

Bayview Village Association

Self-Guided Neighbourhood Walk through the Streets of Bayview Village

Distance: ~ 8 km¹

Time: ~ 2.0 hours¹

Route: This walk explores many of the streets in Bayview Village and some of the significant public buildings, parks and places of interest.

Bayview Village is the area bounded by Finch Avenue to the north, Bayview Avenue to the west, Sheppard Avenue to the south and the East Don River to the east. It began as a small rural farming community in the 1800's. One of this area's first settlers was Thomas Clark, a father of seven children and an influential member of the community. The Clark house, built around 1885, and located at 9 Barberry Place, is the only dwelling that remains from Bayview Village's pioneer days.

The present day Bayview Village neighbourhood was planned in 1954 by a group of developers led by Farlinger Development Ltd. Bayview Village was hailed as "contemporary living in the countryside, at the doorstep of the urban concentration of Metropolitan Toronto." The town planner for Bayview Village was Dr. E. G. Faludi, who also designed the Rexdale, Thorncrest Village, and Humber Valley neighbourhoods in Toronto. Faludi's trademark curvilinear street pattern that follows the natural contours of the land was designed to highlight the natural beauty of this neighbourhood. Bayview Village's novel approach to neighbourhood building combined with affordable house prices, which ranged from \$16,000 to \$40,000, helped make this subdivision an instant success.

A residents association, The Bayview Village Association, was formed in 1956 and by the early 1960's Bayview Village was completely developed.

Start/Finish: Parking lot at **Bayview Village Park**, 2945 Bayview Avenue (north of Sheppard on the east side of Bayview).

The park is about a 5 minute walk north of Bayview subway station and there is free parking at the park.

- By subway: Exit at Bayview Station, east side. Walk north, cross Bayview Mews at the lights and the park is on your right just past Foxwarren Drive.
- By car: the entrance to the park parking lot is on the east side of Bayview Avenue, north of Forwarren Drive and south of Citation Drive.
- There are no public washrooms in the park.

Km¹	Directions	Things to Note
0	From the parking lot in Bayview Village Park, walk north on Bayview Avenue and turn right on the path leading back into the park just north of the tennis courts.	Note the old air raid siren by the tennis courts.
0.3	Follow this path east through the park: turn left at the T-intersection, cross over the wooden bridge and eventually climb the hill to Bayberry Crescent.	The grove of six young oak trees on your left, and the stone-mounted plaque on your right commemorate the Bayview Village Association's 50 th anniversary in 2006.
0.8	Turn right on Bayberry Crescent, continue to Hawksbury Drive; turn right on Hawksbury Drive	The stream which runs through the park continues under Bayberry and eventually joins the East Don River.
1.0	Follow Hawksbury Drive past Hawksbury Park and the Bayview Village Tennis Club to Elkhorn Drive.	On your right, you will pass the Bayview Mews townhouse complex and then the Bayview Village Shopping Centre - built in the 1960s as an open air mall. The Mall has evolved over time, including enclosing the stores and focusing on more high-end independent boutiques.
1.3	Turn left on Elkhorn Drive and walk east to the end then turn left on Whittaker Crescent and follow this street to Burbank Dr.	On the right, you will see three apartment buildings known locally as the Three Sisters and further along, St Gabriel's Church . The original church building was constructed in 1953 in what was then a farmer's field, but was replaced in 2006 with the existing, more environmentally friendly building. On the left you will pass Elkhorn Public school at 10 Elkhorn Drive.
2.0	Turn left on Burbank Dr. and walk north past a ravine path on the right to Citation Drive. Turn left on Citation and continue west up the hill past Bayberry Crescent to Bunty Lane.	Several of the streets in Bayview Village were named after famous racehorses. Citation was the eighth American Triple Crown winner and the first horse in history to win \$1 million dollars. Bunty Lawless was a Canadian Thoroughbred racehorse who in 1951 was voted Canada's "Horse of the Half-Century".
3.0	Turn right on Bunty Lane and continue to Burbank Drive.	On your right is Bayview Middle School which has served the Bayview Village community since 1958. Note the unique plane or sycamore tree near the front door of the school.
3.5	Turn left on Burbank Drive and continue north several blocks to Burleigh Heights Drive.	Burbank Drive is the major street running north/south through Bayview Village. At the south end of Burbank is the Bessarion TTC subway station .
3.8	Turn left on Burleigh Heights Drive and continue to Bayview Avenue.	Across Bayview from Burleigh Heights is the Beth Tikvah Synagogue , founded in 1964.

4.1	Turn right on Bayview Ave. and walk north to the Grand Luxe Banquet Hall at 3125 Bayview Avenue. Walk through the parking lot on the north side of the banquet hall past the All Saints Greek Orthodox Church .	As you walk north on Bayview you'll pass the James Foxway townhouse complex, one of the oldest in the area. All Saints Greek Orthodox Church , founded in 1963, was the third Greek Orthodox Church established in Toronto and the first in the former city of North York.
4.4	At the end of the parking lot, turn left onto Burbank Drive, walk north and take the path at the end which leads to Bayview Ave. On your left as you emerge is the McBride Homestead .	The McBride Homestead at 3167 Bayview Avenue was originally located at the south end of a large triangular lot, but was moved north to its present smaller lot in the 1970s when the north end of Burbank Drive was developed.
4.9	Walk north to Finch Avenue and turn right. Walk east up the hill, crossing Heathview Avenue at a set of traffic lights until you reach Page Avenue.	As you walk up the hill, you will see an entrance to the Newtonbrook Creek ravine on your right which is featured in the BVA nature walk.
5.6	Turn right and continue on Page Avenue; turn left on Woodthrush Court and walk to #10.	The Bridleridge (Ness Farmhouse) at 10 Woodthrush Court was originally a country estate on Page Ave. The Ness Riding Stable which existed well in the 1950s occupied this site before the streets were built. The property also had a large barn and two smaller homes.
6.0	Return to Page Avenue, turn left (south) and walk to Viamede Crescent where you turn left and continue to Restwell Crescent.	On your right you will pass Valliere Place a development of about 21 modern homes. This was originally the site of Page Avenue School, which was demolished in 2014 to make way for this new development.
6.7	Turn right on Restwell Crescent which will lead back to Page Ave. Turn left on Page and continue until it intersects at Forest Grove Drive.	At the south side of the intersection at #43 Forest Grove Drive is Forest Grove United Church , which was built in 1961. The church has been and continues to be the location of many community gatherings.
6.9	Turn right on Forest Grove Dr. and walk west. At Burbank Drive the street name changes to Windham Drive. Continue west on Windham for about 150 m. watching on your left for the entrance path to Bayview Middle School.	Before you reach Burbank, you will pass the north and south entrances to the Newtonbrook Creek ravine, which is featured in the BVA ravine nature walk.
7.6	Take the path behind the school to the end at Bayberry Cres. Turn left and continue on Bayberry past Citation Drive until you reach the Bayview Village Park entrance on your right.	Please stay on the path and not on school property.

8.0	Turn right into the park and follow the path down the hill and through the park back to the parking lot where the walk began.	Optional extension: From Bayview Village Park, walk south on Bayview Avenue to Sheppard Ave. Cross over Sheppard and walk east to Barberry Place. Turn right and walk to the Clark House at #9 Barberry Place. The Clark house, built circa 1885, is the only dwelling that remains from Bayview Village's pioneer days.
-----	---	---

¹ All distances and times are approximate. Distance in kilometers from Bayview Village Park parking lot.

To provide comments on this walk, email: bva@bayvillage.org

Updated: 13 April 2016