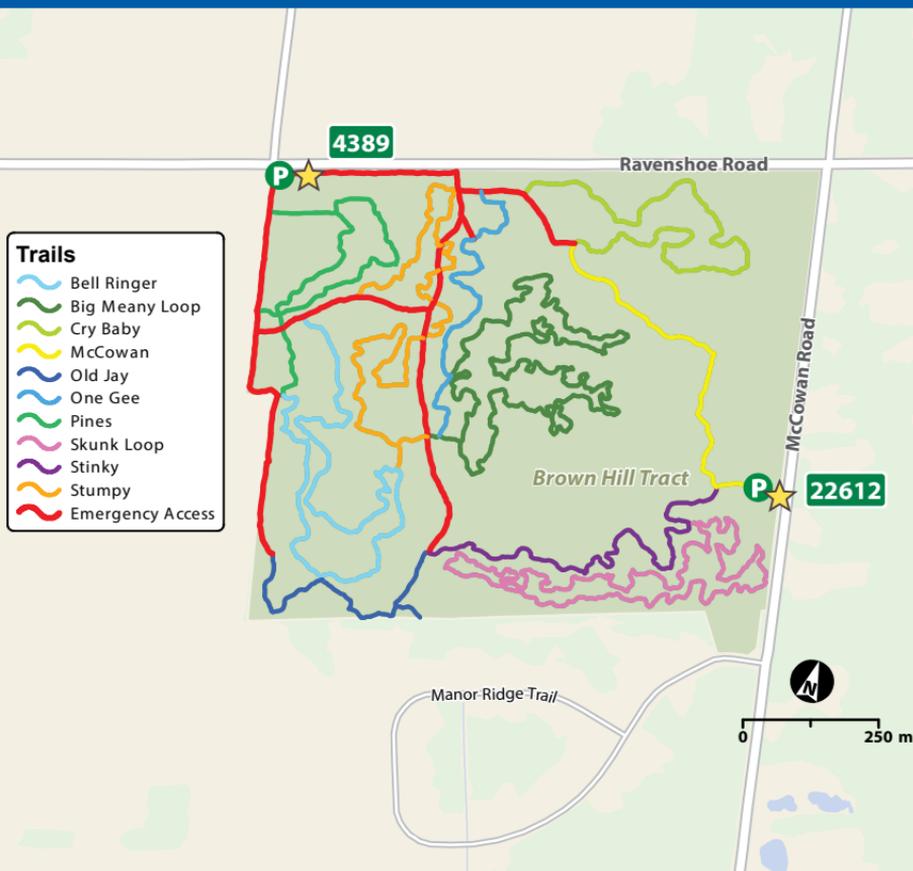
Morbid Owlet



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Known for its twisty trails, popular among mountain bikers, Brown Hill Tract is a spring spectacle with its White Trillium-covered forest floor, resembling a snowy blanket.



## Zephyr Tract

Established 1946  
5748 Holborn Road,  
Town of East Gwillimbury  
Tract Size: 87 hectares

Following the trail, the trees change from Red Maple and White Spruce to Sugar Maple and Red Oak. This is because as the elevation changes so does the soil moisture – tree species have preferences too. There are rows of large Red Pine and Red Oak trees planted over 70 years ago as part of the restoration efforts.



Scarlet Tanager



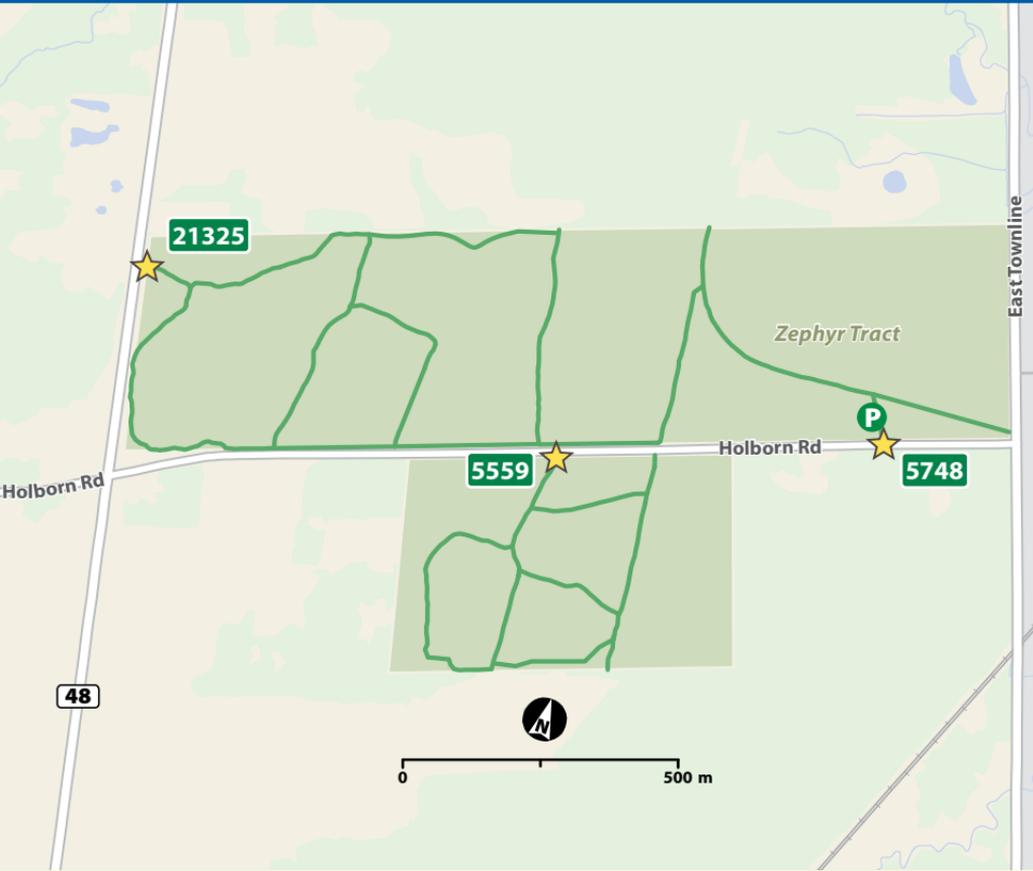
North American Porcupine



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Zephyr Tract is steeped in railway history, once housing the 'Zephyr Junction' of the Toronto and Nipissing Railway. Running from Stouffville to Jackson's Point at Lake Simcoe, this line, abandoned in 1979, has left a historical imprint in the Forest.



**Legend**

-  Trail
-  Parking
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Road
-  Watercourse
-  Waterbody
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Wooded Area

## Cronsberry Tract

Established 1945  
9526 Old Homestead Road,  
Town of Georgina  
Tract Size: 39 hectares

Cronsberry Tract is a diverse wetland area, home to conifer swamps, thicket swamps and marshes. Scattered throughout the landscape, temporary pools create a network of habitats crucial for breeding amphibians such as American Toads, Bull Frogs, Eastern Newt, Green Frogs, Grey Tree Frogs, Leopard Frogs, Pickerel Frogs, Western Chorus Frogs and Wood Frogs.



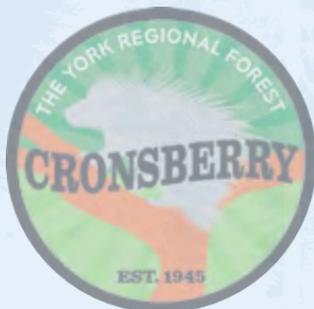
Osprey



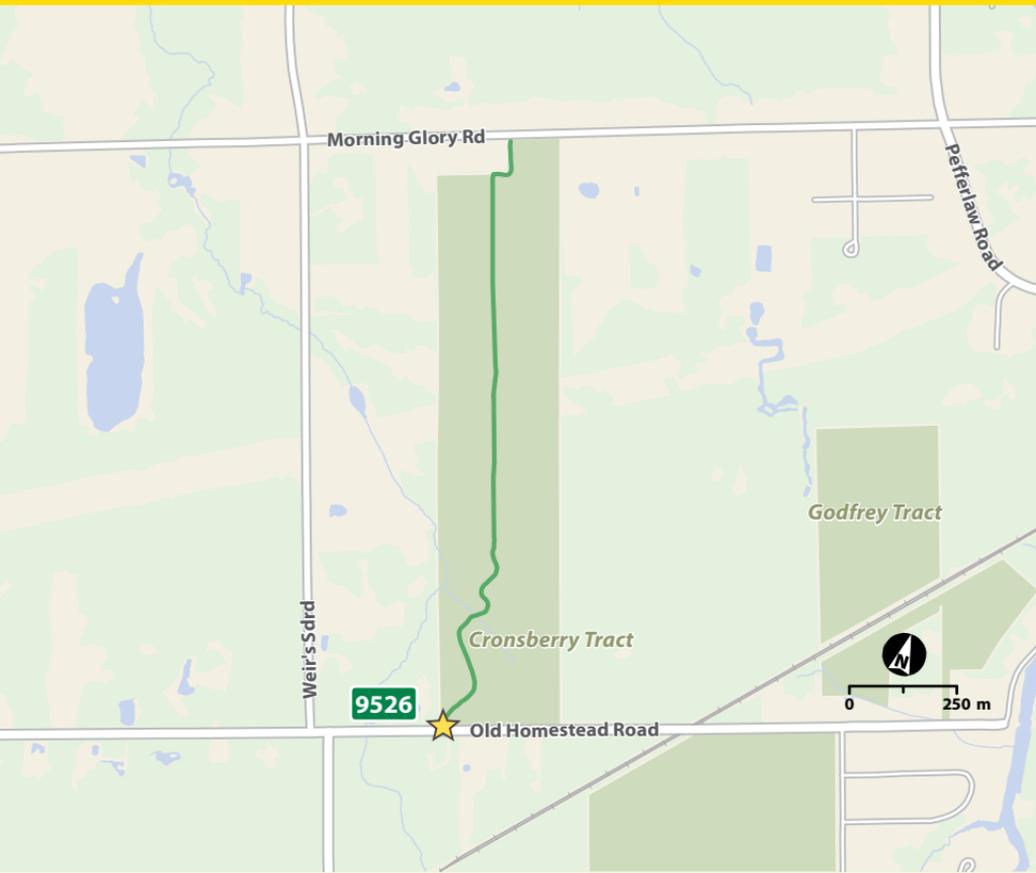
American Toad



**ADVENTURE CHALLENGE** (Details on page 67)



Cronsberry Tract is known for hosting breeding pairs of Ospreys, especially along the hydro transmission corridor. Keep an eye out for their sizeable stick nests, which are often perched atop hydro towers.



