

# Town of East Gwillimbury Trails Overview

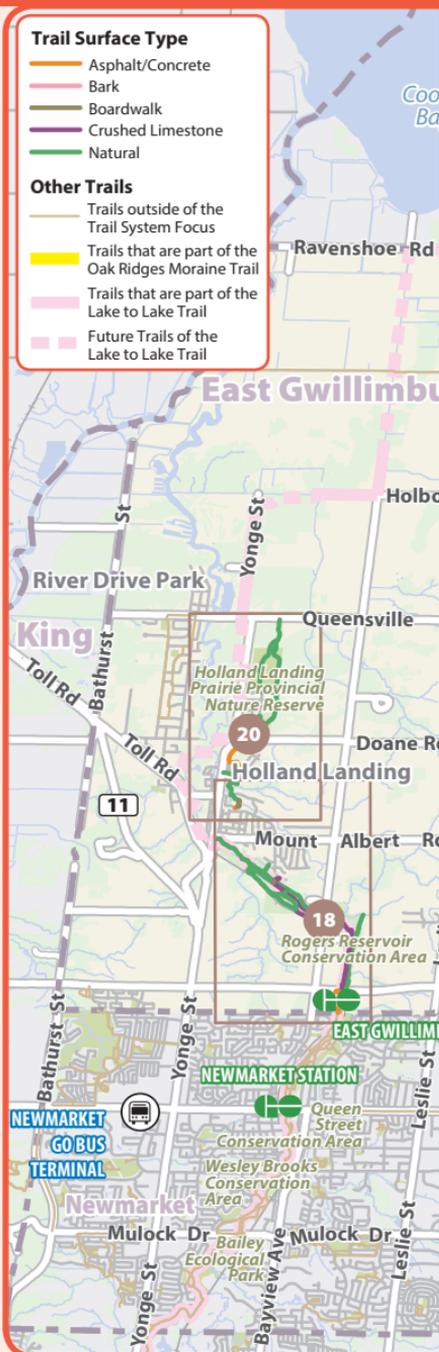


There is much to see and do in East Gwillimbury's rural and natural areas. Enjoy daily nature hikes, get a taste of farm life or take a spirited bike ride along one of many trails.

