

The Canadian Wildflower Society

presents their fourth Toronto

WILDFLOWER GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, May 14, 1995

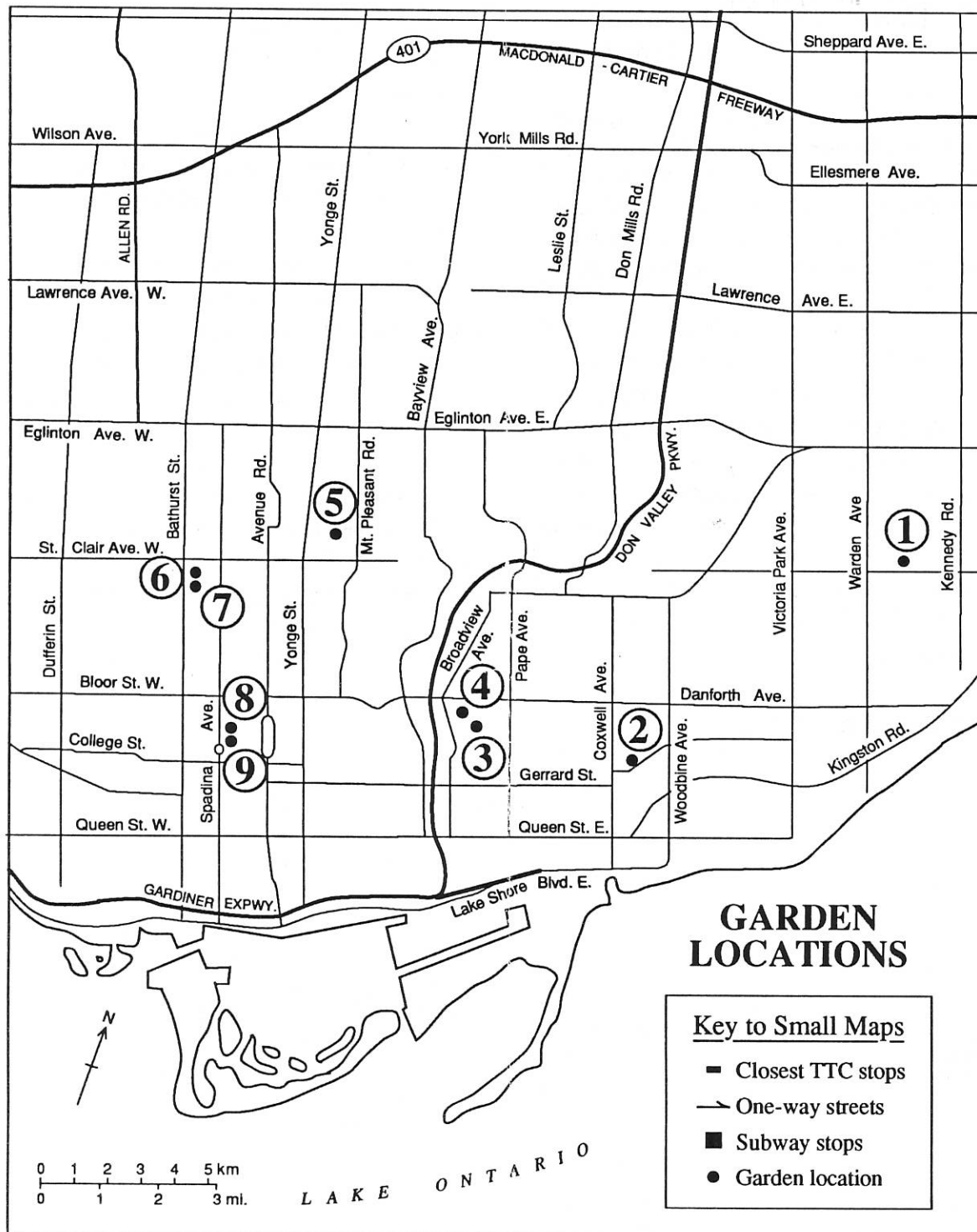
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



THIS IS YOUR TICKET AND YOUR GUIDE. There are nine gardens on the tour, seven private and two public. All are described briefly here, with maps to help you locate them. You may visit some or all of them, at your own convenience, in any order you wish. As you will see, some are too small to accommodate large numbers of people. Some have limited parking. Don't let this put you off, as some of the smallest are real gems! But please be patient and follow any requests made by the owners who have so generously opened up their gardens to us.

Enjoy your day!

