Enjoy this self-guided walking tour of Trout Lake, John Hendry Park, and the surrounding Cedar Cottage neighbourhood. Points of interest include environmental, historical, artistic, and architectural features. Researched and written by Keith Anderson, Michael Megalli, Zlatina Pacheva, and Spencer Toth for CityStudio and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.
LOST STREAMS

At one point in time, Vancouver had many little streams and creeks flowing above ground—visible to everyone. Overtime, they were covered so that the land could be utilized more efficiently and, since then, flow through underground culverts. John Hendry Park, in particular, has a strong affiliation with these “lost streams.” Find them labeled along the blue lines on the map and read on to find out more.

China Creek/False Creek Waterway Project

Did you know that there are over 3000 kilometres of underground pipes in Vancouver that collect rain and sewage water for treatment? At the moment, there are two types of pipe systems across the city. The “combined” version collects waste (sewage) and rainwater and diverts it to the same pipe. The modern “separated” version, on the other hand, utilizes equally sized pipes to collect rain and wastewater separately—sending them each to their respective locations. Strong rainfall can overflow in the older system, allowing contaminated water to flow into False Creek. Thus, the city hopes to have pipe systems separated by 2050.

The False Creek Waterway Project allows Trout Lake and one of its hidden streams to play a fundamental role in the sewage separation endeavour. The project plans to connect False Creek and Trout Lake by diverting a separated, stormwater-only pipe through China Creek (currently running below your feet). This would help fill the Lake with excess rainwater (eliminating the need to use tap water) and would provide a rainwater connection to False Creek—reducing the occurrence of sewage overflows and maintaining the cleanliness of our oceans.

Gladstone Creek

Look down at your feet. Don’t see anything special? That’s because the secret to this spot is hidden below the ground. Underneath you flows one of three hidden streams branching out of Trout Lake. “Gladstone Creek”—the one you are currently standing on, was the site of a proposed project in 1995 in which the stream would be “daylighted”—or brought to the surface—to restore the park to a more natural state while providing a bountiful habitat for wildlife and plants. However, the creek is unfortunately too deep underground for that to be possible, and will thus remain a hidden secret known only to those willing to learn about it.

While the stream cannot be brought to the surface, the Parks Board has alternatively designed a “day lighted Bio-Swale” on the west side of the lake that collects rainwater from the roof and paved areas of the Community Centre. It directs it away from underground storm drains and naturally filters it so that clean, fresh rainwater flows into the Lake and provides the surrounding land with enough nourishment to flourish and grow into a beautiful “Rainwater Garden.”

GRANDVIEW CUT

The Grandview Cut is a deep trench that currently accommodates the Millennium Line SkyTrain tracks just off of Commercial Drive. It was dug in 1913 to increase rail access to Vancouver’s core and the soil extracted from the excavation was used to fill in part of False Creek. There are many beautiful public art pieces along the cut—read on below to find out more.

1 subTEXT: Community Signature Project (1996)

Susan Schuppli.

From a distance, subTEXT appears to be nothing more than tiles lining the east sidewalk of the Commercial Drive Bridge, over the Grandview Cut. Upon approach, however, it can be truly appreciated for its scope and symbolic value. The piece features hundreds of ceramic tiles inscribed with the signatures of locals, and occasionally pictures or comments. Despite bridges often having plaques set upon them, the inspiration for subTEXT came from contemporary projects like the Vietnam Memorial, which lists the names of those who died in the Vietnam War. By identifying each individual component of a larger history, this creates a more personal interaction with history than mere words can allow. By aiming to draw attention to pedestrian traffic and local residents, the project celebrates the role of the individual on city neighbourhoods and pays tribute to the ties that bind us together.
Oliver Kelhammer & Janis Bowley.

This vegetation-based art piece can be viewed from the Victoria Drive Bridge. Looking through the telescope found there, one can where the artists installed nesting boxes and trees along the Grandview Cut. An active attempt to conserve the area, this piece successfully prevented the construction of a highway and concrete retaining wall in the area.