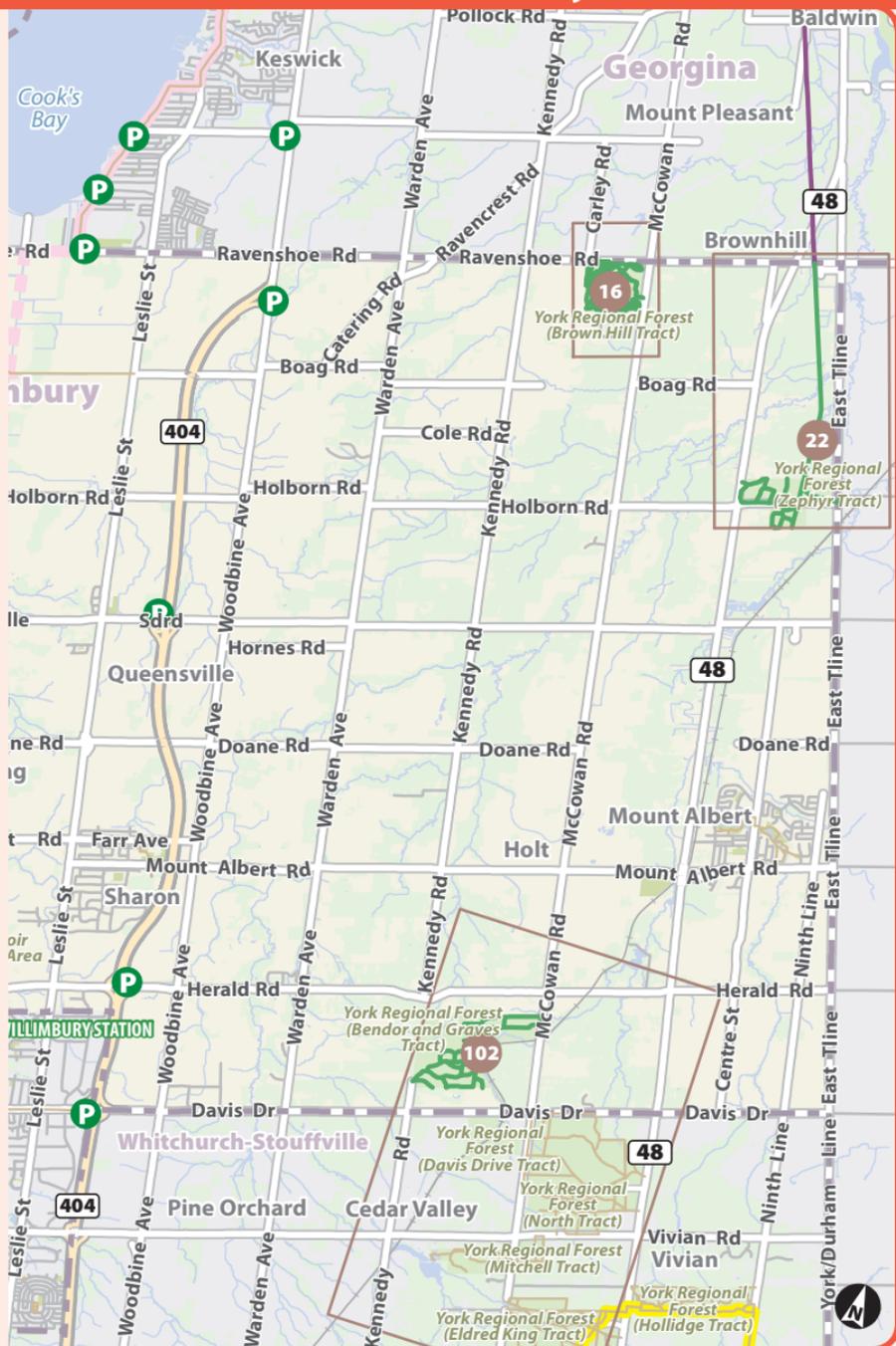
For more information about trails in East Gwillimbury contact:  
The Town of East Gwillimbury  
905-478-4282  
[eastgwillimbury.ca/trails](http://eastgwillimbury.ca/trails)

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# Town of East Gwillimbury Trails Overview



0 2 km - Average walking time 32 minutes



### Be sun safe

Reduce your time in the sun and seek shade, particularly between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. from April to September.

The **Brown Hill Tract** contains an extensive system of trails that provide excellent mountain biking opportunities and is known as one of the best mountain biking destinations in the Greater Toronto Area. York Region works with organizations such as the York Mountain Biking Association to ensure trails are developed in a safe and sustainable manner.



### Have fun in nature

Outdoor play in nature is good for your health. It is a great way to have fun and be active.