For more information, phone Carolyn King (416)222-5736 before May 14



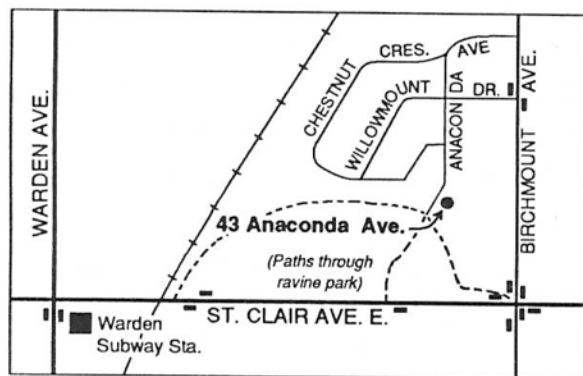
1 43 Anaconda Ave.

When Paul McGaw decided his front lawn was boring and stopped mowing it, he was rewarded by a delightful collection of wildflowers that found their way in to create a natural meadow. He had been moving in wild plants since he moved in in 1985, creating and expanding beds to accommodate them. Garden bulbs and interesting exotics share the beds with pasqueflower and Virginia bluebells. Native plants in the rock garden include mountain avens, bear berry, prairie smoke, early saxifrage and three kinds of cacti. A small but growing Prairie garden will have mid-summer colour from cup-plant, ironweed, coreopsis, fireweed and purple giant hyssop, among others.

Along the carport a shady moss bed is home to five kinds of fern, yellow violets, trilliums, starry false solomon's seal, jack-in-the-pulpit and mayapple.

The long back yard has mixed borders and beds in semi-shade, a naturally wet area with wild flags and globe flower, and three shady areas of many woodland plants. These include wild ginger, rue anemone, foam flower, both early and tall meadow rue, yellow ladyslipper, wood betony, wild geranium, bellwort and barren strawberry.

An avid plant collector, Paul is constantly adding flora both exotic and familiar. His native plants now number over 130 species, including six native vines.



2 1694 Gerrard St.

Thrushes and other shy forest birds often drop in to Kathy Brooks' ravine-side lot. They seem quite at home, as are the many wild plants that have been brought to live there. Native flora often respond to the greater space, more water and loving care in a garden home with lush growth and a wealth of flowers. In Kathy's garden a stag-horn sumac grows by leaps and bounds, Christmas fern is twice the size it was in the woods, and wild columbine bears a mass of blooms never seen in the wild.

On the right-hand side, Kathy has an "English traditional" bed, complemented by wild species such as bergamot and wild blue phlox.

On the left side, her wildflower bed has mostly native flora – wild bleeding heart, trillium, wild ginger, maiden-hair fern, Virginia bluebell, wood poppy and many others.



Limited street parking.

3 46 Hampton Ave.

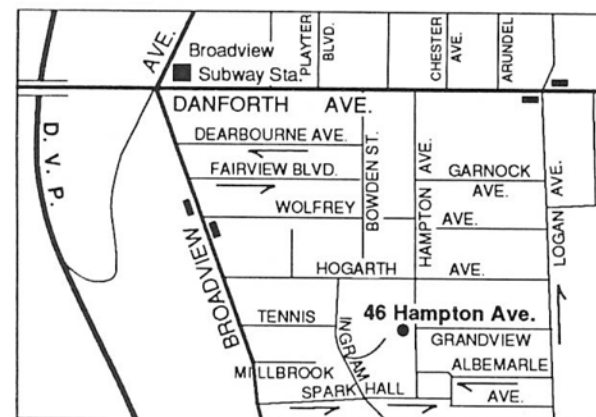
When Brent Knazan arrives home from work, he steps from the pavement of the back alley up a "stairway" crossing sections into the little patch of woodland he and Nancy Goodman share in the heart of the city.

The view you will have when you walk in from Hampton Avenue is no less amazing. From an ordinary front yard you pass through a narrow passageway to the left of the house into what is more a wilderness experience than a garden. Only 20 feet wide and strongly sloping, it is the perfect site for the brook that makes its way down the hill and charms us with its music. The pathways are a collection of log rounds cleverly arranged to allow you to see all parts of the property without disturbing the plants.

Partly shaded, the garden has a mixture of sun and shade plants, almost all native. Particularly interesting are blueberry, orange hawkweed, pussytoes, bearberry, fringed polygala, grey goldenrod, bracken, sweetfern, and a mass of stream-loving jewelweed. The feeling of wilderness is enhanced by white pine, hemlock, white birch, serviceberry, white cedar and sumac.

Terry Fahey, who designed and created this remarkable place in only four years, will be glad to answer any of your questions.

Please stay on the "pathways."



