

MISSISSAUGA'S GARDEN PARK RIVERWOOD

by
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Imagine a riverside park, where during a hike along a rustic boardwalk trail, a heron flies over your head as you come quietly across a white-tailed deer grazing peacefully on a smorgasbord of native plants, while a hare scampers by, disappearing in seconds into a mature and majestic forest.

With over 46 animal species and 359 plant types, you might think you'd have to travel to a South American rain forest in order to experience this. Think again – think about Riverwood Garden Park, located in the heart of the City of Mississauga: 150 acres of land on the east bank of the Credit River, north of Burnhamthorpe Road West, and south of Highway 403.

Since the early 1980s there has been a public garden vision in the City of Mississauga, when the City of Mississauga and the Credit Valley Conservation acquired the Riverwood Garden Park lands. This location was seen as a prime spot to develop a unique site which would incorporate walking trails,

gardens, and historic buildings, while maintaining two-thirds of the site's natural state. The land itself is a complex myriad of woodlands, meadows, regenerating fields on flat tablelands, terraces, and valley slopes.

In addition, the Riverwood site also includes three heritage buildings: Chappell Estate, which was built in 1919. This English Tudor Manor style house was home to W. R. P. Parker, a Toronto lawyer. In 1950 the property was sold to Hyliard and Grace Chappell, and in 1988 the property was sold to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority and acquired later by the City of Mississauga. MacEwan House was the first house built on the Chappel Estate »

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