Generating legal challenges and controversy, the artists used flora for both environmental and social purposes. Cottonwood, Butterfly Bush, Black Locust, and Golden Willow were planted to prevent erosion that began after construction of the bridge and nearby condominiums. Nesting birds brought in the seeds of other plants in their droppings, adding to the ecological diversity and complexity of the piece. By declaring greenery as art and successfully preventing this proposed highway from coming to fruition, this piece has made the extra step to prevent further mismanagement of the area. It is considered a work of intellectual property, and has become one of the most significant public art pieces in Vancouver history.

Sally Michener

This series consists of three benches covered in colourfully patterned glass tiles along the Central Valley Greenway. The benches act as symbols of comfort, and pay tribute to the character of the local neighborhood. The highlighted work, the Pixelated Ring Bench at Lakewood Drive, is particularly vivacious with abstract geometric patterns and an open space for movement. The Pixelated Steps at Victoria Drive is inspired by the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, stemming from the artists’ memory and lovingly bringing back memories of waiting for friends to return from trips. The Pixelated Sofa on Nanaimo exudes a feeling of home, inviting locals to sit and rest. Each piece is intended to bring back memories of childhood, provide a sense of belonging, and instill a sense of youth and vitality to the surroundings.

Douglas Senft

An ode to steel, consists of six benches which are shaped like vine maple-seed wings. Located along the Central Valley Greenway, between Lakewood Drive and Nanaimo Street, the piece features the steel silhouettes of crows perched high above on poles, watching the benches below. A pathway made of crushed granite can be found nearby. The piece has additional benches at 12th Avenue and Slocan Street, the latter of which plays home to more poles with coyote silhouettes. The flora and fauna of the local area inspired all of the imagery involved. While the benches represent the former flora at the site, the crow and coyote silhouettes are meant to symbolize adaptability and survival in the urban environment. The piece acts to engage residents at a distance, and ample foliage offers the perfect location to sit and relax. Considered as a whole, it is a stand-out installation that offers a physical representation of the surrounding area for those who visit it.
JOHN HENDRY PARK

Named after John Hendry, a Vancouver industrialist, the land was donated by Hendry’s daughter Aldyen Irene and her husband, future Lieutenant Governor Eric Hamber in 1926. In 1942, Hamber requested that the park be named in honour of his father-in-law.

Guide to Trees at John Hendry Park

The trees in Trout Lake play a vital role in the animal habitat as well as beautification of the park. See if you can identify these trees in the area:

- Pseudotsuga menziesii – Coastal Douglas Fir
- Betula Papyrifera – Paper Birch
- Prunus Serrulata – Cherry Blossom Tree
- Salix X Chrysocoma – Weeping Golden Willow
- Thuja Plicata – Western Red Cedar
Guide to Ducks at Trout Lake

See if you can spot these feathered friends in the Lake!

Female Mallard

Male Mallard

Male American Wigeon

Male Eurasian Wigeon

Trout Lake Farmers Market (seasonal)

Since 1998, Your Local Farmers Market Society has operated a farmers market every year on weekends from May to October. They sell fresh & local food to “create healthy food networks that sustain our land, our community, and our homes.” In addition to selling produce, they also act as a source of education on agricultural issues facing our largely urban society.

Hastings Mill Flume

Trout Lake has an important connection to one of Vancouver’s first major industrial works - Stamp’s Mill (later Hastings), built in 1867. The sawmill, which stood at the foot of modern day Dunlevy Street, got the water to power its boilers via a flume that connected to Trout Lake. Traveling from the mill, along the shore, and straight to the lake, the flume had to be constantly maintained. In fact, in the early days, a man was dispatched to the lake to prevent beavers from damming up the flume! This flume was ultimately instrumental to the lake’s preservation. Because of its importance to the mill, Trout Lake was left alone as other lakes around Vancouver were drained or filled.
Thanks to the vegetation growing around the lake, John Hendry Park is a hot spot for many different species of birds. While most of these avian inhabitants are very audible to park-goers, they often hide in the trees and brush around the lake and don't make themselves all too visible. The ducks, on the other hand, can be seen lounging around in the water almost all year round. See if you can spot some of these interesting and beautiful creatures during your walk around the lake. (See the Duck Guide above to see which species hang out in Trout Lake).

---

**Trout Lake Pathways Project (1995)**

**Glen Andersen, Corinna Dhalin, & Patrick Foley.**

As part of the Trout Lake Restoration Project, the artists created a collection of circular pebble mosaics around John Hendry Park to highlight the park's natural habitats. The project was the result of collaboration between artists, Van Tech students, and the community, with input collected open houses, tours and workshops. These gatherings also involved the creation of the mosaics themselves, using naturally coloured stones to produce each piece before they were grouted and set into the park's ground.