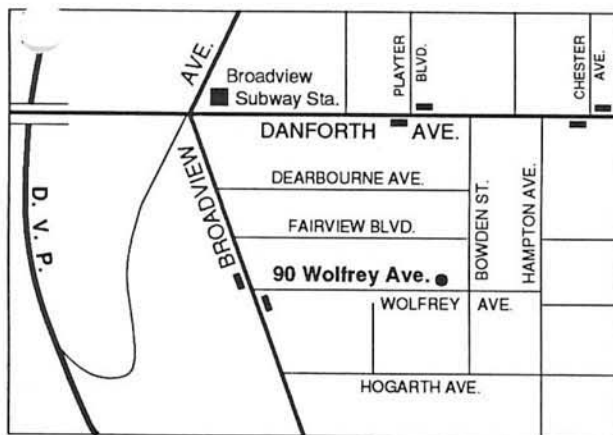
4 90 Wolfrey Ave.

While most wildflower gardeners mix native plants and those with cultivated ones, and few go farther than creating separate wild habitat areas, Jim Hodgins has gone all the way, eliminating all non-native plants. And although it is very small, his garden holds an amazing number of species.

As well as two native cactus species, the front garden has prairie buttercup, false Solomon's seal and great lobelia under a canopy of hobblebush and dwarf chinquapin oak.

In the "bio-regional woodland" in the back, under an umbrella of leatherwood, junberry and chokeberry, we find areas of wood poppies and red and white trilliums. Jim has selected and arranged his plants for the esthetic pleasure of the shape, form and texture of their foliage, to provide beauty all year-round. Among the many interesting species here, kidneyleaf buttercup, yellow mandarin, twinleaf, six native sedges and ten varieties of ferns are to be found.

Jim's garden was featured on Rogers' TV programme "City Gardening."



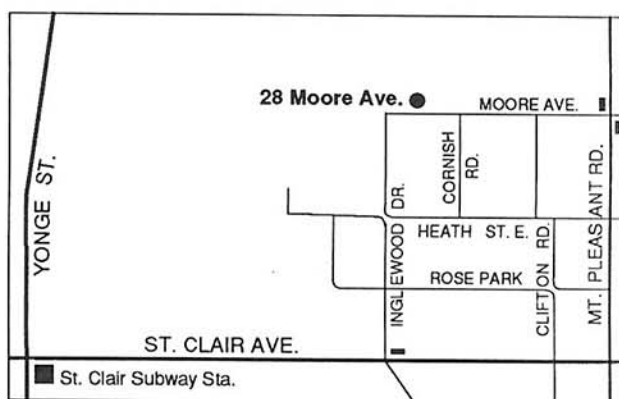
Limited street parking.

5 28 Moore Ave.

In early spring of 1987, Norma and Bob Lounsbury began restoring their backyard into a circa 1650 pre-settlement woodland. Where lawn and garden borders once lay under the tall trees, a host of woodland flowers now grow in the leaf carpet, a tiny lily pond is bordered by cattails and bog plants. Hundreds of trilliums, both red and white, wild ginger, foam flower, bellwort, bloodroot and jack-in-the-pulpit abound. There are a number of interesting native shrubs, ferns and sedges, and we may see small yellow ladyslippers and nesting chickadees.

Last summer, Norma and Bob got rid of the last of the lawn in front of their house. With a mixture of sun and shade, this area now has many wild plants – wood poppy, trillium, globe flower, shooting star and barren strawberry, native shrubs like leatherwood and hobblebush, as well as late bloomers such as thin-leaved coneflower, prickly pear, and New England aster.

This garden was featured on the TV programmes "City Gardening" and "Common Ground."

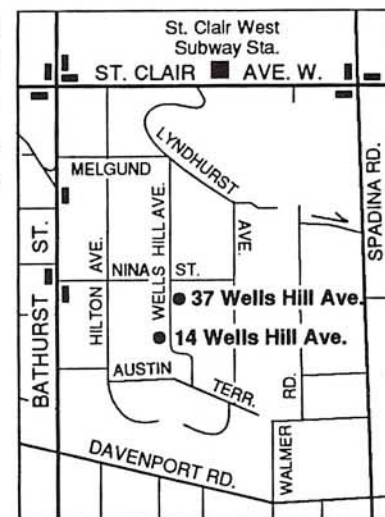


Limited street parking.

6 37 Wells Hill Ave.

Victor Feodorov loves to show people his garden. It is a perfect expression of his love of plants, but particularly of his "conversion" to native plants and the success of his natural mulching methods.