### Legend

-  Trail
-  Parking
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Road
-  Watercourse
-  Waterbody
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Wooded Area

## Metro Road Tract

Established 1967  
1763 Metro Road North,  
Town of Georgina  
Tract Size: 84 hectares

Metro Road Tract contains mostly natural forest, and includes Upland Hardwood, Bottomland Hardwood, Bottomland Conifer and Bottomland Mixedwood.



Purple Violet



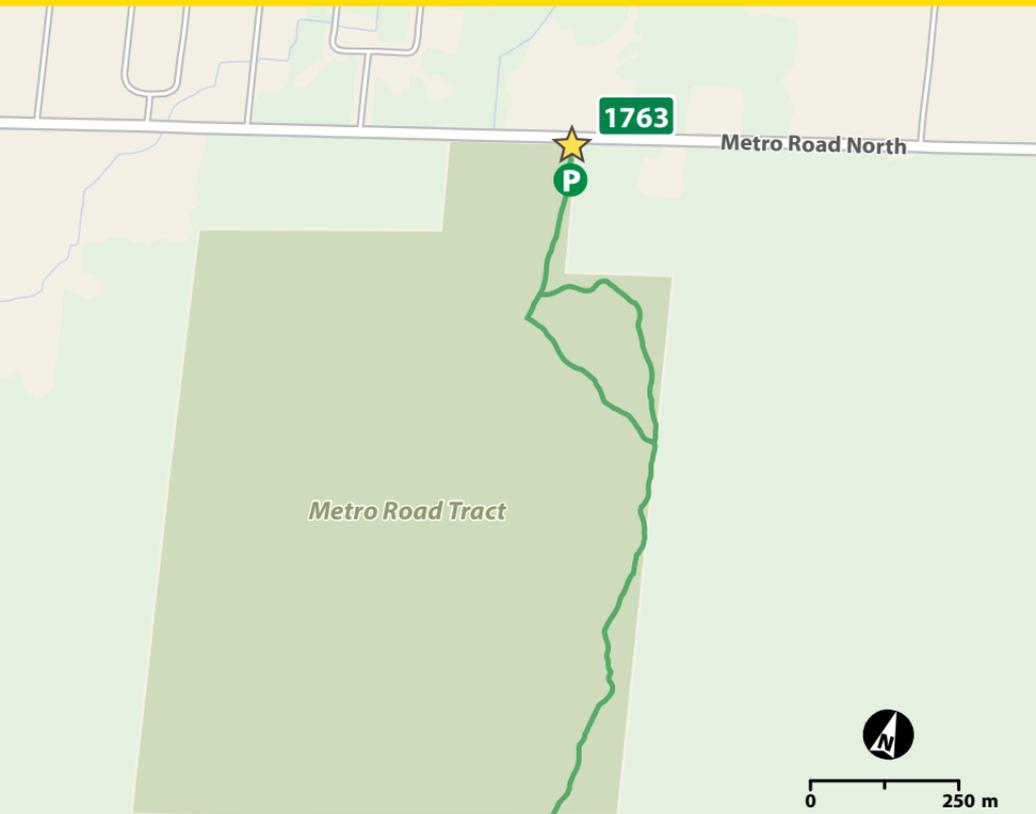
Evergreen Wood Fern



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Metro Road Tract features a rocky and boulder-strewn forest floor, remnants of melted glaciers from over 10,000 years ago. Its looped trail highlights the area's unique and bumpy terrain.



### Legend

-  Trail
-  Parking
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Road
-  Watercourse
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Wooded Area

## Pefferlaw Tract

Established 1959  
24408 Lake Ridge Road,  
Town of Georgina  
Tract Size: 579 hectares

Pefferlaw Tract contains large wetlands including treed swamps and open marshes. Pefferlaw River is the largest water feature found in the York Regional Forest and divides this tract. The River is home to a variety of fish and turtle species. During the winter, select trails in this tract are utilized by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC).



Black Bear



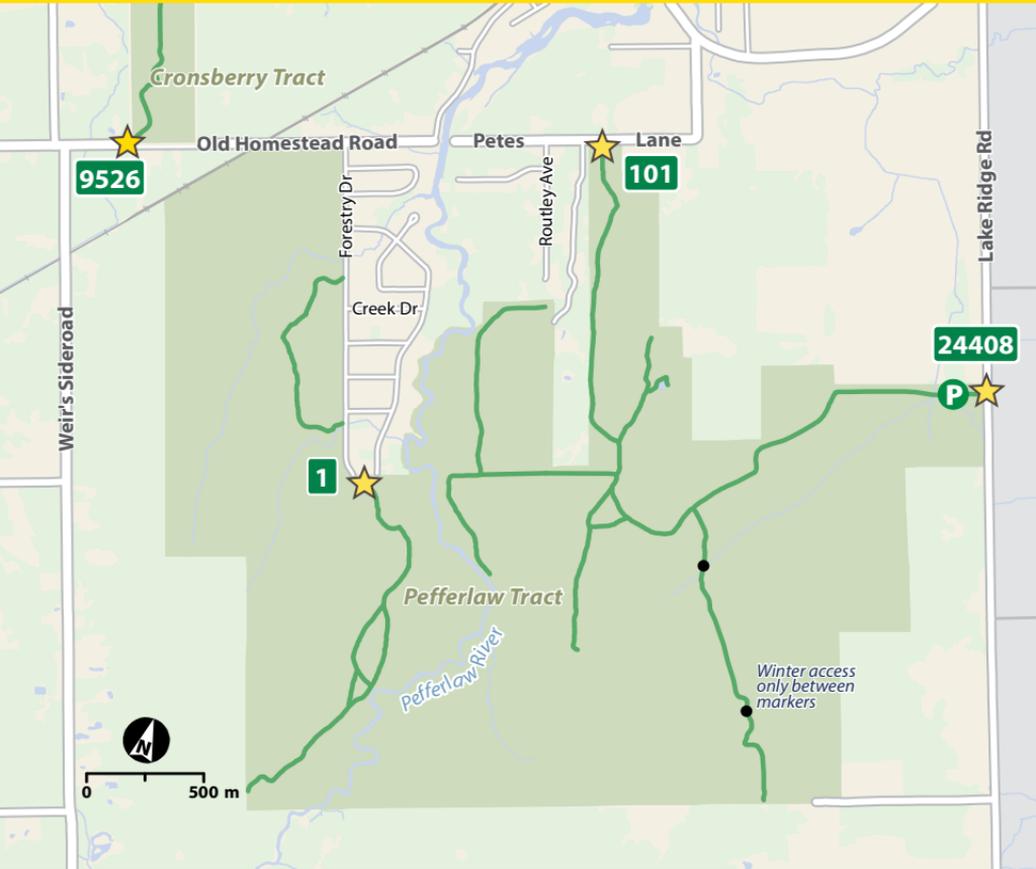
White-tailed Deer



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Pefferlaw Tract is the largest tract in the York Regional Forest. Its expansive landscape is a sanctuary for large mammals including Black Bears and White-tailed Deer. Keep an eye out for distinctive marks left by bears on trees. They will scrape, peel and bite the bark for scent marking and gathering bedding material or food.



**Legend**

-  Trail
-  Parking
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Road
-  Railway
-  Watercourse
-  Waterbody
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Wooded Area

## Happy Valley Tract

Established 2010  
15430 7th Concession,  
Township of King  
Tract Size: 26 hectares

Happy Valley Tract is part of the larger Happy Valley Forest, which is a mature, upland-deciduous forest. This type of forest grows in elevated areas and has a dense canopy of deciduous trees like Sugar Maple, Oak and Basswood. The dense canopy creates a unique habitat for plants, trees and animals that have adapted to the low-light conditions. There are also a variety of species at risk including Bobolinks, Red-shouldered Hawks and Butternut Trees.



Bobolink



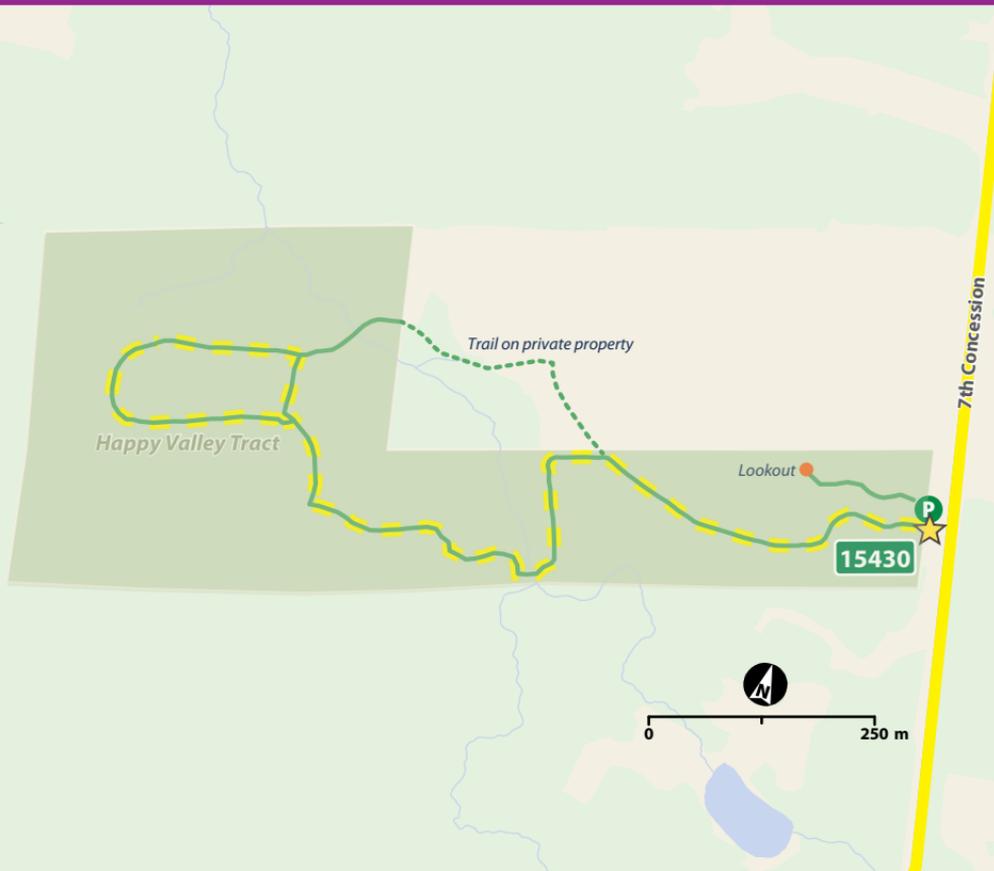
Butternut Tree



**ADVENTURE CHALLENGE** (Details on page 67)



Nestled in the vast Happy Valley, this tract is part of the largest neighbouring deciduous forest in the Greater Toronto Area. Its preservation is ensured through partnerships with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.



