

## **L03 Terra Double Loop Trail Guide – TorontoHiking.com**

001 - 002 | 0.6 km

The hike continues on from the Walking Fern Trail of Hike L02. Walk on **10th Line** around the curve past some small ponds and on the left a **Main Bruce Trail** white marker indicates the trail heads downhill by a series of steps and crosses a bridge over a creek before heading uphill on a narrow gravel path providing a nice view of the ravine down below on the right. At the Y- intersection the Bruce Trail meets the **Winston Churchill Side Trail** which heads to the right and the main Bruce Trail that goes left (**002**). You can head either way on this loop but we will describe taking the Terra Cotta Side Trail.

002 - 003 | 4.5 km

At (**002**) take the Winston Churchill Side Trail which heads off to the right. Passing a series of ponds on the right, the path re-enters the woods and continues up a gradual incline on the edge of the ravine. Arriving at a wire fence the trail continues along this fence with a sign denoting the park boundary and through a young forest of beech, birch and maple busy with squirrels gathering nuts. At an intersection, take the **Vaughn Trail** which goes straight ahead into the woods. The trail follows a ridge overlooking the deep ravine below to the left and a more gentle slope to the right. A stile crossing over a rusty fence leads into the property of the Peel Board of Education. The trail continues through relatively dense foliage along the edge of the ravine where you can catch a glimpse of **Rogers Creek** below. The trail winds through numerous undulations where many gray squirrels can be seen before coming to a more open areas with beech predominant. The trail then skirts a farmers field. Crossing a rock gully, the trail heads uphill and continues wandering through the woods arriving at a single-sided wooden plank bridge over a creek and into a very rocky area with some very gnarled cedar trees. The trail then heads south along the side of a valley before meeting the western end of the **Caledon Trailway**. It follows the trailway across Winston Churchill Blvd and Isabella St to reach **Heritage Road (003)**.

003 - 004 | 5.0 km

While the Caledon Trailway continues northeast toward Cheltenham, turn left on **Heritage Road** and follow the main road for about 800 m where the trail leaves Heritage Road and enters the woods (**004**).

004 -005 | 6.1 km

The Winston Churchill side trail turns right and enters light bushland. Soon the trail heads downhill over a small wooden bridge over the creek and climbs back up past a large rock pile on the left and a tree at the brow of the hill. At a wooden plank bridge over running water, the path continues along the creek bed and then swings away to meet the **Bruce Trail (005)**.

005 - 006 | 8.1 km

Keep to the right on the main Bruce Trail if you plan to do the double loop or head left (south) to shorten the hike with a single loop and head back to the hike trailhead. For the double loop continue right on the Bruce Trail. Continuing along a rocky path beside a deep ravine with rock outcrops, the Bruce Trail passes through a more open area that resembles an old abandoned orchard. The trail then winds uphill along a very rocky slope and up a set of informal rock steps to the top. At the top the trail moves through an area of mixed growth of beech and maple trees before arriving at a T-intersection. Here continue on the **Rockside Side Trail** to the left (**006**).

006 - 007 | 8.6 km

The route passes a low swampy bog area on the right as it winds along the wetlands area before coming to a curve in the road ahead. A sign indicates the **Rockside Side Trail** goes left (**007**).

007 - 009 | 10.2 km

This section of the trail is a relatively straight 1.5 m wide rocky road allowance that soon arrives at a gravel roadway with a black metal gate leading into a private property. Continue straight ahead along this paved low traffic roadway until the trail leaves **Heritage Road** and heads back into the woods on the right (**009**). Note that there is parking at (008).

009 – 010 | 11.8 km

Continue south beside the quarry to your left. Past the quarry the trail swings leftward and crosses an open meadow before arriving once again at Winston Churchill Blvd (**010**).

010 - 002 | 15.0 km

Carefully cross the busy road heading south and west past old meadows and woodland. The trail heads into the Jack Smythe Field Study centre. The trail heads past the Overnight Rest Area for overnight camping before following

a fence line southward. After a gradual descent, the trail once again meets the Terra Cotta ST **(002)**.

002 - 001 | 15.6 km

Turn right and head downhill and back to the starting point **(001)**.

**Enjoy the hike and the day!**

[Updated: 14Aug 08] {Updated: 17 Apr 10}[updated 11 Jan 2012 due to major rerouting of the Bruce trail due to quarry expansion - a rerouting that makes this hike much less desirable.] Updated: 08May2018 Trail restored to original route making it a double loop once again.