The front garden bed has only a few native species, mixed with the bulbs, but the back yard has undergone a transformation. Many of the elements of a conventional garden remain, but over the last five years, Victor has brought in a lot of sand and many rocks to create a more natural environment. Beyond the ornamental pond, he has made homes for wild plants based on the habitats they prefer in the wild, and has had remarkable success. Among the many North American species, the more unusual include yellow lady's slipper, camassia, starflower, Labrador and bird's foot violets, spring beauty, blue cohosh, twisted stalk, wintergreen, partridgeberry, shinleaf and rattlesnake plantain. Many of these form colonies or migrate to different parts of the garden, multiplying happily in the rich leaf mulch under a towering red oak. Many are sheltered by native shrubs such as nannyberry, witch hazel, serviceberry and also by young hemlocks.



Limited street parking.

7

14 Wells Hill Ave.

People often think that to begin a wildflower garden it is necessary to dig everything up and start over. Although you may prefer to create your own piece of woodland or prairie, you don't have to give up all your roses and rhododendrons. Under Victor Feodorov's care, Barbara Baker's delightful garden is undergoing a gradual change. A number of non-native shrubs and some perennials and roses remain, but native species are continually being added or replacing the exotics.

In the front, hemlock and flowering dogwood add a native touch. Wild ginger hugs the ground in the bed bordering the driveway.

The back garden attracts many birds, with hemlock, witch hazel and Oregon grape, and Carolinian species such as redbud, oakleaf hydrangea and blue ash added to the more traditional plantings. A small bed under a window holds pasqueflower, white trilliums and shooting star. A sunny bed will be blooming later with purple coneflower, black-eyed Susan, gaillardia and wild lupines. Elsewhere among the beds, false solomons seal, hepatica, ginseng, herb robert and several species of ferns live happily, nourished only by homemade leaf and pig mulch.

Barbara may not be available all day, but a knowledgeable volunteer from the Wildflower society will be on hand to help out.

For location, see map on left.

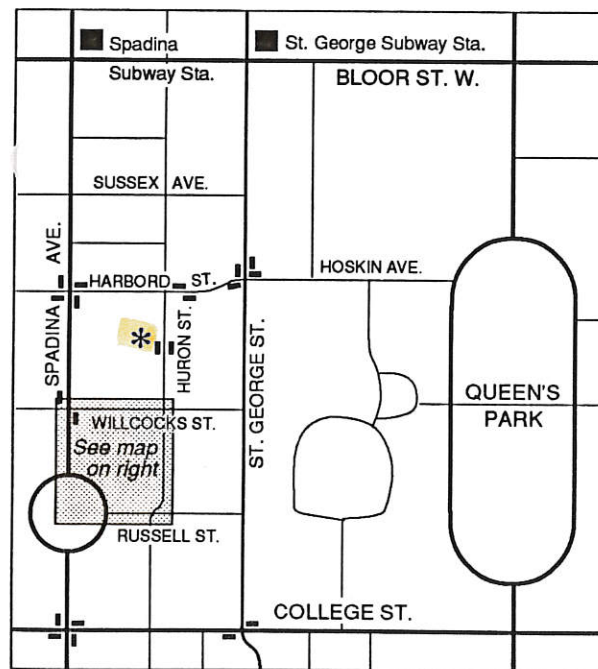
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Boreal Forest Eco-garden
Earth Sciences Centre, U of T

The eco-garden attempts to restore a natural ecosystem as much as is possible on a given site. The University of Toronto has four different eco-gardens: boreal forest, Carolinian forest, maple-beech forest and oak savanna/prairie. The four eco-gardens at the downtown campus are open all year round, including weekends.

The Boreal coniferous forest is found south of and parallel to the Arctic tundra. Its southern limit is the Canadian Shield with extrusions into the Rocky and Appalachian Mountains. Representative plant species in the Boreal Eco-garden include: Jack-pine, white spruce, paper birch, white pine, tamarack, elderberry, viburnum, shrubby cinquefoil, snowberry, ground juniper, bear berry and bracken fern.

Note the typical granitic rocks of the Canadian Shield. These were often transported southward by glaciers for hundreds of kilometres.



9

Carolinian Forest Eco-garden
Earth Sciences Centre, U of T

In Ontario, the deciduous or Carolinian forest extends southward from an imaginary line running from approximately Grand Bend to Hamilton. This forest type with its variations continues southward into the Gulf states.

Here you will observe such trees as: sycamore, tulip tree, Kentucky coffee tree, basswood, red maple and redbud. Shrubs found here are: witch-hazel, Juneberry, pagoda dogwood, American hazel and raspberry.

The limestone slabs bordering the walkway are typical of the outcrops of the Niagara Escarpment in Carolinian Ontario.

Volunteers from the Canadian Wildflower Society will be at the Boreal Forest and Carolinian Forest gardens. The Oak Savanna/Prairie garden is under restoration, but you might like to visit the Maple/Beech Forest garden one block north on your own. The location is indicated by an asterisk * on the left hand map.