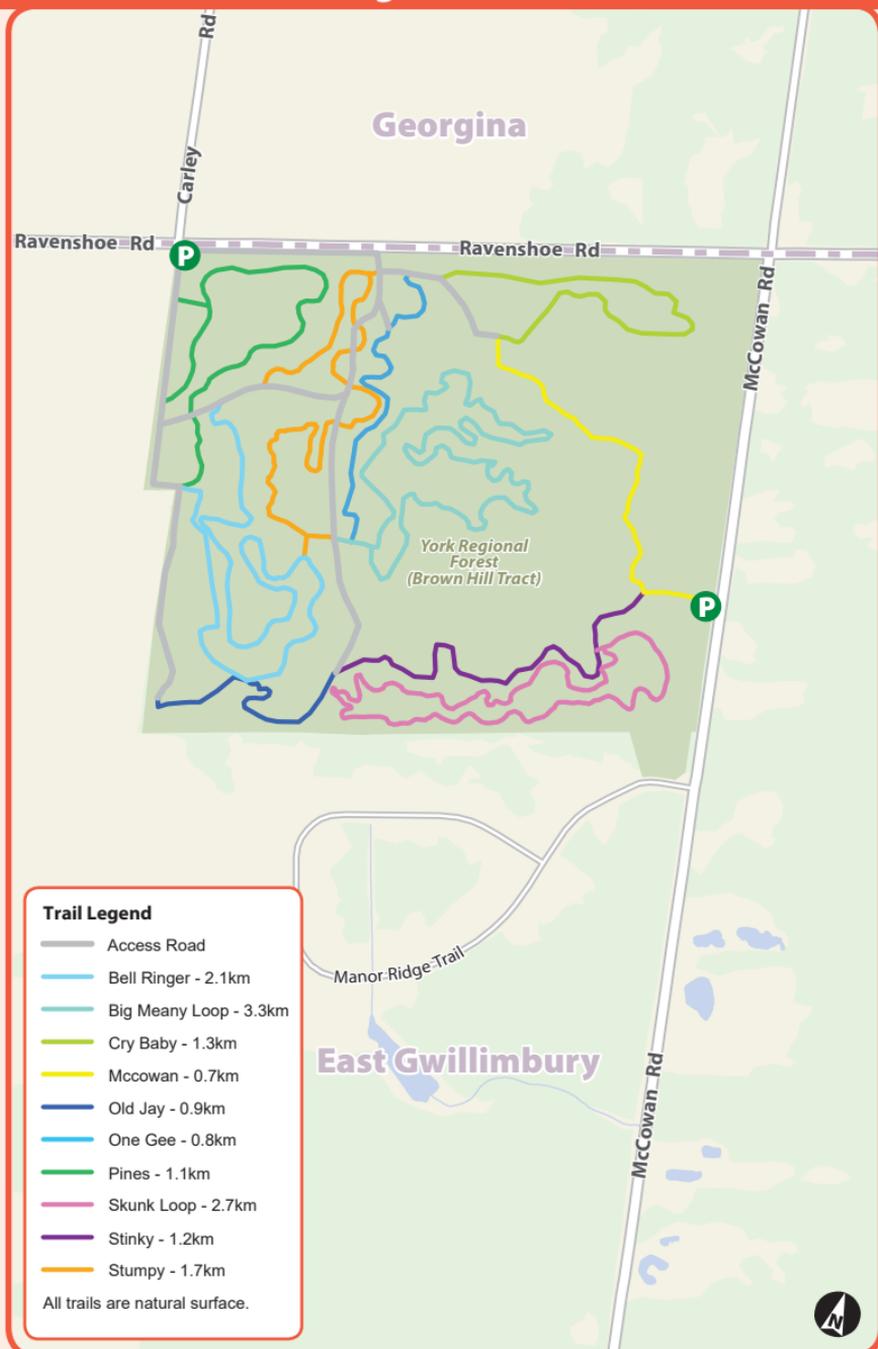
**Trail difficulty:** Easy-Moderate

**Distance:** 16 km

**Access points:** Ravenshoe Road east of Carley Road,  
McCowan Road south of Ravenshoe Road

**For more information:** York Region Forestry  
1-877-464-9675 ext. 73000 [york.ca/forestry](http://york.ca/forestry)

# Town of East Gwillimbury York Regional Forest - Brown Hill Tract





The **Nokiidaa Trail** in East Gwillimbury follows the Holland River through the **Rogers Reservoir Conservation Area**, an 84-hectare area situated along the banks of the East Holland River. It consists of a mix of deciduous forest, pine plantation, wetland and meadow habitats. The most significant built feature of the conservation area is a two kilometre section of the Nokiidaa Trail. The trail provides great vantage points to encounter great blue herons, American coots and sora rails, as well as a variety of other waterfowl and animals.

For history buffs, or the just plain curious, the concrete locks and swing bridge found along the East Holland River are timeless remnants of a 'Ghost' Canal System built and abandoned in the early 1900s - without ever having been used. The Newmarket Canal was initially proposed in 1904 by Sir William Mulock, with a vision to convert the East Holland River into a shipping canal that would provide an alternate transportation route from Aurora to Lake Simcoe and the Trent-Severn Waterway.

### Stay hydrated!

Drink more water in warm weather and when you exercise. Bring a reusable water bottle and add slices of lemon, lime or orange for extra flavour.