**Legend**

- Trail
- Trail on Private Property
- Parking
- Access Address Number
- Pedestrian Access
- Oak Ridges Trail
- Oak Ridges Side Trail
- Road
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Regional Forest Area
- Wooded Area



Happy Valley Tract

## Nobleton Tract

Established 2006

5345 15th Sideroad,

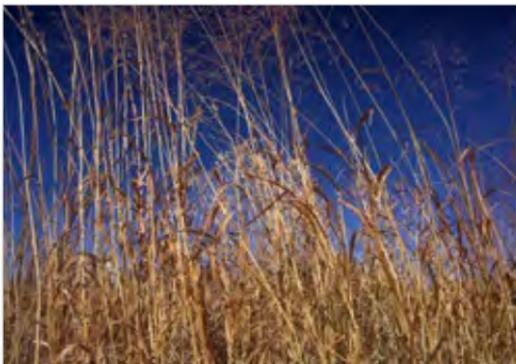
Township of King

Tract Size: 44 hectares

Capturing the natural beauty of countryside, the Nobleton Tract is located within the headwaters of the Humber River. The warmth of sunshine enhances the experience of following the trail through open fields and newly-planted forests. Watch for Garter Snakes basking in the sun and listen for the pleasant warble of the Field Sparrow.



Garter Snake



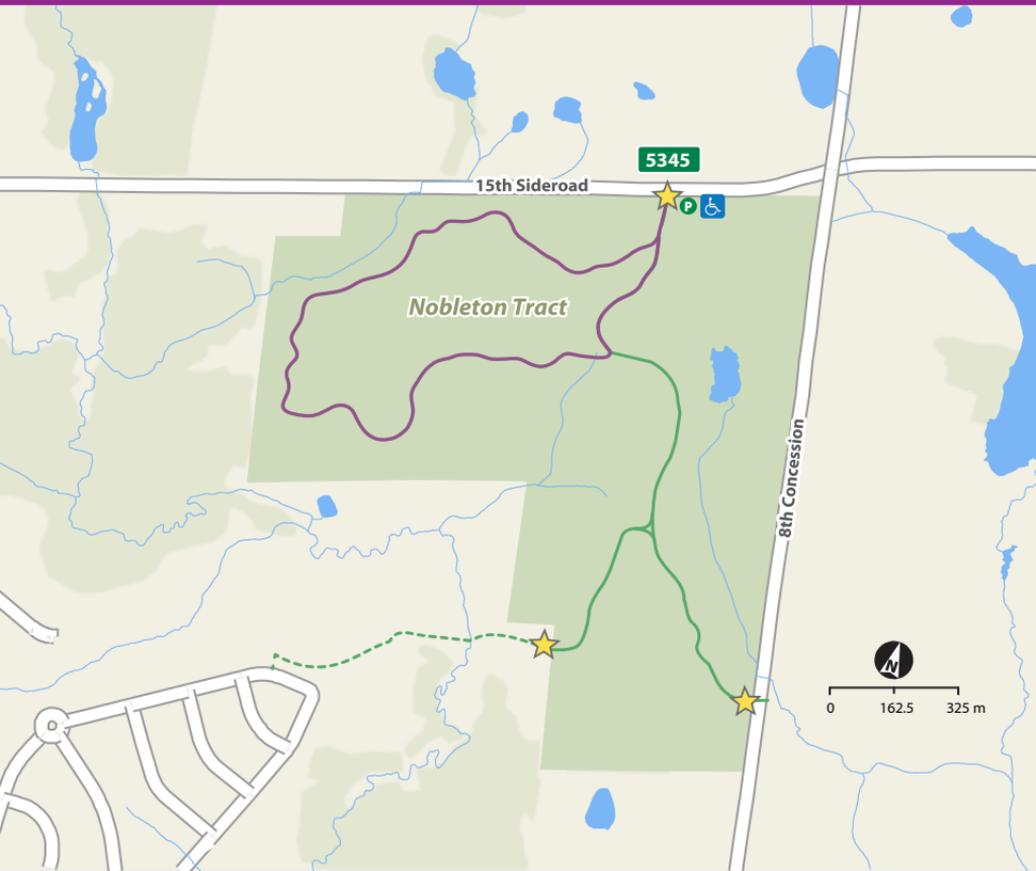
Big Bluestem



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Nobleton Tract is renowned for its grassland habitat, which is managed partly with controlled burns, a practice rooted in ancient Indigenous traditions. These burns are essential for maintaining healthy tallgrass prairie ecosystems and promoting the growth of native plant species such as Big Bluestem.



**Legend**

- Trail
- - - Trail on Private Property
- P Parking
- 15430 Access Address Number
- ★ Pedestrian Access
- Accessible Trail
- ♿ Accessible Parking
- Road
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Regional Forest Area
- Wooded Area



Nobleton Tract

## Peggy's Wood

Established 2006  
880 Elvidge Trail,  
Town of East Gwillimbury  
Town of Newmarket  
Tract Size: 19 hectares

Peggy's Wood is an ecologically sensitive area nestled within a greater forested area. This property was donated by the Dunlap and Robarts families in memory of their mother, Margaret (Peggy) Dunlap, to preserve this sensitive Forest for future generations. Cool shade, soft earth and natural fragrances exist beneath a changing canopy of mature trees. Found here, are Songbirds calling, Pileated Woodpeckers excavating trees and Ansnorveldt Creek babbling as it flows into the West Holland River and Lake Simcoe.



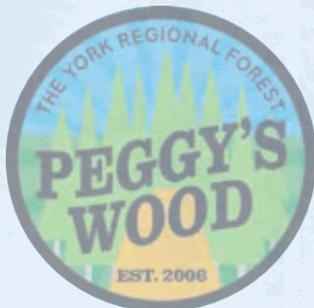
Pileated Woodpecker



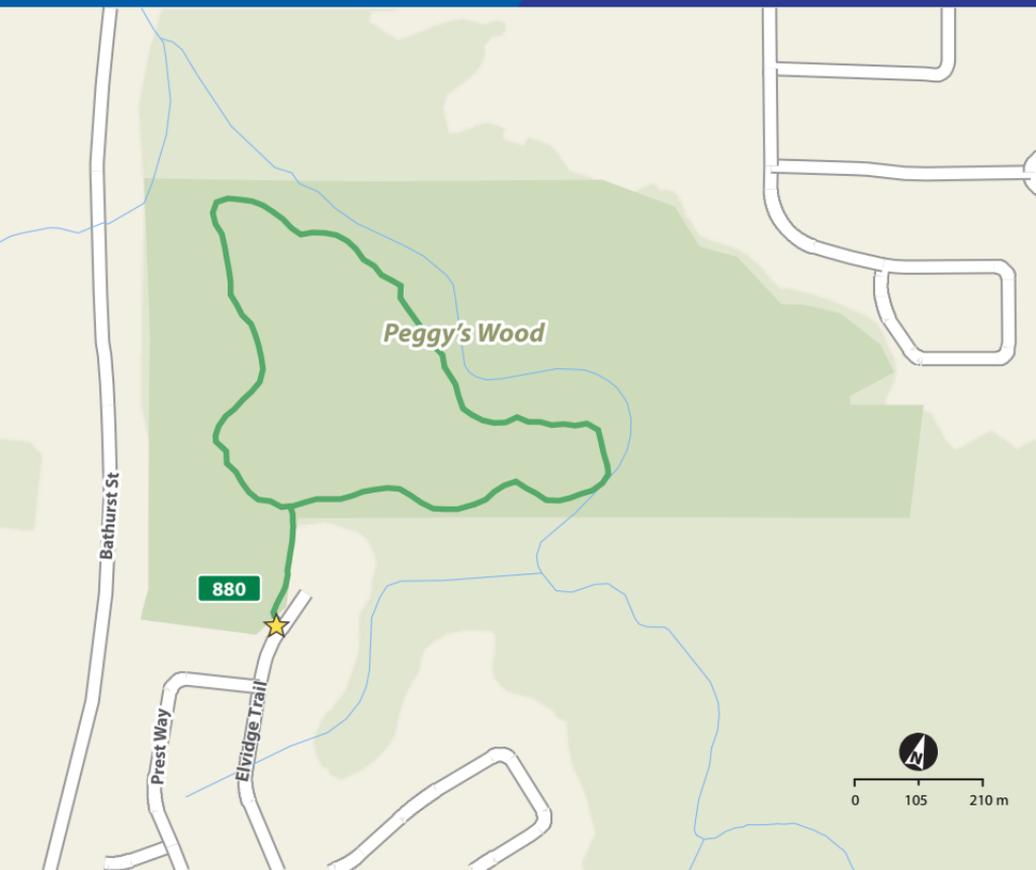
Mourning Dove



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Peggy's Wood is home to many native trees including Ontario's provincial tree, the White Pine. This iconic tree, used for centuries by Indigenous Peoples as a medicine, food and construction material, stands tall above the Forest canopy.



### Legend

-  Trail
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Road
-  Watercourse
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Wooded Area

## Clarke Tract

Established 1947  
15015 McCowan Road,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 84 hectares

The original Red Pine and Scots Pine plantation was removed due to disease. Since then, the hardwoods continue to thrive and grow in size. In 2011, the Forest required thinning to maintain the health of the hardwood trees.



