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My Top Toronto Picnic Spots

Posted by [Jessica McLaughlin](#) in [shops](#), [neighbourhoods](#) on June 3, 2007 at 7:28 am



Finding an oasis in the middle of the urban landscape is not as hard as it sounds. After all, there are about 1500 parks in the city of Toronto alone. There are probably several options in your neighbourhood, but I've listed out some of my faves from all over the city. This summer, grab your picnic basket, some comfortable shoes, a blanket to lie out on the lawn and hit some of these top Toronto picnic spots! **North Earl Bales Park**

Grab a couple of bagels and a salad at **Bagel Plus** (634 Sheppard Avenue West) on your way to Earl Bales Park. Or if you're looking for some good pastrami for your afternoon at the park, swing by **Wolfie's Deli** (670 Sheppard Avenue West) or **Moe Pancer's Deli** (3856 Bathurst Street).

Earl Bales Park is a previous golf course located near Bathurst and Sheppard and offers parking for those driving to their picnic destination. There are lots of tree-lined areas in this park to grab a picnic table or lay down your blanket, but lying out near amphitheatre at the middle of the park is a nice place too. If you're taking public transit, the Sheppard West 84 and the Bathurst 7 buses are your options. If you're bringing the kids, there's a playground, along with a designated picnic area and public washrooms.

South

Toronto Island

If you don't think the \$6 ferry ride to the Toronto Islands is worth it, it's time to re-think that. This is the best place in Toronto to truly escape the city. But grabbing food on the island is a little too pricey. You're better off stopping somewhere before you hop on the ferry. A couple of *gyros* or *shawarmas* from **Alexandros Take-Out** (5 Queen's Quay West) are a delicious handheld treat for the trip. Personally, I prefer taking the ferry to Ward's Island and checking out all the quaint houses on the island on the way to the Toronto Island Park.

The 509 Harbourfront and 510 Spadina street cars or the Bay 6 bus will get you to the ferry docks by TTC. Toronto Island Park features public washrooms, fountains and water taps, picnic areas and fire pits. And if you're looking for a more active afternoon on the island, there are bicycle rentals, tennis courts, two supervised beaches and more. Oh, and you can't beat the kick ass view of Lake Ontario from the pier.

Ashbridge's Bay Park

This park features expansive beaches and a public marina where you can take your picnic right out to the lake. But if you don't happen to have a boat, lay a blanket out on a patch of grass near the beach and enjoy a great view of the lake and the city. If you're looking for food on your way to Ashbridge's Bay Park, swing by **Bonjour Brioche** (812 Queen Street East) for a couple of take out baguettes and some delectable croissants for your picnic.

Along with parking, picnic space and a public washroom, this park also has a playground for the kids and a baseball field. To get there by TTC, you can take the Queen street car, or Woodbine South 92 or Coxwell 22 buses.

West

High Park

Great sandwiches from **Butler's Pantry** (371 Roncesvalles Avenue) are a great place to start for a picnic at High Park. And swing by **Roncesvalles Bakery** (173 Roncesvalles Avenue) for a honey cake on your way to curb that sweet tooth.

High Park is easily accessible by subway or by heading west on the College street car, you can take it right into High Park. With baseball diamonds, soccer fields, lawn bowling, a pool, and playgrounds for the kids High Park is a great place to throw down a blanket and soak up the sun. High Park has many great places to set up a picnic with designated areas, parking and public washrooms. My favourite place to set lay out a picnic at High Park is Hillside Gardens, there are picnic tables and public washrooms there too.

For more information on parks across the city, check out the [City of Toronto website](#).

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