

## Hendrie Valley



Part of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve  
Links to the Bruce and Waterfront trails



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### Hours

- RBG Centre – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (680 Plains Rd.)
- Trailheads – dawn to dusk. Metered parking at trailhead lots. Parking is free to RBG members (display Members' Parking Pass).
- Arboretum – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. or at dusk, regular admission charges apply during spring bloom festivals.

### Membership – Passport to Paradise

Membership is one of many ways to support RBG's sanctuaries. Nearly half of the operational funding of the Gardens is raised through memberships, donations and admissions. How much is a nature sanctuary in your backyard worth to you?

Charitable registration #133500850 RR 0001

A private landowning agency providing public access to the environment.

RBG Centre, 680 Plains Road West, Hamilton/Burlington  
905-527-1158 • www.rbg.ca

### ALSO IN THIS MAP SERIES:

- Cootes Paradise
- Escarpment Properties



### Hendrie Valley Sanctuary

The 100-hectare sanctuary is centred on the Grindstone Creek Valley. The area features forested slopes with towering trees, a 60-hectare river-mouth marsh complex and four creeks. Transferred to the Gardens in 1941 for ecological protection, it stretches to the end of Carroll's Bay and contains the finest collection of floodplain wetlands on western Lake Ontario.

#### MAJOR ACCESS POINTS

##### RBG Centre

RBG Centre features an interactive display of the properties, Mediterranean Garden, meeting rooms, a restaurant and the administration office. Trails are accessed from Hendrie Park by either the Woodland Garden or Kicking Horse Trail.

##### Cherry Hill Gate

This barrier-free access route leads to the Gardens' signature boardwalk perched two metres above the floodplain of Grindstone Creek. This trail links Hendrie Park and Laking Garden and provides spectacular views of the valley.

##### Valley Inn and Laking Garden

At the mouth of Grindstone Creek on Spring Gardens Road, this access point is beside Laking Garden and at the lower end of the Grindstone Marsh Trail. Wetland restoration dominates the area with many projects underway. Laking Garden's feature collections include iris, peony and a heritage garden.

#### What's in a Name?

William Hendrie, a Scottish immigrant, purchased land here in the 1870s. In 1931 George Hendrie donated the property to the Hamilton Parks Board as a memorial to William and his brothers. Ten years later the property became part of the Gardens.

#### Early Residents

A number of Native American footpaths and water routes converged in Hendrie Valley and served as links between Burlington Bay and the Iroquois villages on the escarpment. The United Empire Loyalists arrived in the 1790s and expanded these transportation routes into Old Guelph Road and Snake Road. Snake Road was once a toll road with the toll house located in the Valley Inn area.

#### Vegetation and Microclimate

Nestled between the Niagara Escarpment and Lake Ontario, the area's flora is characteristic of the more southern deciduous forest region. Carolinian tree species such as oak and hickory dominate the warm slopes, while northern species like hemlock, sugar maple, and white cedar are found in the spring-fed shady ravines.

#### Habitat Restoration

At the inception of Project Paradise in the 1990s practically the entire marshland complex had been destroyed by carp, leaving it a series of shallow muddy ponds. Various small carp barriers and artificially constructed river banks now restrict these invaders, allowing nature to successfully restore the area to a marshland.



### Trail Destinations

#### 1. South Pasture Swamp

An oasis for endangered species, this spring-fed oxbow pond is home to beaver, muskrat, Virginia rail and wood duck. Under Project Paradise, work to restore this site was initiated in 1994.

#### 2. Grindstone Creek

With three pedestrian bridge crossings and a creek-side trail, the valley provides an intimate connection with the creek. Seasonal fish spawning runs include herring and spottail shiner in the spring and salmon in the fall.

#### 3. Snowberry Island

Halfway along the Grindstone Marsh Boardwalk, Snowberry Island sits five metres high in the floodplain. Named after a species of plant that grows there, the island is a block of uneroded creek valley soil called a knoll.

#### 4. Grindstone Creek Delta

Located at Valley Inn trailhead, it's both the site of an ambitious restoration project and stop-over point for migratory waterfowl. More than 100,000 Christmas trees form the restored foundation for the river banks of Grindstone Creek and protect the marsh areas by preventing carp from entering.



#### 5. Valley Inn Hotel

Built in 1820s on the eastern shore of Burlington Heights and standing until 1959, the hotel was a rest spot at the crossroads of the former Desjardins Canal and Hwy 2. The routes are now severed by the rail line and Hwy 403, but a section of road remains on the Grindstone Marsh Trail.

### Valley Flowers



#### Skunk cabbage

(*Symplocarpus foetidus*)

The first native flower of spring, it appears in March. Found in wet seeps and around wetlands. The flower's unpleasant smell attracts beetle species to pollinate it.