Mourning Cloak



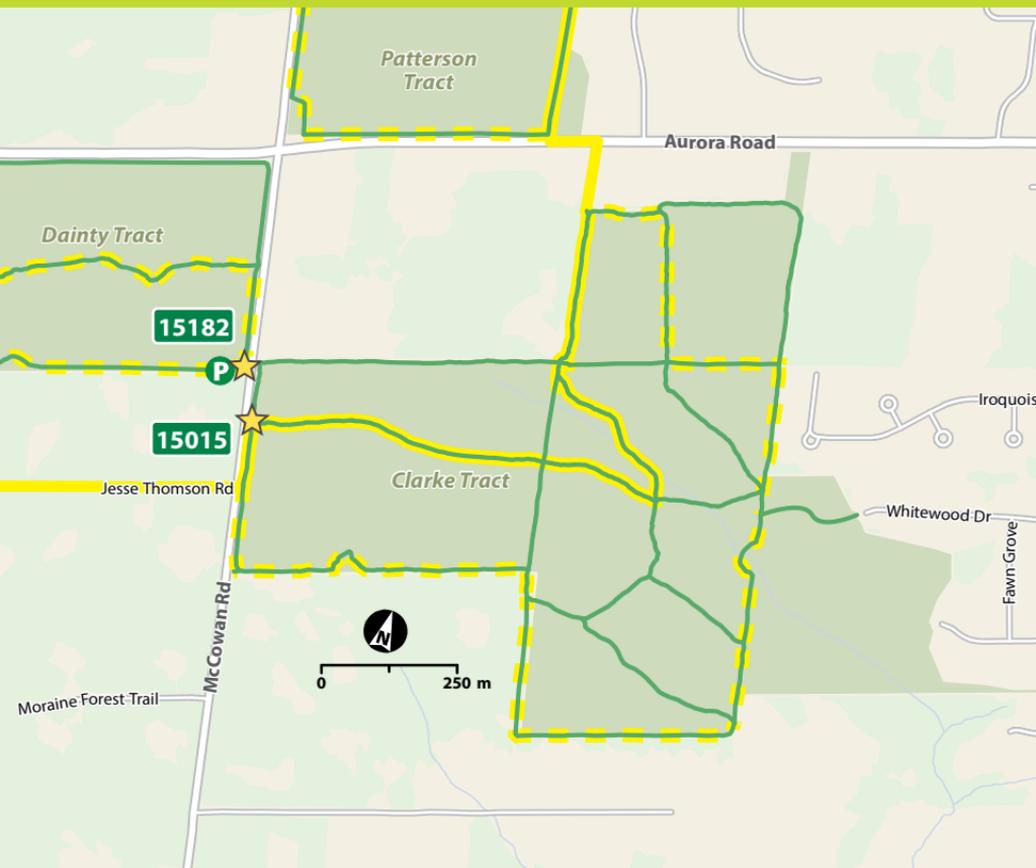
Black-capped Chickadee



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Clarke Tract, impacted by a derecho windstorm in May 2022, is evidence of nature's powerful forces, with strong winds altering the Forest and reshaping the landscape.



**Legend**

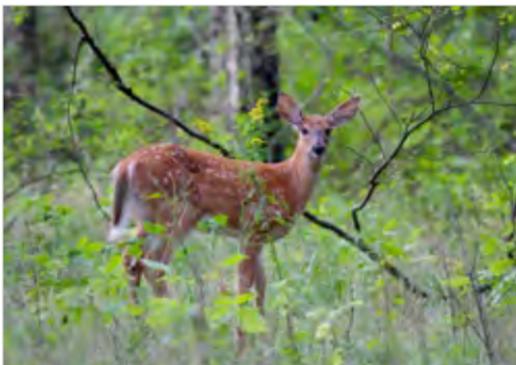
-  Trail
-  Parking
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Oak Ridges Trail
-  Oak Ridges Side Trail
-  Road
-  Watercourse
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Wooded Area

Clarke Tract

## Dainty Tract

Established 1946  
15182 McCowan Road,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 41 hectares

One of the smaller York Regional Forest properties, Dainty Tract is ideal for shorter walks. The Oak Ridges Trail side loop, approximately 2.8 kilometres in length, can be walked by following the blue trail markers found on the trees. Many of the Red Pine and other coniferous trees originally planted in rows in open fields have been harvested sustainably to encourage the growth of young native trees like Sugar Maple, Red Oak and Basswood.



White-tailed Deer



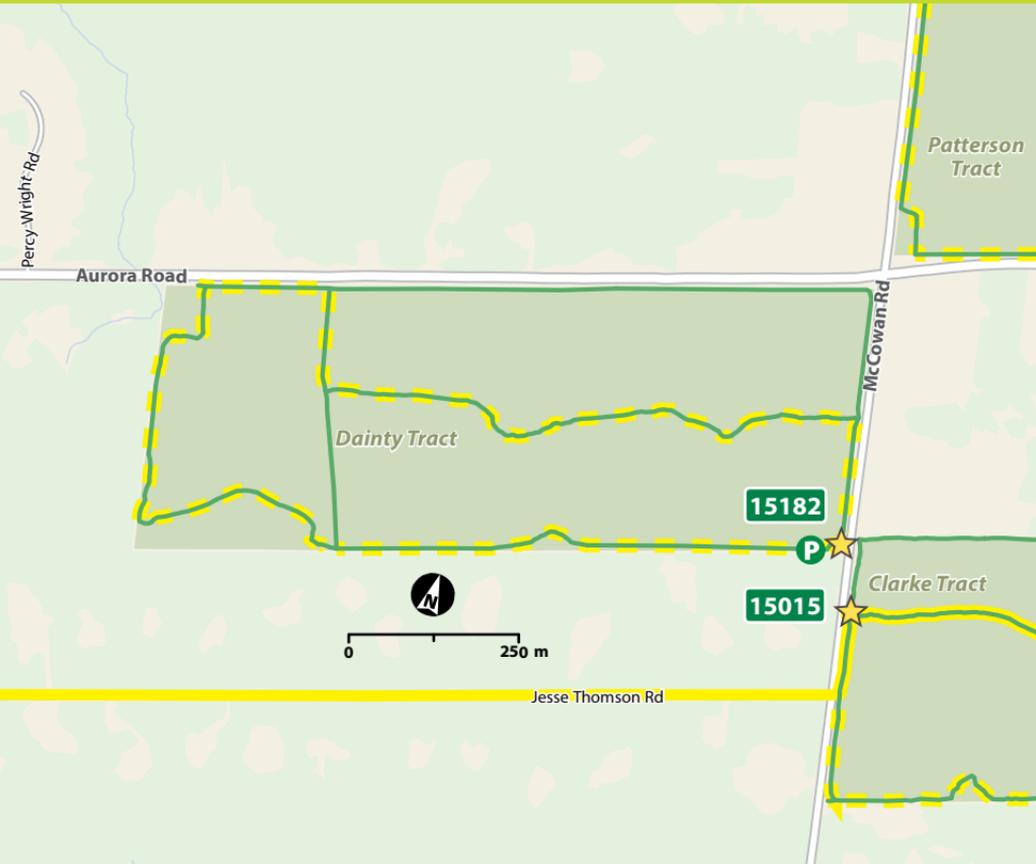
Red Fox



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Wander through Dainty Tract's looped trails amidst a mix of deciduous hardwoods and Red Pines. Keep your steps soft and you might spot a White-tailed Deer darting into the Forest.



**Legend**

-  Trail
-  Parking
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Oak Ridges Trail
-  Oak Ridges Side Trail
-  Road
-  Watercourse
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Wooded Area



Dainty Tract

## Davis Drive Tract

Established 2009  
4277 Davis Drive,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 58 hectares

Nestled between Davis Drive and McCowan Road in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, this York Regional Forest property boasts almost 60 hectares of new and recovering forest. This large parcel of land provides a protected habitat link between North Tract and Bendor and Graves Tract.

Davis Drive Tract is one of two Forest tracts where dogs are permitted off-leash.



Coyote



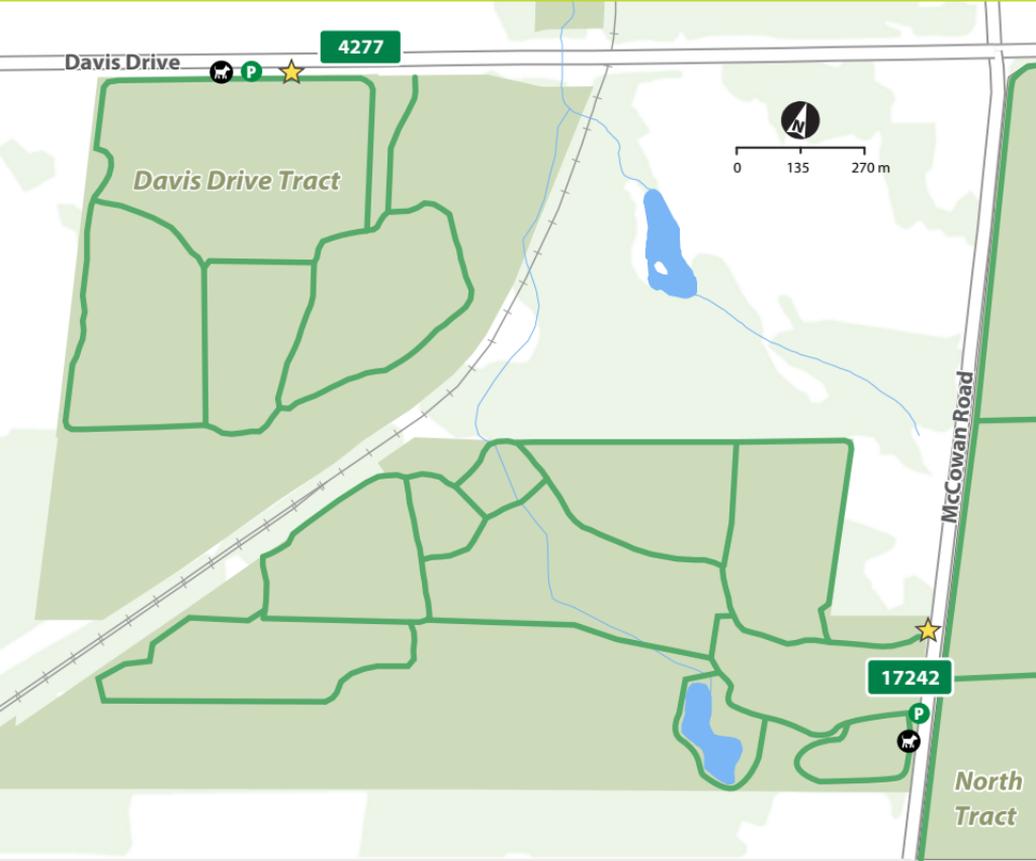
Eastern Phoebe



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



The trees on the Davis Drive side of this tract were planted by York Region in 2009 and will eventually become a natural mixed hardwood and deciduous forest.