**Trail difficulty:** Easy-Moderate

**Distance:** 4.5 km (15 km total trail system)

**Access points:** Main entrances to the conservation area are from Green Lane Road at the south end and Old Yonge Street and Mount Albert Road at the north end, both of which have parking lots. Secondary entrances, without parking lots, are also available from Thomas Sheppard Drive and Holland River Boulevard in Holland Landing

**For more information:** Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority  
905-895-1281 [lsrca.on.ca](http://lsrca.on.ca)

# Town of East Gwillimbury Nokiidaa Trail - East Gwillimbury

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## Trail Surface Type

-  Asphalt/Concrete
-  Bark
-  Boardwalk
-  Crushed Limestone
-  Natural

## Other Trails

-  Trails outside of the Trail System Focus
-  Trails that are part of the Lake to Lake Trail
-  Future Trails of the Lake to Lake Trail



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0 500 m - Average walking time 8 minutes



**Anchor Park** gets its name from the giant anchor on display, which was abandoned near here on its journey to Lake Simcoe when the War of 1812 ended. Anchor Park has several amenities including a picnic shelter, playground and washrooms (open in summer only). There are also sports fields and an adventure bike park.

#### **Simcoe Trail.**

This area was reforested by Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority in the 1960s to reduce erosion of the sandy soils. However in the days before European settlement at least part of this property was a tall grass prairie. Even now, remnant species including bluestem and bergamot can be found along some of the trails.

The **Holland Landing Conservation Area** is set on 9 hectares and can be found immediately adjacent to

the Town-owned Anchor Park. The property is accessible from the north side of Doane Road east of Yonge Street and has a parking lot open most of the year, except in mid-winter. Within the Conservation Area, a network of formal and informal hiking trails wind through both pine plantation and native forest, including a section of the

Managed by Ontario Parks, the **Holland Landing Prairie Provincial Reserve** is located on the deep sand and silt deposits of the former Algonquin Lake plain. This nature reserve protects one of the few remaining remnant patches of tall grass prairie in Ontario. Currently much of the reserve is planted to Red Pine, however future plans include restoring the native prairie ecosystem.

There are no visitor facilities provided and parking is limited to the Cedar Street access point. Visitors are welcome to pursue day-use opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing and nature appreciation, but are asked to respect the sensitive tall grass prairie ecosystem. Camping, motorized vehicles and off-road vehicles are not allowed in this nature reserve.



