

Bronte Creek Provincial Park

Old-growth Forest Walks in Ontario's Greenbelt

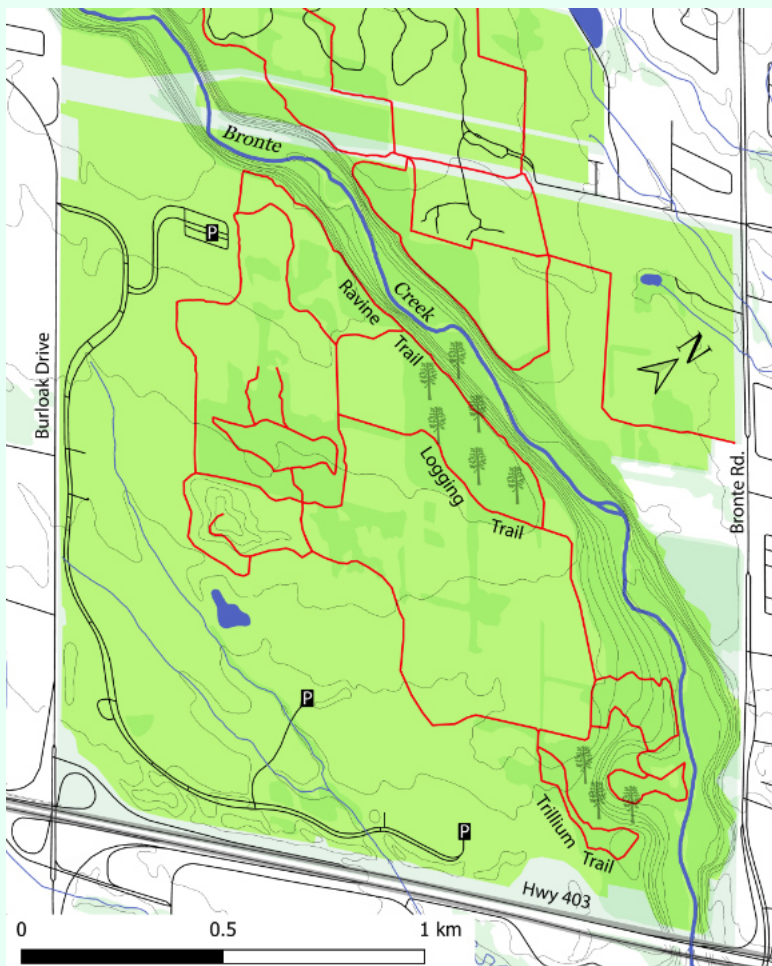
This large urban park features a spectacular 50 metre deep ravine, with dwarfed 240-year-old hemlocks on the ravine slopes and an old-growth hardwood forest with impressive maple and beech trees. The park is particularly beautiful in the spring when the trilliums are blooming and the fall when the colours are changing. Plan to walk both the Ravine Trail and the Trillium Trail.

How to get there

By car: The Park entrance is 1.6 kilometres north-west of Hwy 401 on Burloak Drive, in Oakville. The trails through old-growth forest can be accessed most easily from Parking Lot A or F.

By bicycle: From Burlington, follow the Waterfront Trail and Centennial Bikeway to Burloak Dr, continue North to the park.

By public transit: From Appleby Go Station take Burlington Transit bus 11 (Sutton- Alton). Get off at the first stop on Sutton Dr, and walk 15-20 minutes to Bronte Creek Provincial Park.



The Bronte Creek watershed was once heavily forested, but by the 1920's it had less than 10 percent forest cover. One family, at least, maintained a small woodlot of maple, oak and beech forest that was never completely cleared. The steep ravine slopes along the creek were also clothed in dense hemlock forest. The larger hemlock trees were cut from the slopes and used to build barns or frame homes, but the smaller hemlocks were left and many of them remain to this day. All of these forests are now protected in Bronte Creek Provincial Park. In both the small woodlot and the adjacent ravine slopes the oldest trees reach around 240 years old, predating settlement of the area by at least 40 years. A walk along the ravine trail is ideal to see both types of old growth forest, and the Trillium Trail offers views into old oak-maple forest on the ravine slope.

Learn more

Henry and Quinby, 2020. *Ontario's old-growth forests, 2nd edition.*

Henry, M., 2022 (expected publication). *Old-growth forest walks in Ontario's Greenbelt. Watch for the book in 2022.*

www.oldgrowth.ca

www.ancientforest.org