**Legend**

-  Trail
-  Parking
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Dog Off-leash Tract
-  Road
-  Railway
-  Watercourse
-  Waterbody
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Wooded Area



Davis Drive Tract

## Drysdale Woods

Established 2013  
16242 York/Durham Line,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 55 hectares

Drysdale Woods has been an important part of our growing community since the Drysdale family bought the property in 1951. The Drysdale's planted open fields with Christmas trees creating a holiday destination for residents to enjoy. In 2013, York Region acquired this property through a generous partial donation from the Drysdale family as part of Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program.



Indigo Bunting



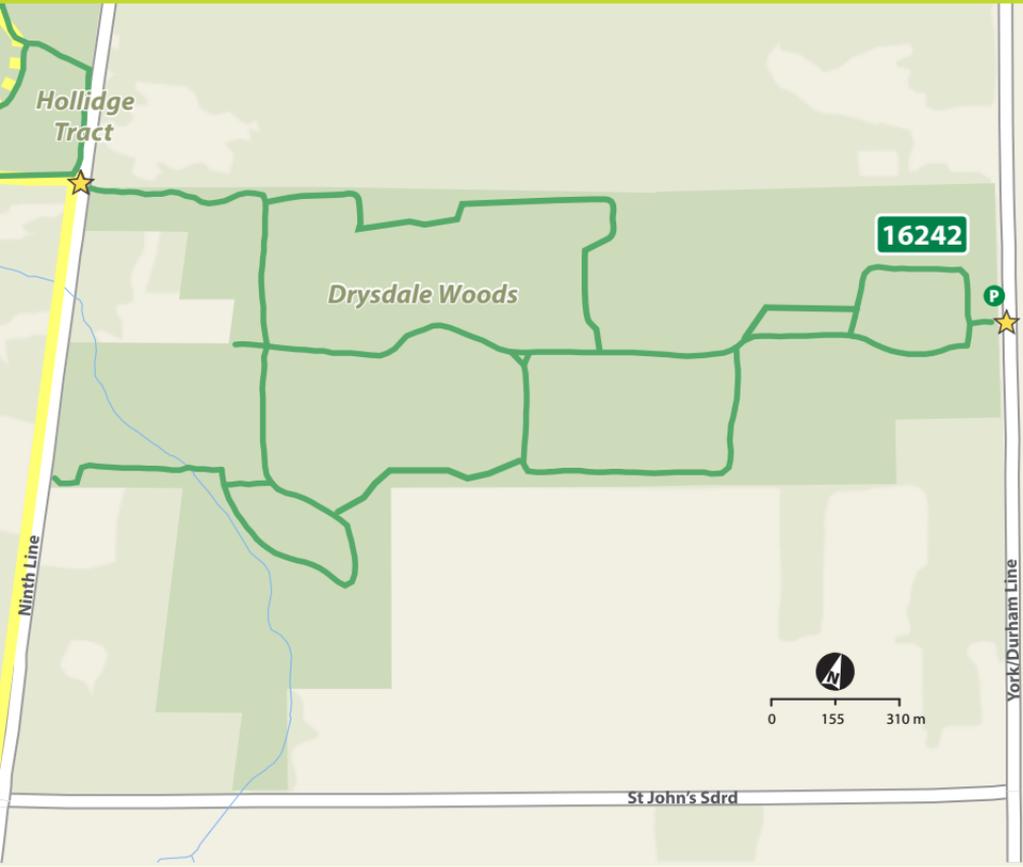
Eastern White Pines



**ADVENTURE CHALLENGE** (Details on page 67)



Drysdale Woods boasts one of Ontario's largest Ironwood trees. Ironwood, known for its hardness and density, was a valuable resource used as an alternative to iron by early Canadian settlers.



**Legend**

-  Trail
-  Parking
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Oak Ridges Trail
-  Oak Ridges Side Trail
-  Road
-  Watercourse
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Wooded Area



Drysdale Woods

## Eldred King Woodlands

Established 1924  
16232 Highway 48,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 221 hectares

Named after Eldred King, a former Chairman of The Regional Municipality of York, this property sits on the Oak Ridges Moraine and connects to Hall Tract. Its footprint (from Highway 48 to McCowan Road) supports a unique interior forest ecosystem. Often referred to as the 'heart' of the Forest, the interior forest is cooler, shadier and quieter – essential conditions for wildlife that require this type of habitat.



Wood Thrush



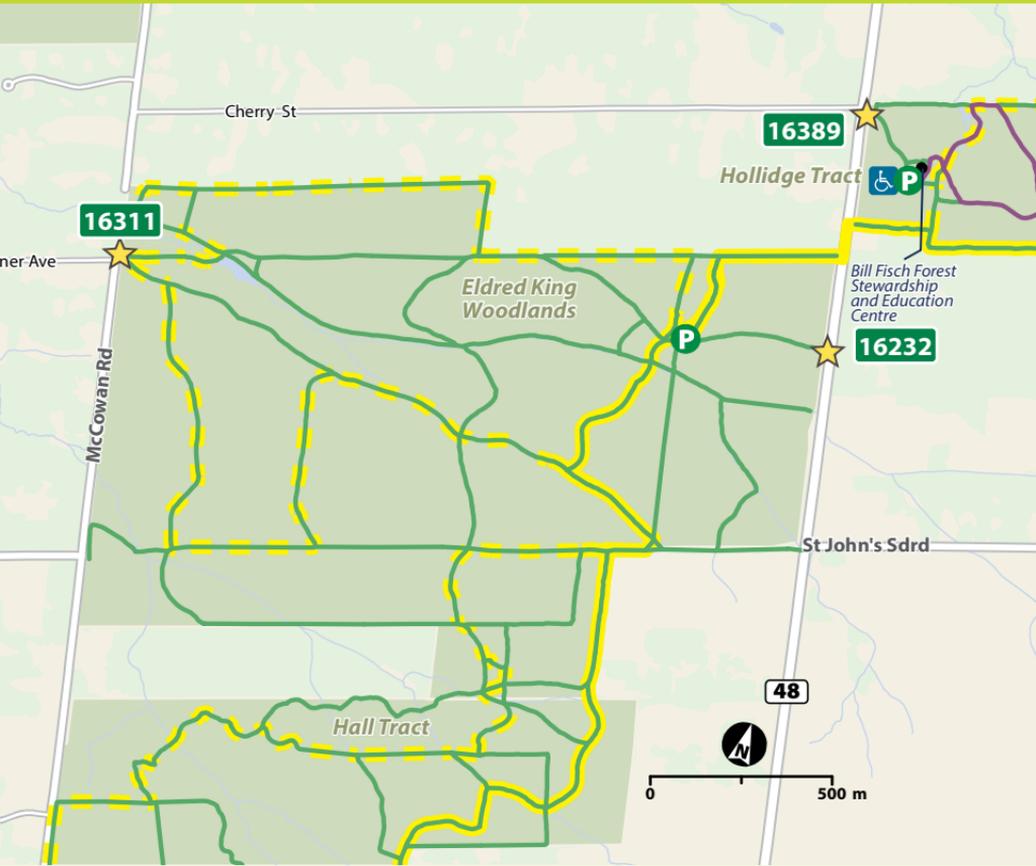
Painted Turtle



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Eldred King Woodlands features a popular pond that's a restful spot for horseback riders, families and hikers. The area just southeast of the pond, hit by severe thunderstorms in 2006 flattening almost 6 hectares of forest, has beautifully recovered showcasing nature's resilience.



**Legend**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Trail                 |  Oak Ridges Side Trail |
|  Parking               |  Road                  |
|  Access Address Number |  Watercourse           |
|  Pedestrian Access     |  Waterbody             |
|  Accessible Trail      |  Regional Forest Area  |
|  Accessible Parking    |  Wooded Area           |
|  Oak Ridges Trail      |   |

## Hall Tract

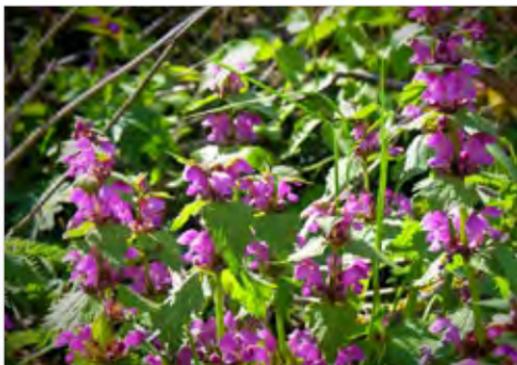
Established 1946  
15681 McCowan Road,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 110 hectares

In 2004, York Region partnered with the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation to acquire lands south of Hall Tract expanding the York Regional Forest.

From 2005 to 2008, tree seedlings were planted and now a new Forest with trees exceeding two metres in height is thriving.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



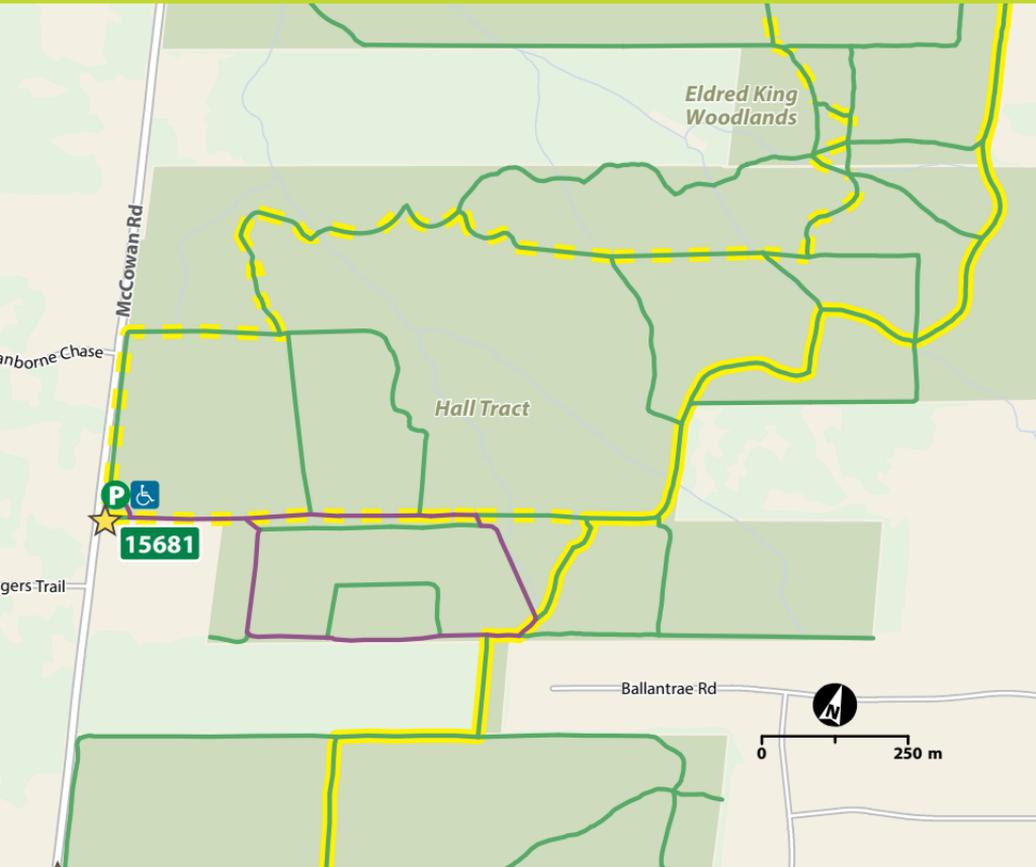
Spotted Deadnettle



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Featuring an accessible trail with a crushed limestone surface, Hall Tract is welcoming to everyone including those using assistive devices such as wheelchairs, walkers and strollers. The tract blends young trees with mature Red Pines and a variety of deciduous tree species.