**Trail difficulty:** Easy-Moderate

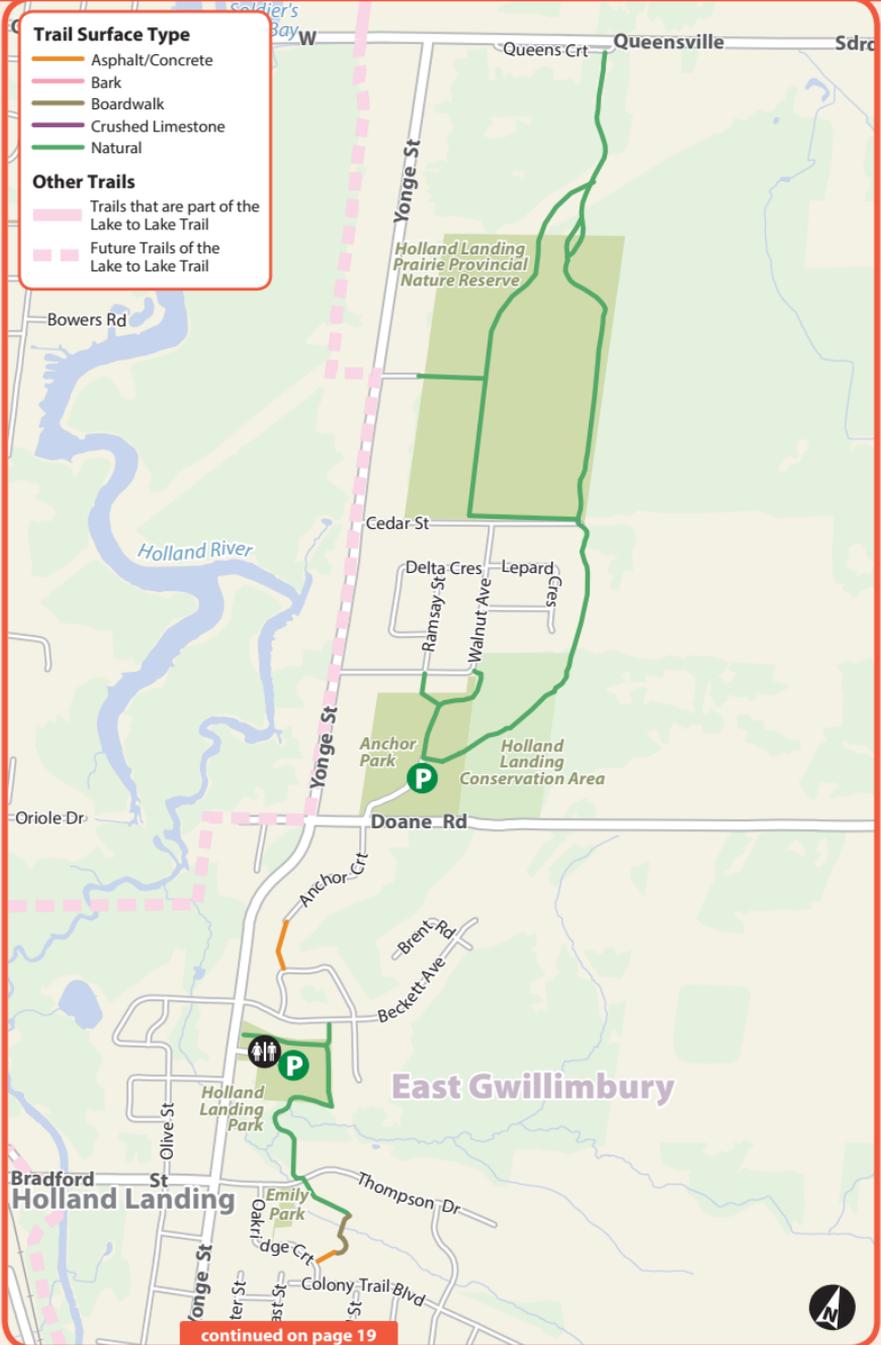
**Distance:** 4 km

**Parking:** Anchor Park, Holland Landing Park

**For more information:** Town of East Gwillimbury

905-478-4282 [eastgwillimbury.ca/trails](http://eastgwillimbury.ca/trails)

Ontario Parks 1-800-668-2746



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Town of East Gwillimbury  
**Sutton-Zephyr Rail Trail**



of this trail's serenity and proximity to water, an abundance of wildlife can be spotted, including deer and small animals. Bordered by a marshland and a forested area, the trail provides a peaceful easy walk in a sparsely populated part of York Region.

The **Sutton-Zephyr Rail Trail's** southern end is in the York Regional Forest Zephyr Tract at Holborn Road.

This now abandoned rail line was originally constructed as part of the Lake Simcoe Junction Railway and over the years became part of the Grand Trunk Railway and was finally taken over by the Canadian National Railway.

The trail begins in a reforested area and heads several metres west before turning north for its remaining four-kilometre stretch to Brown Hill Station Park. As a result

### **Enjoy safe winter fun**

Prevent frostbite and hypothermia during extreme cold weather. Dress in layers with warm, windproof and waterproof clothing and boots. Make sure to cover your head, face, ears, neck, hands and feet by wearing a hat, neck warmer, gloves and socks.



