

This Week's Walk by Margeree Edwards

Feb 12, 2021

Jackson Park is a joy! On these pandemic days it is the place to find a quiet retreat, forests to wander in, and a gurgling creek. You can take the same trail every day and always find something new and different.

A Different Take

Most visitors to the park end up on the main trail, the former railroad through the centre. (Some say that the rail line between Peterborough and Lindsay was the first intertown route in Ontario.) It is wonderful that so many people are now discovering the parks but it can sometimes be crowded. and no parking. If you want quiet there are many trails in the park you can explore. Here are a few examples.

Find yourself at the intersection where the TransCanada Trail (Ontario) from downtown crosses Bonaccord Street. On your left is Hamilton Park with many happy children on play equipment and tobogganing down sharp slopes. If you have come by car, there is some parking on the street on Bonaccord.

From Bonaccord, you have two choices. Take the trail on the easy side of the creek (at this point the creek runs south) and you can walk right into Jackson Park by going under the Parkhill bridge. No cars, no hills. Or, you can take the trail on the west side of the creek which will also take you right into the park. The East trail takes you to the 'main' area with the pond (with skating if cold enough), cross country skiing, snowshoeing and many walkers.

Do you know the names of the bridges? The concrete bridge comes first, the next bridge is called First Bridge, followed by Second Bridge and Third Bridge. Both the east and the west trails along the creek take you to the concrete bridge (the main way of getting across the creek) and then on to First Bridge. The trail on the east side is easy, mainly flat, and with people. The trail on the west side is a little more challenging with rocks and roots. In winter the snow gets packed down and it is a relatively easy trail.

After you get to First Bridge, If you are heading back, you may want to try going 'off trail'. From the east end of the bridge (the creek is running to the east) go a few feet on the main trail and follow a track going over the edge to the south. Now you are right in with the trees and rocks and the beauty of the forest. To stay off trail, stay to your right.

To get back on the main trail, look for a path heading up to the main trail. Each time you come to the park you can enjoy a different trail.