### Legend

- |  |                       |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
|  | Trail                 |  | Oak Ridges Trail      |
|  | Parking               |  | Oak Ridges Side Trail |
|  | Access Address Number |  | Road                  |
|  | Pedestrian Access     |  | Watercourse           |
|  | Accessible Trail      |  | Regional Forest Area  |
|  | Accessible Parking    |  | Wooded Area           |

## Hollidge Tract

Established 1924  
16389 Highway 48,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 83 hectares

The Hollidge Tract was purchased in 1924 for just over \$4,000. It was the first property acquired in what would eventually become the York Regional Forest. Vivian Creek runs through this tract and provides habitat for native fish species. Spawning Brook Trout can be observed in the fall. The tract also contains 1.79 kilometres of accessible trails, providing a unique opportunity for persons with disabilities to enjoy nature.



Barred Owl



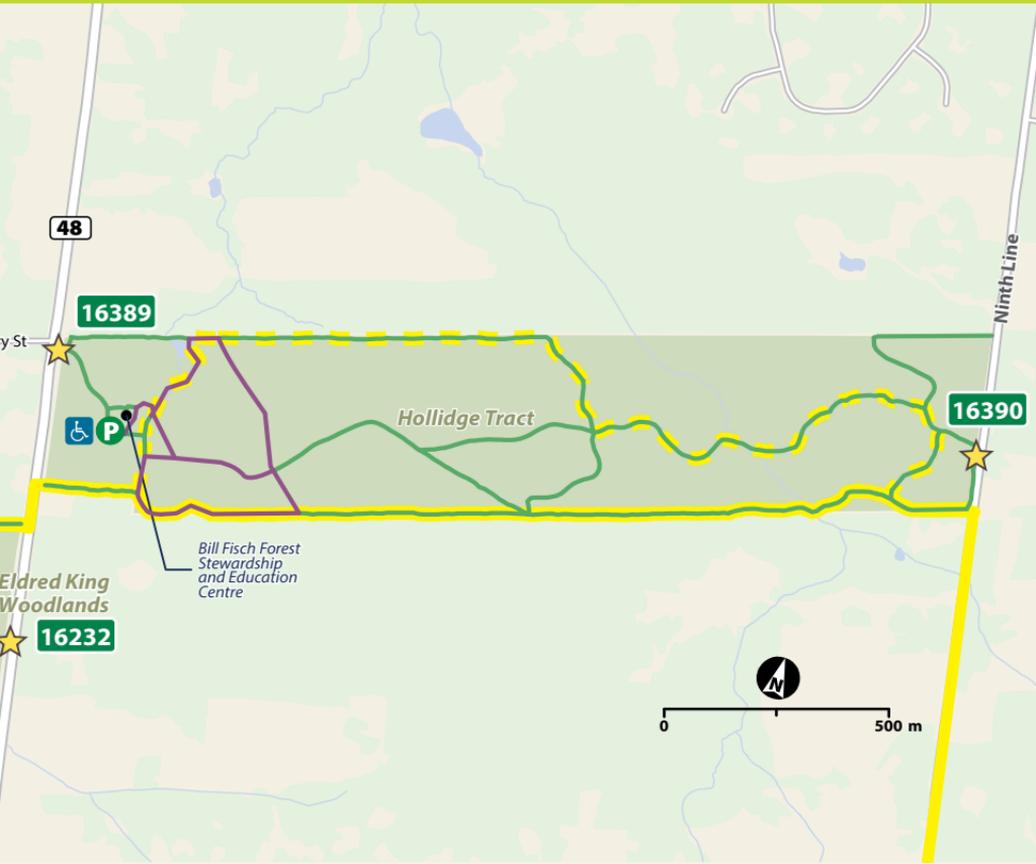
Jack-in-the-pulpit



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Hollidge Tract boasts the oldest pine plantation in the York Regional Forest, dating back to 1924. It's also home to the Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre, a state-of-the-art sustainable building and Canada's first building certified under the International Living Future Institute's Living Building Challenge.



**Legend**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Trail                 |  Oak Ridges Side Trail |
|  Parking               |  Road                  |
|  Access Address Number |  Watercourse           |
|  Pedestrian Access     |  Waterbody             |
|  Accessible Trail      |  Regional Forest Area  |
|  Accessible Parking    |  Wooded Area           |
|  Oak Ridges Trail      |   |

## Mitchell Tract

Established 1944  
4677 Vivian Road,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 21 hectares

Mitchell Tract contains a mix of natural and semi-natural forest. There is an abundance of Red Oak called “tikimesh” in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe language) which translates to “original oak”. The tract is also home to six locally rare plant species for the Oak Ridges Moraine including Greater Bladderwort, Rocky Mountain Sedge and Wood Anemone.



Bay-breasted Warbler



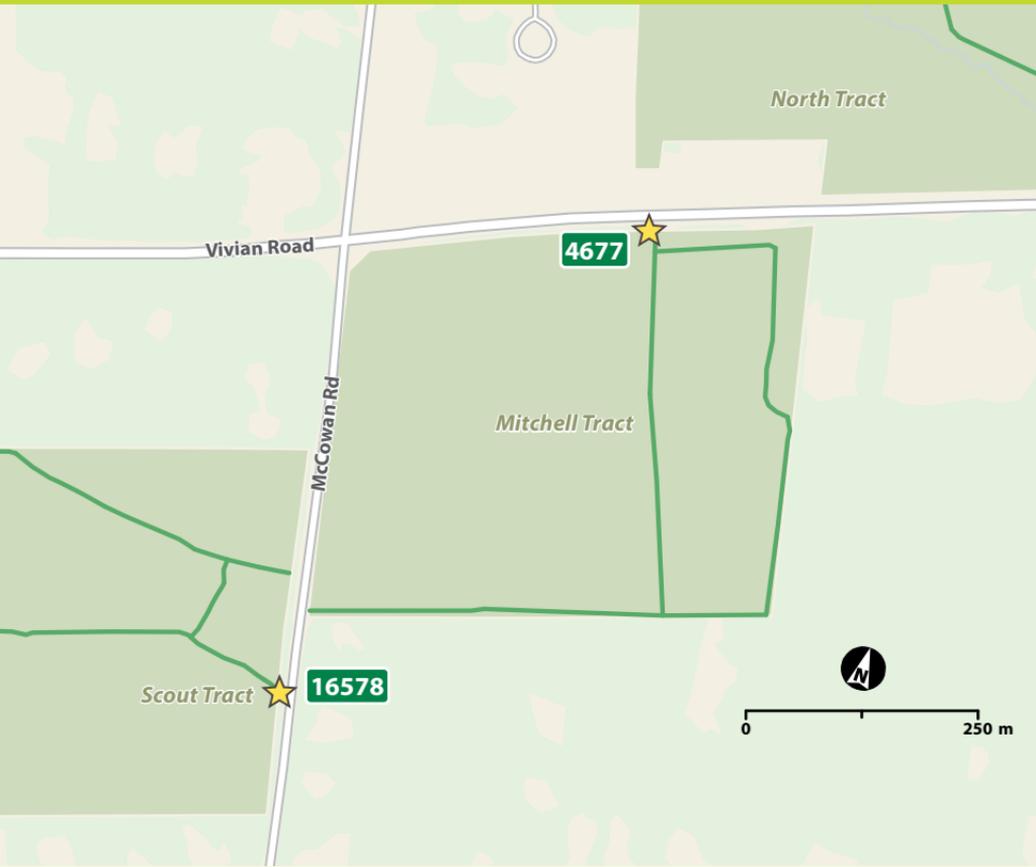
Pinesap



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Mitchell Tract is a year-round spectacle, dominated by Eastern Hemlocks with their light-reflecting pin-like needles. These are beautifully complemented by towering Sugar Maples and giant Red Oaks, adding to the area’s majestic charm.



**Legend**

-  Trail
-  Parking
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Road
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Wooded Area

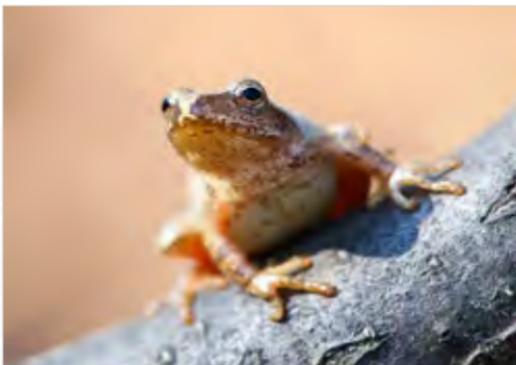
## North Tract

Established 1925  
17054 Highway 48,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 332 hectares

North Tract originated with the purchase of a rundown farm property in 1924. Since then, many neighbouring properties have been added to this tract with thousands of trees planted to stabilize the sandy soils, which were once easily moved by wind and buried entire farm fences. After almost 100 years of growth, today, lush forest exists.



