



Site One: Ravine Sanctuary Garden



Site Two: Renfrew Ravine Labyrinth



Site Three: North Ravine Garden

**Access:** The easiest way to access Renfrew Ravine is from the 29th Ave. Skytrain station. Leave heading north, cross 29th avenue and enter the ravine via the Sanctuary Garden. Once finished, continue to the Renfrew St. Station located on Grandview Highway. Alternatively complete the tour in the opposite direction.



### ❖ RAVINE HISTORY ❖

The area surrounding Renfrew Ravine was once forest and swampland. A pattern of development gradually transformed the area from vast wilderness into the small island of green space that exists today.

Logging began in 1905 and the result is a predominately cottonwood-alder forest with an extensive undergrowth of invasive Himalayan Blackberries. Large Cedar stumps are the only remaining evidence of the once proud old-growth trees that once stood in the ravine.

Today the ravine is home to over 58 species of birds, as well as squirrels, raccoons, opossums, mice, rats, skunks and coyotes.

The past few decades of ravine history has been one of community involvement. Neighbourhood studies, semi-annual garbage cleanups, storm grate markings, tree plantings, and public art installations have all been undertaken to restore a badly abused creek and raise awareness for this unique "jewel in the city."

# RENFREW RAVINE

SELF GUIDED TOUR  
OF COMMUNITY ART



## 1. RAVINE SANCTUARY GARDEN

Located across the street from the 29th Ave. Skytrain Station, where Still Creek emerges from a culvert to flow through the ravine. Created in 2002 the garden was part of a bigger project to connect communities and encourage neighbourhood involvement.

The garden is the result of efforts of well over 200 individuals ranging in age from four to eighty-four. Several high school classes helped with designing the layout, landscaping, creating artwork for the signs, and installing birdhouses.

It also features a pebble-mosaic pathway with a center mosaic made from slices of rock collected by a local rockhound, a hand carved bench, and low maintenance native plant species to support wildlife habitat.

This space is a natural sanctuary in an urban environment and acts as a gateway to the rest of the ravine, encouraging its use for walking or relaxation.

## 2. RENFREW RAVINE LABYRINTH

The labyrinth is located at 27th Ave. on the east side of the ravine. It was conceived in 2002 as a multicultural installation. Walking meditation is a part of many traditions and respects the diversity of Renfrew-Collingwood.

It was constructed and is maintained by local residents and neighbours with generous help from local students.

A labyrinth differs from a maze because it has only one path which you follow into the center and then back out again.

The 11-circuit design is in the same style as the labyrinth laid in stone in the Chartres Cathedral in France and is based upon specific geometric ratios. The central rosette contains shards from the quarry that the cathedral was cut from.

The labyrinth is set in a natural setting and allows you to enjoy the birds, trees, and the flowing water down below. People report leaving the labyrinth feeling relaxed, or having a connection with spiritual and natural energies.

When walking the labyrinth people usually wait until the person in front of them has reached the third turn (about a minute) before beginning. If you meet someone on the way just step off your path onto another one and step back once they have passed. When you reach the center you can stay as long as you like. Some people like to take time before and after walking to reflect. Some walk around the outer circle while others sit still.

Please enjoy the labyrinth. After years of walking the ground has become sculpted by the countless footprints: we would love it if you would add your own steps to the labyrinth's history.

## 3. NORTH RAVINE GARDEN

Near the intersection of Renfrew Street and 22nd Ave. is the North Ravine Garden. Created in 2006 and 2007 it involved hundreds of community members in the design and creation.

Featured are a native plant garden and a mosaic bench surrounded by a large round fish themed tile mosaic.

There is usually a good view of Still Creek running through the bottom of the ravine. You should be able to view the creek from the lip, without walking down which, unfortunately, causes erosion.

Once finished with the third installation feel free to cross 22nd Avenue and follow the path along the creek, at stream level, through Renfrew Park.

Each autumn at the Moon Festival the park is aglow with lanterns, art and music as the community celebrates the beauty and abundance of the natural world.



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Contact Us!

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Web: [renfrewravinelabyrinth.wordpress.com](http://renfrewravinelabyrinth.wordpress.com)

Compiled by Kevin Chan

Sources:

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