#### Early saxifrage

(*Saxifraga virginiensis*)

Look for this small spring-flowering species along trail-side slopes. It has clusters of terminal white flowers with small egg-shaped leaves at the base of the plant.



#### White waterlily

(*Nymphaea odorata*)

This fragrant flower and wetland icon has returned to the valley ponds. Its revitalization is a result of the wetland restoration program, Project Paradise. It's also a PlantWatch species.



#### Blue-stemmed goldenrod

(*Solidago caesia*)

A late-summer flowering forest plant, named for its bluish stem. This two-foot tall goldenrod is one of eight species of goldenrod found on the property.



### Royal Botanical Gardens

#### Mission

To be a living museum which serves local, regional and global communities while developing and promoting public understanding of the relationship between the plant world, humanity and the rest of nature.

#### Vision

Royal Botanical Gardens is to be recognized and supported as Canada's most effective change agent in promoting environmentally appropriate lifestyle choices that enable Canadians to sustain, conserve and enjoy the highest quality of life on Earth.

#### Canada's Biodiversity Hot Spot

Royal Botanical Gardens' 900 hectares is dominated by nature sanctuaries enveloping the western end of Lake Ontario. These form a Nodal Park within the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO). With more than 750 native plant species, 277 types of migratory birds, 37 mammal species, 14 reptile species, 9 amphibian species and 68 species of Lake Ontario fish, the area is an important contributor to ecosystems that span international borders.

### Trail Conditions

The 27 kilometres of trail includes packed earth, crushed stone, asphalt and boardwalks; some sections are steep and hilly. Ice build-up on hills during winter can make trails slippery. During spring thaws and after rains earthen trails become muddy.

#### LIABILITY

Royal Botanical Gardens assumes no responsibility for loss of or damage to property, personal injury or mishap. All activities are at the risk of the participant. Our parking lots are not monitored. Do not leave any valuables in your car.

### Volunteer

#### TrailWatchers

Join our volunteer trail monitors and help us inform fellow visitors about our trail code, work on trail projects and learn more about the local environment. For more information pick up a TrailWatcher brochure or call Royal Botanical Gardens Auxiliary office at 905-577-7771.

#### PlantWatch

Join a national volunteer effort to help monitor our changing climate. The PlantWatch program enables *citizen scientists* to get involved by recording flowering times and reporting these dates to researchers. Visit [www.plantwatch.ca](http://www.plantwatch.ca) for details.

### Learn More

Guided educational outings are offered year-round. Seasonal programs include everything from spring wildflower walks to stories of the Escarpment. For information call 905-527-1158, ext. 270. External groups **charging** for independently guided tours must register with the Gardens.

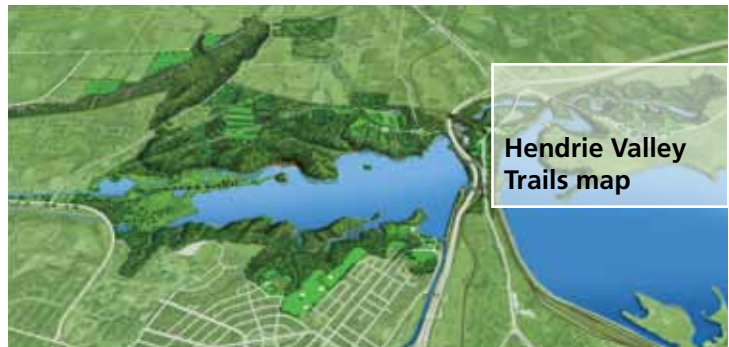
# Hendrie Valley Trails

4.5 km of trail, 5 lookouts  
2 boardwalks, 5 creek crossings



## MAP KEY

- |  |                     |  |   |
|--|---------------------|--|---|
|  | RBG Properties      |  | Waterfront Trail  |
|  | Roads               |  | Washrooms   |
|  | Rail Lines          |  | Wheelchair Access   |
|  | Wide, Open Trails   |  | Trail Heads   |
|  | Narrow, Dirt Trails |  | Parking   |
|  | Lookout             |  | Pay and Display Parking<br>(free for RBG members displaying valid pass) |
|  | Canoe Launch        |  |   |
|  | Boardwalks          |  |   |



## Trail Code

These lands are Canada's biodiversity hot spot, open to **passive recreation** — leave only footprints, take only pictures. Restrictions (per RBG's bylaws):

- Pets must remain leashed at all times
- Runners are not permitted
- Bicycles are not permitted
- Motorized vehicles are not permitted
- Feeding the wildlife is not permitted

Garbage receptacles located at trailheads.

## Special Protection Areas

Though the property spans more than 900 hectares, urban encroachment has left few true sanctuaries for sensitive species. To ensure that all species have an opportunity to thrive, 20 per cent of the property is set aside as Special Protection Areas (SPA) closed to the public. There are observation points and interpretive signage adjacent to the SPAs to help visitors understand the significance of these unique spaces.