Winter Wren



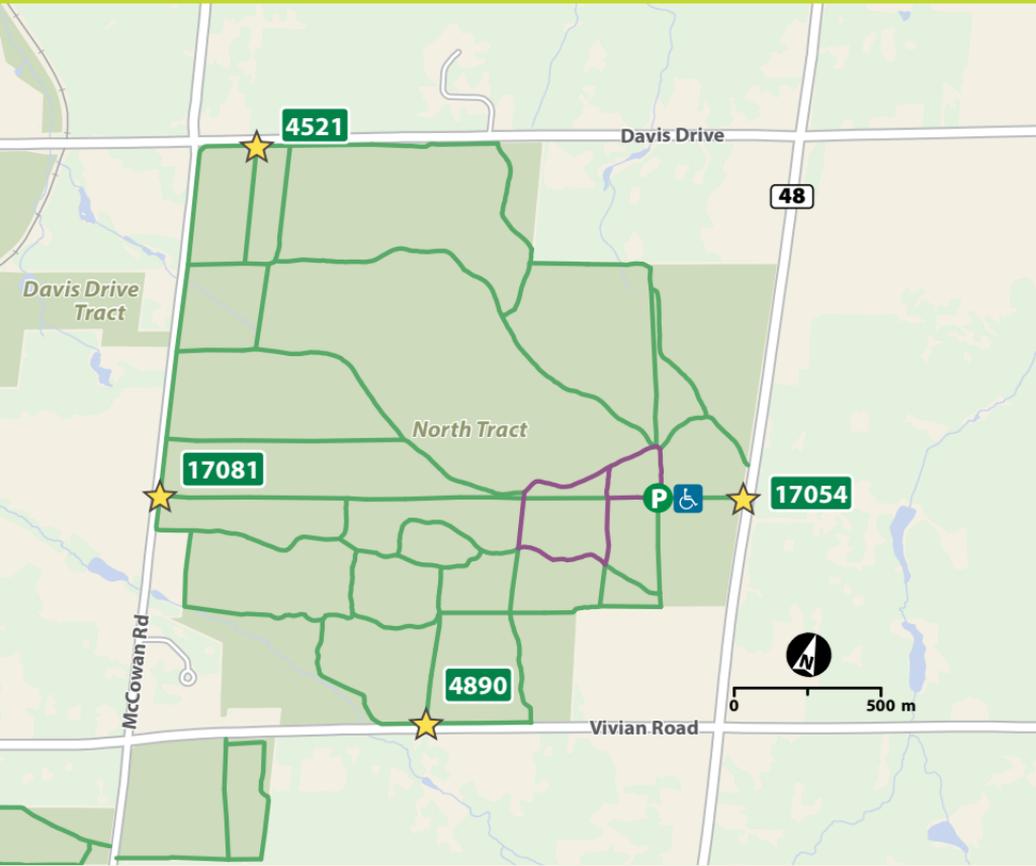
Spring Peeper Frog



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



The trails of North Tract, following an old rail line, are a birdwatcher's paradise, offering sightings of a variety of birds including Mourning and Blue-winged Warblers, Indigo Buntings and Red Crossbills.



**Legend**

- Trail
- Parking
- Access Address Number
- Pedestrian Access
- Accessible Trail
- Accessible Parking
- Road
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Regional Forest Area
- Wooded Area



North Tract

## Patterson Tract

Established 1938

15461 McCowan Road,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Tract Size: 50 hectares

This Forest, which has been standing since before 1920, is a prime example of a mature upland hardwood forest. It plays a crucial role in protecting a regional drinking water source. Forests worldwide are essential in filtering and supplying clean drinking water to billions of people. The critical importance of drinking water provides a compelling reason for the conservation and sustainable management of forests. Yet, many people remain unaware of the vital service forests offer in delivering clean drinking water.



Bloodroot



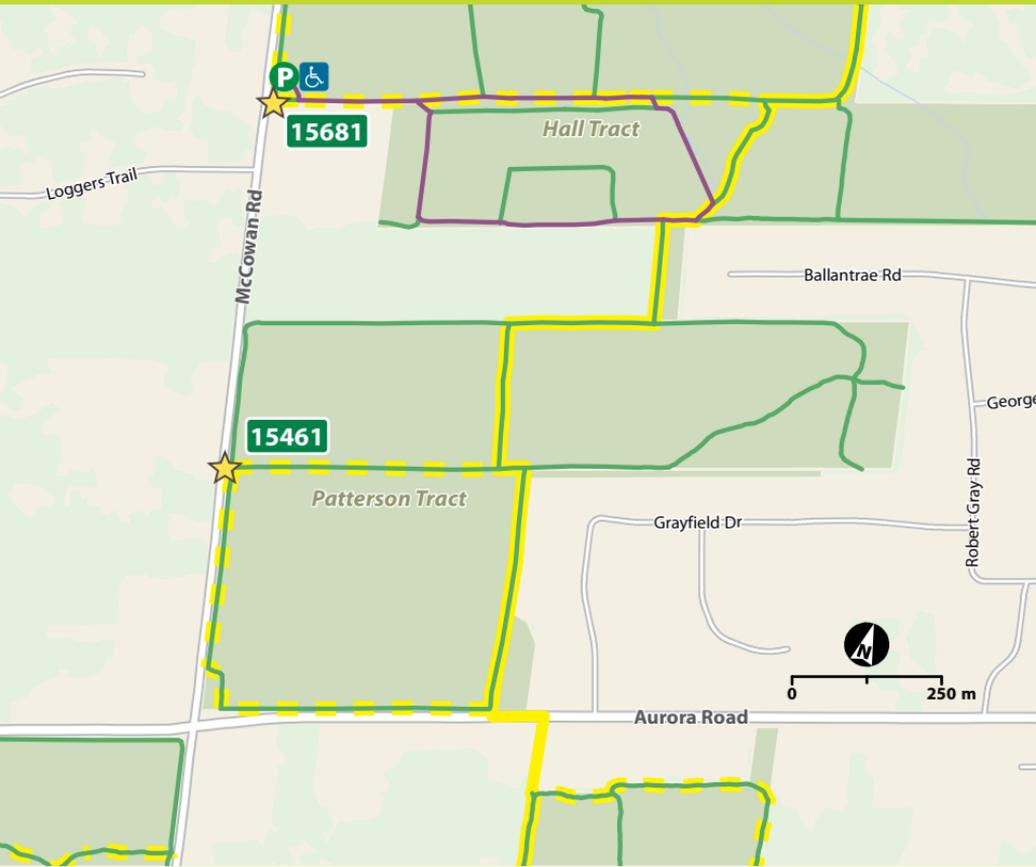
Clymene Moth



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Patterson Tract showcases sustainable forestry practices such as tree stand thinning. This practice mimics natural forest disturbances, like tree toppling, for healthier forest recovery.



**Legend**

- |   |                       |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
|  | Trail                 |  | Oak Ridges Trail      |
|  | Parking               |  | Oak Ridges Side Trail |
|  | Access Address Number |  | Road                  |
|  | Pedestrian Access     |  | Watercourse           |
|  | Accessible Trail      |  | Regional Forest Area  |
|  | Accessible Parking    |  | Wooded Area           |

## Porritt Tract

Established 1946  
15470 Kennedy Road,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 81 hectares

Porritt Tract is located in the headwaters of the East Holland River. The creek running through this tract is fed by ground and surface water and provides important habitat for aquatic animals. Its trees and plants support the health of the creek by protecting the banks from erosion and moderating water temperatures.



Pine Warbler



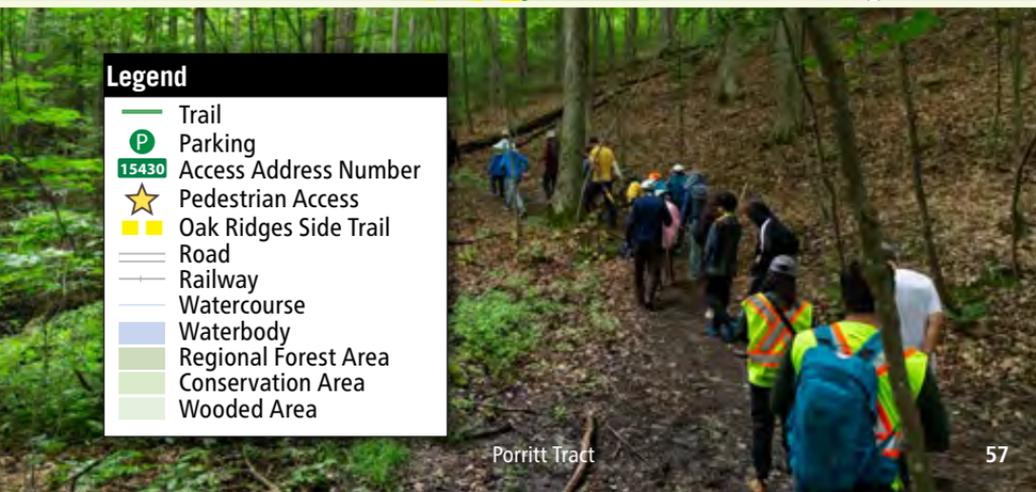
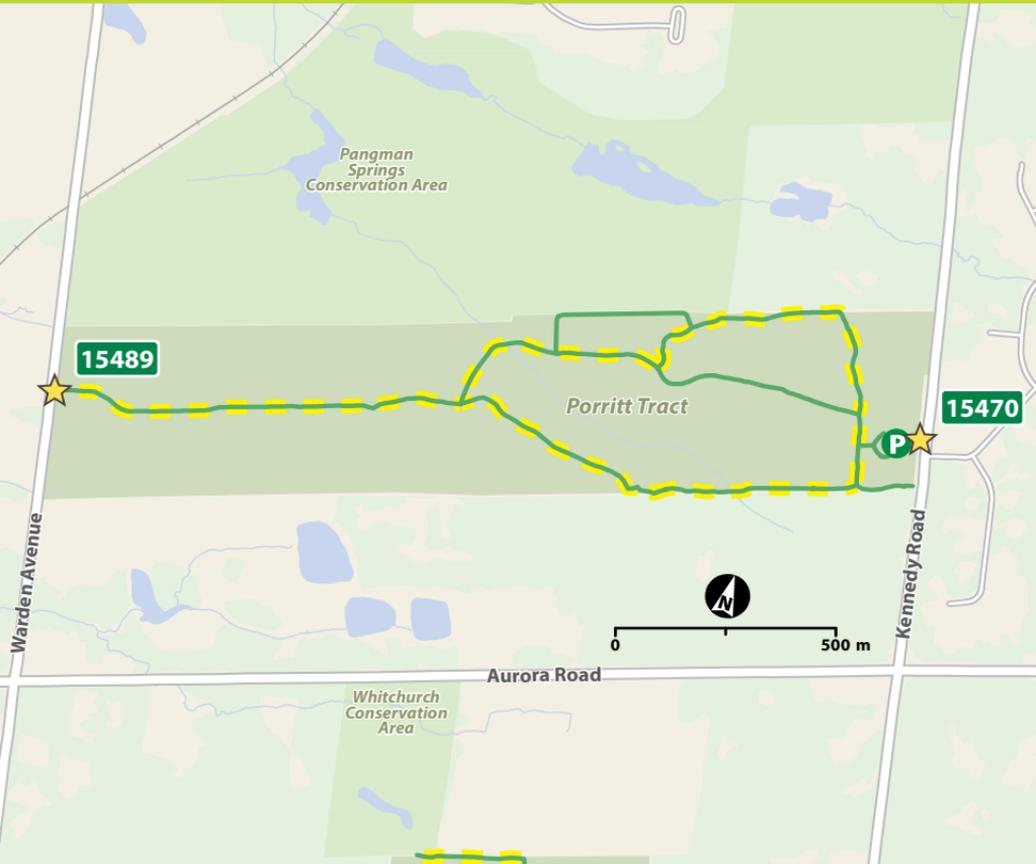
Annual Fleabane



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



Porritt Tract holds some of the oldest trees in the York Regional Forest, untouched by early settlers due to steep slopes. Large Sugar Maples, once tapped for sap, are still standing near the small stream that runs through this tract.