The mosaics, which depict wildlife such as snakes, fish, and salamanders, have since been colonized by the surrounding grass and dirt. The pieces have thus become one with the natural environment surrounding them - similar to how a community becomes one to produce these spectacular mosaics. By fostering awareness for the plant life and wildlife in the area, as well as the lake's streambeds, the pieces also work to connect the community to their natural surroundings.

---

**Circle of Stones (1995)**

**Glen Andersen & Patrick Foley.**

The Circle of Stones is an ode to community, located just east of the Trout Lake Community Centre. Initially designed as a wayfinding device for the area, the installation has become a local gathering space. The stones create an inclusive space where residents can visit and share their stories with one another. A large wooden post serves as a focal point for the piece, features plant and animal life carved into its wood, and is accentuated with feathers. This central pillar is actually an old railway timbre that was received from an aged warehouse on the False Creek Flats.

The circle sits on a geomagnetic energy line, marked by the centre stone. It is an interlocking energy network, comprised of hypercharged, high aura rocks. The space now acts as the only known earth temple in Vancouver. With the natural aura from this energy vortex enhancing communication between individuals, the piece acts as a social experiment as well as a work of art.
Completed in 2009, the new NHL-sized skating rink at the Trout Lake Community Centre was constructed for Vancouver’s 2010 Olympic Games. Opening shortly before the Winter Games, the rink was used as a training venue for Olympic figure skating. Targeting LEED Silver certification (a measure of how “green” a building is), the rink boasts a number of features that represent a commitment to sustainability.

Among other things, the rink is designed to maximize the use of natural light, all the while providing enough shade to prevent sunlight from shining directly on the ice. Much of the lumber used in the actual construction is also recycled, having been recovered from the trees blown down in the 2006 storm in Stanley Park. For more information on the rink’s sustainable features, make sure to check out the Green Building Audio Tour on the side of the building.

With a wealth of amenities, the Trout Lake Community Centre provides a beautiful venue for recreational activities, community gatherings and more. Sitting on the edge of John Hendry Park, the original Grandview Community Centre opened in 1963. Eventually renamed the Trout Lake Community Centre, the space was renovated and expanded in 1977 to best serve the local population. Provided with money from the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, the venue was rebuilt to provide a better venue for local residents’ recreational needs, with the full facility officially opening in early 2012.

Certified LEED Gold, the 34,000-square-foot facility contains features designed to conserve energy and water, exemplifying the transition to green building strategies within Vancouver. By providing accessible recreational, social, educational, and cultural opportunities that promote and develop individual, family and community well-being, the Trout Lake Community Centre helps keep locals informed and healthy, accentuating the neighbourhood’s vitality and spirit.

Just by standing and looking out at the expanse of water in front of you, it may be hard to tell that the lake itself is simply a depression - a natural low point in the land that fills up with water thanks to the buckets of rain we get throughout the majority of the year. When rainwater is not enough to fill it, tap water is used to ensure the water levels of the popular community icon and Vancouver’s only fresh water beach remain consistent. Despite its name, the lake is sadly void of fish, but it is believed that it was at one point so abundant with trout that they would get stuck in the flume that carried water to the Hastings Mill. While many have fond memories of swimming in the lake in the past, the fact that the aged drainage system only allows water to flow out rather than in causes the water to stagnate - hindering the public from taking dips in the lake for the time being.
CEDAR COTTAGE
An area that remained unsettled until 1888, the Kensington-Cedar Cottage neighbourhood encompasses the land between Nanaimo and Fraser spanning from approximately 11th ave all the way to 41st ave. Over the years, it has grown to be a vibrant, multicultural neighbourhood with a very interesting history. Read on to find out more about some of the community’s unique assets.

3521 Marshall Street
The eye-catching exterior of 3521 Marshall Street truly reflects the interesting things that continue to happen within its walls. Presently, it is the headquarters for the theatre troupe, Theatre in the Raw—which has been producing plays by amateur local playwrights—“giving exposure to voices seldom heard” since 1994. Past productions have included new pieces such as the musical Yippies in Love by Bob Sarti, to the classic Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekov.

