



Crothers Woods and E.T. Seton Park

Old-growth Forest Walks in Ontario's Greenbelt

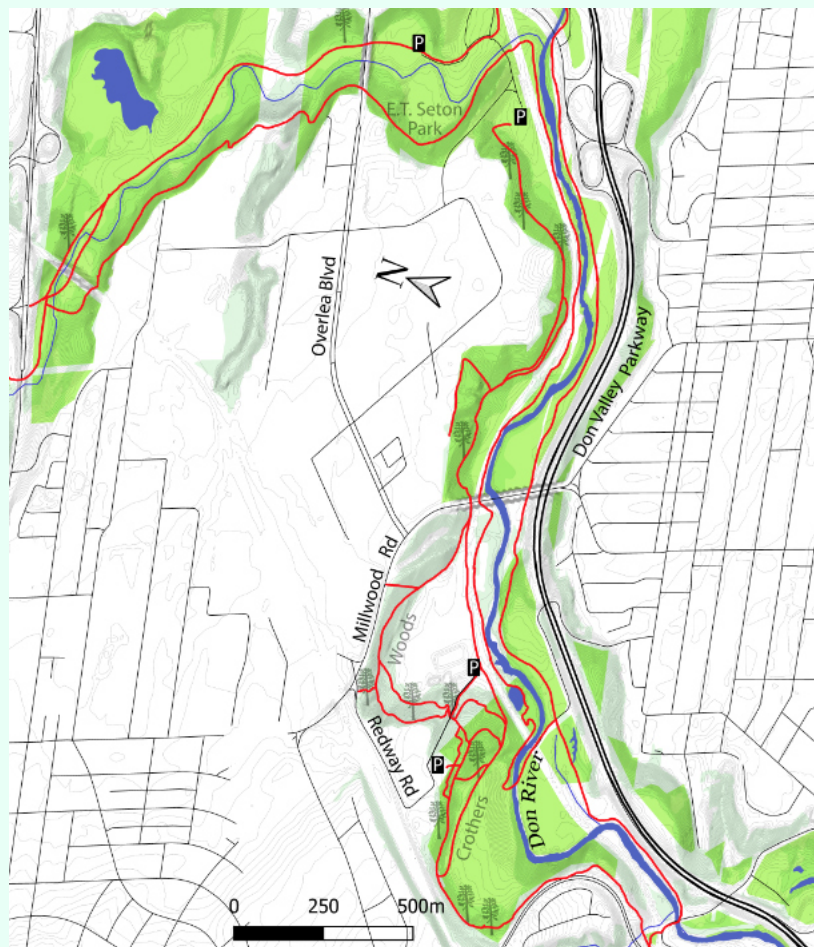
Crothers Woods and nearby E.T. Seton Park boast some of the most intact ravine slopes in the Don Valley, and provide a sense of isolation in the heart of Toronto. You can easily spend a few hours wandering on the network of trails, which can also be used for mountain biking or trail running when the ground is dry. A network of informal mountain bike trails leading east to E.T. Seton Park can double as walking trails to explore old-growth oak forest on the ravine slopes.

How to get there

By car: There is a dirt parking area near the North Toronto Wastewater Treatment Plant, down a laneway from the Loblaws parking at 11 Redway Rd. Another access point is a parking lot in E.T. Seton Park, off Thorncliffe Park Dr. (43.703, -79.338), which accesses informal mountain bike trails east of Crothers Woods.

By public transit: It's a short walk to the forest from TTC stops on Millwood Rd and Thorncliffe Park Dr.

By bike: There's good bike access to both E.T. Seton Park and Crothers Woods from the lower Don River Trail, the West Don Trail, or the Lower Don Recreation Trail.



Crothers Woods was named after a heavy equipment dealership (Crothers Caterpillar) that operated on the site where the Loblaws is now found. Some of the best old-growth forest occurs below the Loblaws and over to the water treatment plant, and there are several trail loops on which to explore. This forest has old oak trees on the upper slopes that likely reach 150-200 years old. Otherwise it is dominated by maple and beech, which are mostly under 150 years old. Bitternut hickory is also a fairly common tree to watch for, and there's a large beautiful butternut in the forest to the south of the Loblaws. Butternut is an endangered tree in Ontario because so many have been killed by butternut canker, an introduced fungus. Seeing an old-growth butternut tree is a rare treat in any forest, particularly on in the heart of Canada's largest city.

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



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