**Legend**

-  Trail
-  Parking
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Oak Ridges Side Trail
-  Road
-  Railway
-  Watercourse
-  Waterbody
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Conservation Area
-  Wooded Area

Porritt Tract

## Robinson Tract

Established 1948  
14989 Warden Avenue,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 43 hectares

Stripped of trees by early settlers for farming, this area soon became a desert wasteland of shifting sand. The Robinson Tract has since been reforested to stop the erosion. Conifer plantations date from 1946 to 1949 in this area, along the Oak Ridges Trail where it passes through the tract.

This Forest is now important for recreation, research and for protecting air, soil, water and wildlife.



Red-breasted Nuthatch



Scarlet Tanager



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



As you step into Robinson Tract, you will find yourself surrounded by a lush wetland. Spanning a significant part of the tract, the wetland acts as a natural filter for water and a crucial habitat for wildlife. On the Oak Ridges Moraine, the tract plays a key role in replenishing groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water for many people in York Region.



**Legend**

-  Trail
-  Parking
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Oak Ridges Trail
-  Oak Ridges Side Trail
-  Road
-  Watercourse
-  Waterbody
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Conservation Area
-  Wooded Area



Robinson Tract

## Scout Tract

Established 1953  
16578 McCowan Road,  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Tract Size: 48 hectares

The Scout Tract ponds were created in 1970 to serve as a water source for forest fire suppression. They have since evolved into an ecological system providing 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.



Minnows



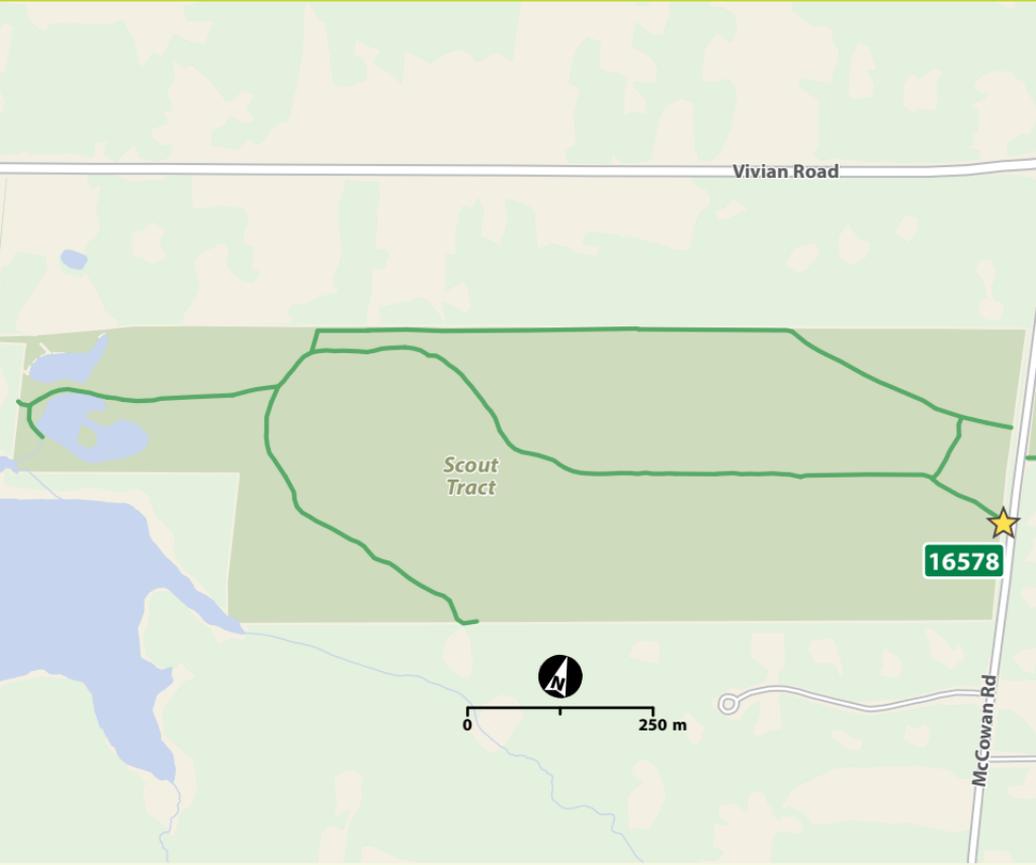
Canada Mayflower



## ADVENTURE CHALLENGE (Details on page 67)



In the summer, Scout Tract comes alive with melodious flute-like songs of Wood Thrushes echoing throughout the trees.



**Legend**

-  Trail
-  Access Address Number
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Road
-  Railway
-  Watercourse
-  Waterbody
-  Regional Forest Area
-  Wooded Area



## Benefits of the natural environment



Enhanced air and water quality



Reduced flooding risks



Opportunities to be physically active in nature



Healthy and sustainable communities



Improved mental health outcomes



A legacy for future generations



Climate change mitigation



Habitat for wildlife

## Forest education programs

York Region offers a number of outdoor education programs designed for clubs, community groups and schools to connect with nature and inspire action.

**Learning begins in the York Regional Forest, discover more at [york.ca/OutdoorEducation](http://york.ca/OutdoorEducation)**

## Guided walks and events

### Take a walk in the Forest

Enjoy free, monthly guided walks in the York Regional Forest to learn about our Forests, wildlife, plants and more.

### Plant a tree for the future

Tree-planting events occur annually and are an opportunity to leave a legacy in our York Regional Forest.

### Forest festivals

Celebrate the changing seasons and fall colours at York Region's annual National Forest Week Festival. Explore the York Regional Forest and learn from our passionate partners.

**Learn more about upcoming events and activities by visiting [york.ca/ForestEvents](http://york.ca/ForestEvents)**



## York Region Greening Strategy

A blueprint for on-the-ground action, York Region's Greening Strategy creates and maintains healthy natural environments that foster sustainable communities now and for the future. It outlines programs and activities such as tree planting, stewardship, education and conserving natural lands with a focus on partnering with local organizations and residents through the following action areas:

- Environmental Land Protection and Preservation
- Community Stewardship and Education
- Enhancement and Rehabilitation
- Innovation and Knowledge



### Ways you can get involved:

#### Create a sustainable York Region

Planting a tree on your property can improve property value, reduce stress and improve health and creativity. Whether you want to plant your own trees or have us do the planting for you, there are low-cost tree planting programs available for every size property in York Region.

#### Fall in love with your property again

Planting a tree in your community is a great way to sustain and strengthen these spaces. York Region works with many partners to support opportunities for residents to green their communities.

Learn more at [york.ca/TreePlanting](https://www.york.ca/TreePlanting)



## Protecting our shared legacy

The York Regional Forest, established in 1924, represents a collaborative effort by the Ontario government and County/Regional governments to help restore cleared, eroded and sandy farmlands into areas rich in healthy soil, supporting native trees and plants. Through sustainable forest management, pine plantations enabled this land to be transformed into the forests we see today.

Active management is a cornerstone of our approach, ensuring the York Regional Forest's health, protection of wildlife and user enjoyment. To maintain forest health, new trees are planted and older trees are removed to promote the growth of young trees. This practice, called silvicultural management, ensures the Forest will continue to grow and evolve into a diverse ecosystem.

The York Regional Forest is the first public forest in Canada to be Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certified, a milestone achieved on March 1, 2000. To receive this certification, a forest must be managed according to specific principles and meet criteria for responsible forest management. York Region is internationally recognized as a leader in site-restoration and responsible forest management.

**Learn more about the York Regional Forest by visiting [york.ca/YRF](http://york.ca/YRF)**





## York Regional Forest Advisory Team

Formed in 1994, the York Regional Forest Advisory Team is a collaborative group representing various forest users. The team has provided valuable input into the development of the 20-year Forest Management Plan. Members include representatives from recreational user groups, government agencies and naturalists.



The Advisory Team remains actively involved in guiding the management and maintenance of the Forest. Members also support ways to accommodate multiple user groups and increasing public awareness about the York Regional Forest.

## Adventure Challenge

In 2024 we celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the York Regional Forest, and we're excited to keep the momentum going with our special Adventure Challenge. This guide will help you discover the unique facts and features of each York Regional Forest tract. Visit any York Regional Forest event this year to collect a commemorative 100-year celebration sticker set. Use these stickers along with the forest tract information pages in this guide to track and celebrate your visits.

**Take a look back at our 100-year celebrations by visiting [york.ca/Forest100](http://york.ca/Forest100)**



A photograph of a person walking on a dirt path through a dense forest of tall, thin trees with vibrant green foliage. The path leads into the distance, and the person is seen from behind, walking away from the camera. The overall scene is bright and natural.

**The York Regional Forest  
is a legacy for current and  
future generations to enjoy.**

**FORESTRY**

1-877-464-9675

TTY 1-866-512-6228

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

MAY 2025

The logo for York Region, featuring a stylized white star or asterisk shape above the text "York Region".

**York Region**