The link to entertainment doesn’t stop there. The 2008 film Changeling, tells the story of real-life murderer Gordon Northcott. Records show that Northcott grew up in Vancouver and that his childhood home was in the Cedar Cottage area. According to local historian James Johnstone, a 1911 archival City Directory page reveals that the Northcotts lived on Marshall Street near Lakeview Drive, in either 3521 or 3545 Marshall Street. Based on its pre-1911 style architecture, Johnstone believes 3521 is the correct address—giving the house another strong nod in its claim to fame.

Cedar Cottage Garden
The Cedar Cottage Garden sprouted four years ago in response to a PSA on food security in the Vancouver Courier—inviting the neighbourhood to come together around the issue. Along with the aid and cooperation of other stakeholders, an organization was formed to grow the garden into what it is today. With land donated by BC Hydro, Skytrain maintenance crews helping with water connections and garbage removal, and a donation from Heifer International to allow the Environmental Youth Alliance to do the initial construction, the garden’s success continues to depend on cooperation and generosity from outside the garden’s membership.

Equally important however, is the work that members do within the garden and the community. Among other things, they donate their skills for construction, administration, and delivering food to local meal programs. The garden also donates fresh produce to the local Neighbourhood House, and subsidizes several plots for low-income members. Even their compost demonstrates the teamwork that makes this garden run; community kitchens and neighbours all dropping off their food scraps. Now with over one hundred plots, the relationship between the community and garden is reciprocal: the more work put into the garden, the more the garden can improve the lives of those it affects.
Created for Expo ’86, the BC Parkway is a 20-kilometer cyclist and pedestrian path that connects Vancouver, Burnaby, and New Westminster. Going along the Grandview Cut and through John Hendry Park, one can find numerous art pieces as well as some of the old international plazas that still stand from Expo. After passing through the park, the Parkway runs parallel to the Skytrain track, which in turn follows the old BC Electric Railway to New Westminster. This tram system connected the cities until the 1950s.

Lakeview Station, one of the stops on the old tramline located at the end of Hull Street, has a particularly bloody history. On November 9th, 1909, a flatcar loaded with logs from a nearby iron foundry hurtled down the tracks, smashed into a passenger car on the line, killing fourteen people and seriously injuring nine others - the worst transit accident in BC History at the time. To find out more, check out the window of the Community Garden shed.

The West House, built by Smallworks, was the first sustainable laneway house built in the city. Costing almost $300,000 to build, the project was a close collaboration between the City of Vancouver, SFU, BC Hydro Power Smart and Western Economic Diversification. The house is 610 square feet and contains an adaptive-living interface system (ALIS)—allowing residents to control devices and monitor energy usage. The system integrates social networking and personal milestone trackers, allowing the ability to blog about their experiences with sustainable living. In addition, residents can view and control the house's operation through the Internet when away from home.

Complete with solar panels, an electric car charger and an energy tracking display on the kitchen counter, the house showcases how developers can create environmentally-conscious housing in tight spaces. The house was initially displayed at the Yaletown Livesite during the 2010 Winter Olympics. These laneway houses have become a way of densifying the city without changing the character of neighbourhoods. As a prime example of how powerful collaborations can be when bringing academia, government and industry together, the West House represents the future of affordable and sustainable housing in Vancouver.

This school is not only one of the largest elementary schools in Vancouver but also one of the five oldest schools in the city. First constructed in 1894, the original building was replaced in 1908 with the still-standing yellow wood frame building and then joined in 1910 by the still-standing brick main building. Both structures have level 'A' heritage designation from the city. Previously known as South Vancouver School, then Cedar Cottage School, in 1911 a contest (with a prize of $25) was held to determine what the school would be called. The name Lord Selkirk was ultimately adopted, in honour of the pioneer who opened much of Western Canada for immigration.

In the midst of the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1918, the wood structure was converted into a hospital with the men's ward on the top floor, women on the main floor, and a morgue in the basement. Unsurprisingly, the grounds are considered haunted. Stories of Sally the ghost have been swapped for decades; some people claim to have met her while others have seen evidence of her presence in blurry photos and trashed rooms.
Cedar Cottage Greenway (1994, 2009)

A beautiful linear park, the Greenway was originally developed in 1994 to transform an unutilized portion of the street into a connection between the residential neighbourhood and Tyne Elementary. Initiated, built and maintained by the local community, the greenway features a red brick path, a gazebo and pedestrian lighting. In the summer, gardens highlight the space, making it a destination as well as a connector.

