



# Paradise Grove and Heritage Oaks

Old-growth Forest Walks in Ontario's Greenbelt

Paradise Grove is an old-growth oak savannah where white, red and bur oak trees reach over 275 years old. A small black gum swamp is also found there. A string of charismatic heritage oaks begins at Paradise Grove and stretches along the Niagara Parkway / Niagara River Recreation Trail. These impressive isolated oaks range in age from 200 to over 320 years old. There are also groves old oaks around McFarland House, just south of East and West Line.

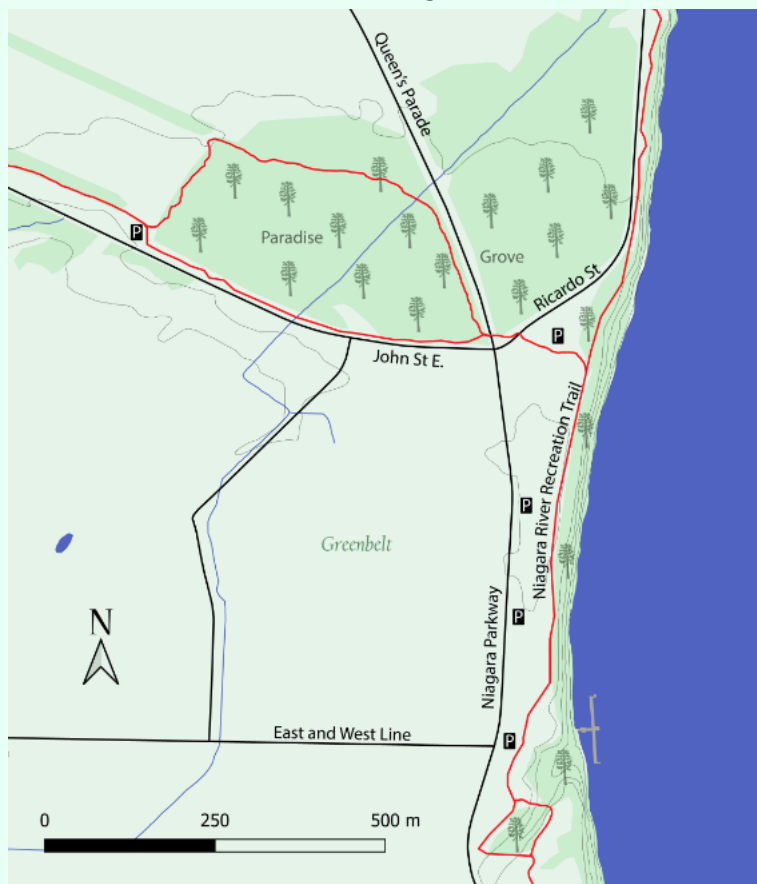


## How to get there

**By car:** Parking is available off of John St, or Ricardo St, in Niagara on the Lake, and along Niagara Parkway.

**By public transit:** You can transfer to Niagara on the Lake Transit at Niagara College Glendale Campus GO stop, near St. Catharines. Use the Community Transport Group / Niagara on the Lake Transit web page to check for your connection. <https://ctgcanada.ca/about/transit/>.

**By bike:** Paradise Grove is located near the beginning of the Niagara River Recreation Trail, a 56 km multi-use trail that parallels the Niagara Parkway. It is only a short bike ride from Niagara on the Lake, or a little over an hour from Niagara Falls.



Fort George was first built in 1796 to defend against American invasion from across the river. At the time, there was a young oak savannah just south of the fort, where white, black, red and bur oak trees reached around 60 years old. Native grasses such as big bluestem, little bluestem and Indian grass were growing beneath the trees. In Paradise Grove today you can walk among many of the same trees that stood there in the war of 1812, but the grassland that once grew in the understory of the oak savannah has vanished from the majority of the forest and been replaced by dense shrubs and invasive Norway Maple trees. A plan is taking form to cut out the invasive species that are choking the understory and implement a regimen of occasional prescribed burns to bring back the native grass species.

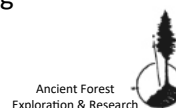
## Learn more

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](http://www.oldgrowth.ca)

[www.ancientforest.org](http://www.ancientforest.org)



Possibility grows here.