**Trail difficulty:** Easy-Moderate

**Distance:** 5 km (14 km total trail system)

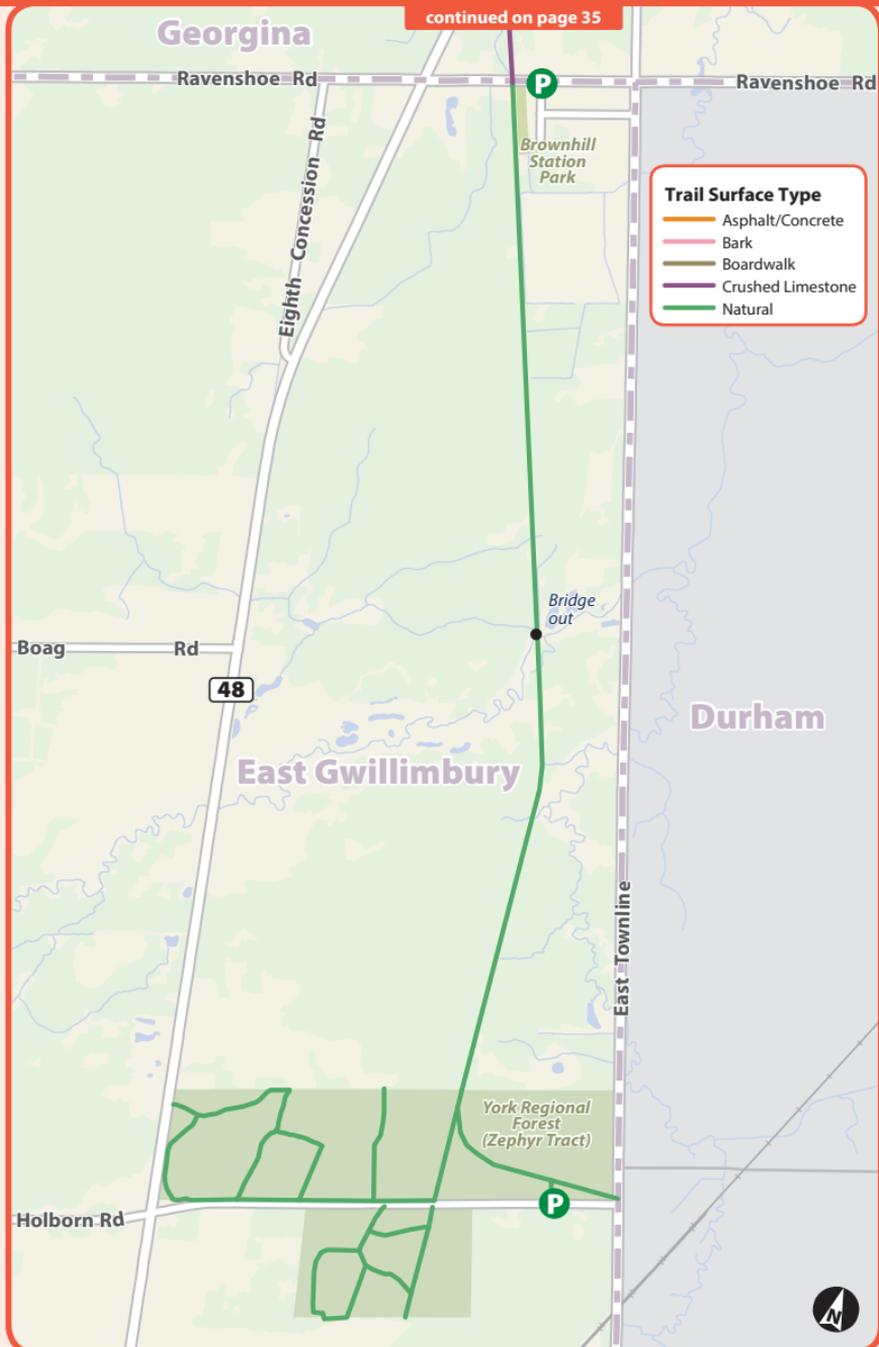
**Access points:** Zephyr Tract (York Regional Forest), east of Highway 48, and the Holborn Road intersection, as well as from Brown Hill Station located off Blake Street in the Community of Brown Hill

**For more information:** Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
1-800-667-1940

or Georgina Trail Riders Snowmobile Club (winter only)

[georginatrailriders.com](http://georginatrailriders.com)

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0 500 m - Average walking time 8 minutes