A significant component of the greenway is the art features. Personalizing Our Park, which features cement stepping stone mosaics, celebrates community spirit and includes depictions of historical events in the Cedar Cottage neighbourhood. The Greenway was revitalized after receiving a grant in 2009, as part of the lead-up to the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. This brought the neighbourhood together before the Olympics arrived and resulted in greater participation in the greenway by local residents. It also led to the creation of the Welcome Mosaic, a colourful new addition to the park. The Cedar Cottage Greenway provides visitors with an intriguing and serene look into the power of community and shared ownership of public spaces.

Gibby’s Field

1454, 1458, and 1462 E 18th.

These three city lots once belonged to Moses Gibson, nicknamed Gibby, a prominent member of the area around the turn of the century. Now owned by the City, these lots were never developed and contain the original creek bed of Gibson Creek.

Clark Park

Donated to the Park Board in 1889 by Mr. E. J. Clark, this is the second oldest park in Vancouver (after Stanley Park). The park was originally known as Buffalo Park. Look for the beautiful views of downtown Vancouver’s skyline.

Thomas Bell’s House

1606 E 15th.

Located on the former border between then-separate municipalities of Vancouver and South Vancouver, this arts & crafts heritage bungalow was built around 1907 for sheet metal company owner Thomas Bell, next door to John Fleming (hence Fleming St.).
Richard Tetrault, Dan Bushnell, & Jerry Whitehead.

The 500-foot concrete mural that borders Clark Park on Commercial Drive is comprised of twenty-eight ceramic mosaic medallions, and is the joint product of six months of work by the artists and hundreds of community members. Each medallion reflects the diversity of Cedar Cottage, while also drawing attention to East Vancouver’s Aboriginal population. Based around the idea of ‘origins’, the piece was coordinated by the Native Education Centre and involved a number of local groups, including Youth Against Violence, Fort Good Hope, Trout Lake Seniors, and Purple Thistle Youth.

The project managed to create a sense of pride and community identity by bringing together over 300 residents with unique backgrounds. Originally envisioned as wall paintings, the City’s request to use ceramic mosaics was an attempt to make the piece a permanent fixture on the retaining wall – and prevent the space from becoming a graffiti canvas. Each mosaic tells a different story: ‘Swirl of Creation’, for example, depicts animals that individual residents chose to represent their personal background. However, the mosaics all work together to tell the story of the Cedar Cottage community.

3111 Victoria Dr.

This blue house with extensive gardening and muraled outer walls is a collective home filled with artists, avid gardeners, and green enthusiasts. Please respect the private property and privacy of the tenants.

The Vancouver Special is an iconic piece of architecture that can be found in abundance all over Vancouver’s eastside. In fact, with roughly ten thousand built between 1965 and 1985, the Special was so common that the by mid-1980s, council had to make a by-law to prevent any more from being built. Just why were they so prevalent? To start, the simple rectangular floor plan allowed for the maximum square footage at minimal cost. With the proven building pattern and no need for basement excavation, the city also fast-tracked ‘Special’ permits and sold the floor plans for a mere $65, while contractors got efficient at assembling the homes – sometimes completing construction in just a couple of weeks. Ultimately, this convenience and affordability was key to the design’s popularity, which still continues to this day.

Glen Andersen & Marina Szijarto.

Located along Commercial Drive, this piece is composed of four porcelain sidewalk mosaics. They are simple in nature, each a tribute to the culture and ecology of the neighborhood. The first piece, on 10th, is a tribute to cultural diversity within the area, as well as the importance of local bike paths to active transportation within the city. The second, also on 10th, draws attention to local wildlife and depicts salmon, frogs, and ladybugs.

The third, on 11th, is a board game with spaces representing the players’ journey home. The final mosaic, also on 11th, is a tribute to the Illuminaires Lantern Festival that is held in John Hendry Park, and depicts a woman holding a brilliant star-shaped lantern. These four pieces offer a quick peek into the unique character of northern Cedar Cottage for those passing by.