

## Experience parks and trails

# green spaces, parks and trails

One of the many reasons residents and visitors alike think Oakville is so special, is the amount of care and attention that goes into the town's parks and green spaces. The beauty of the parklands is the respect they are given by the people of Oakville. These spaces are open to all of us, and everyone is encouraged to experience the tranquility and serenity they offer.

With more than 1300 hectares of natural parklands, 120 kilometers of trails & natural creeks, 17 kilometers of waterfront and a wonderful array of golf course gems, it's no surprise that Oakville has gained such a positive reputation for its green spaces. Long-time residents and newcomers alike often site these parks as one of the most important reasons that they came to Oakville in the first place. Safe and prosperous, these are the areas perfect for picnics, walking, and children.

Coronation Park offers a relaxing environment for the whole family. Plan a picnic near the waterfront while the children play in Coronation's Splash Pad and jungle gym. Many Splash pads have surfaced in Oakville, including Millbank Park, Heritage Way Park, Wynten Park, Pine Glen Park and more.

Parks are not just for the people. Treat your dog to one of the many leash free parks located in Oakville. Equipped with gates and fences, enjoy these fully licensed areas with your canine and let them roam free in parks such as Glenashton Park, Post Park, Kingsford Gardens, North Park, and Shell Park. Not only does Shell Park have a leash free area, it also has a BMX Skateboard Park. Equipped with ramps and poles to grind, Shell Park has become the one of the most popular spots for teenagers.

Meanwhile, Crawford Lake continues to offer the chance for you and your children to discover history and explore the 15th century Iroquoian Village that has been reconstructed on its original site.



Already blessed with two thriving harbours, the town has steadily added to its natural attractions by creating the popular Oakville Heritage Trails system. The aim of the project is to join together Oakville's four compass points by linking the town's three major north-south ravines with the Waterfront and Larry Cain Trails along with trails previously established in the north.

Linking Oakville's harbours, lake-front and heritage districts, the system features information stations and signage so that all those who avail themselves of the trails can learn more about the area's history (aboriginal settlements, mills, etc.) and its natural wonders.

Ideally, the trails will act as an unbroken connection between north and south Oakville which had been

split in two by the QEW and rail tracks.

More than 100 kilometres of smaller existing neighbourhood trails will connect to the overall network.

The Heritage Trails Project is a partnership between the Community Foundation of Oakville (CFO), which initiated the effort, the CFO Trails Committee, which will finance the initiative, and the Oakville 2000 Millennium Committee. The Town will maintain the trails in perpetuity.

The 8.5-km 16 Mile Creek Trail, for example, runs through the centre of Oakville from either side of Oakville Harbour to Dundas Street at Lions Valley Park.

Joshua's Creek Trail, located in the east end of Oakville, is six kilometres long and travels from the base of Winston Churchill Boulevard to the Dundas Street and Ninth Line area.

The 12-km Crosstown Trail is located along the Natural Gas Pipeline from Bronte Creek Provincial Park to the 16 Mile Creek Valley and from the east bank of the 16 Mile Creek to Ninth Line.

Bronte Creek Trail, located in the west end of town, runs for 6.5 kms from Bronte harbour to the northern tip of Bronte Creek Provincial Park.

The trails feed the mind as well as the senses through special information stations, such as the First Nations kiosk located at the corner of Randall and Thomas Streets overlooking the creek flats where the Mississauga grew corn before the arrival of Europeans.

The Harbour Heritage station can be found on the west flats of the 16 Mile Creek below the Lakeshore Bridge. It explains how the harbour was developed at the creek mouth after 1827 and how it prospered until the railway arrived in 1855.

For more information, visit the Oakville Heritage Trails Web site at [www.oakvilletrails.com](http://www.oakvilletrails.com).

With so much opportunity within the parks and trails of Oakville, you'll always have room to do the things you love in the town you love.