



## APGO Education Foundation Releases Wilket Creek Urban GeoWalk on GeoscienceINFO.com

**June 27, 2025 , Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) and the University of Toronto** are pleased to announce the release of the new **Wilket Creek Urban GeoWalk** on the **Toronto Geoscience Hub** on [GeoscienceINFO.com](https://www.geoscienceinfo.com). This project is supported by funding from the **Canadian Geological Foundation**.

Toronto’s intensely urbanised landscape is a result of several geologic and non-geologic processes such as the movement of continental plates, reworking from glacial ice, stream processes, and human activity. Located in the heart of Toronto (see Figure 1), Wilket Creek is an ideal place to explore how these processes have shaped this land and to see the dynamic nature of stream systems. The GeoWalk explores measures that must be put in place to mitigate the effects of erosion and how urbanisation affects natural systems.



Figure 1. Map showing the location of stops on the Wilket Creek Urban GeoWalk.

The Wilket Creek Urban GeoWalk is part of a walking trail along the scenic stream valley between Edwards Gardens in the north and Sunnybrook Park in the south. The creek itself is a tributary of the larger Don River and is part of the Don River Watershed, which ultimately drains into Lake Ontario.

Start your tour by examining some riffles and pools at Stop #1 (see Figure 2). Here, you will learn about floodplains and see evidence of flooding along Wilket Creek. Moving along to Stop #2 you will see first-hand various stream features such as pools, sediment deposits, channel banks, beds, and bank vegetation. At Stop #3 you will consider the history of bank stabilisation methods at Wilket Creek, then explore evidence that Wilket Creek has been altered by human activities at Stop #4. At Stop #5, you will learn how





**APGO**  
education  
foundation

Suite 1100  
One Yonge Street, Suite 704  
Toronto, ON M5E 1E5  
info@APGOEF.ca  
www.apgoef.ca

this area has been altered since the last glaciation, while seeing how current erosion processes act on the valley wall and how geotextile cloths mitigate erosion. At Stop #6 you will learn how major floods in Wilket Creek have influenced stream management. Your tour will finish at Stop #7, where you will see what happens when two streams meet at a point called a confluence!



Figure 2. Pool and riffle at Stop #1 on the Wilket Creek Urban GeoWalk.



Figure 3. Armour stones (red marker) and riprap (blue marker) that have been placed along the river to mitigate erosion, at Stop #5 on the Wilket Creek Urban GeoWalk.



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The Wilket Creek Urban GeoWalk was developed by the GeoscienceINFO team led by Manager Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and a group of amazing students and postdoc collaborators working alongside Dr. Sarah Peirce and Dr. Heidi Daxberger from the University of Toronto. It is part of a growing series of geoscience-based walking tours released across Ontario that aims to enhance public knowledge of geoscience using a hands-on and virtually accessible approach. We plan to release more GeoWalks in 2025 and subsequent years, throughout Ontario.

Urban GeoWalks are 1-3-hour non-intensive walking tours in Ontario cities that highlight the geological significance of building stones, garden materials, and any other items of interest in an urban centre. Urban GeoWalks can be used as guides while walking in person, or as a virtual alternative at home or in the classroom. Visiting sites in person is a great way to learn but virtual tours are also an exciting way to expand one's knowledge when in-person access is not possible. Through the use of ESRI's innovative ArcGIS-StoryMap™ application and the integrated features, Urban GeoWalks provide the user with an immersive experience. Urban GeoWalks typically include:

- 360-degree photos and/or drone videos to provide a detailed overview of each site.
- LiDAR-based virtual 3D models that show locations of key features such as fossils, important structures and other geological features at the buildings or rock outcrops.
- Slide bars to show multiple images or overlays of important features or geologic information.
- Descriptions of geological features.
- Audio descriptions of written content.

## About the APGO Education Foundation

The APGO Education Foundation is a registered charitable organization under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, registration number 84604 5052 RR0001. The purpose of the charity is to advance the education of the public in the area of geoscience – see <https://apgoef.ca>. [GeoscienceINFO.com](https://apgoef.ca), developed by the Foundation, is an innovative one-stop spot for the public to gather information about the earth beneath their feet. This website provides interesting information on all facets of geoscience. A particularly exciting feature of GeoscienceINFO.com is the highlighting of virtual field trips in different areas in Ontario. This enables viewers to experience and learn about the geology of an area in person or while traversing it digitally in ESRI ArcGIS Online™ and StoryMaps™.

If you like our work, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our programs.

**To Donate** - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/apgo-education-foundation>

### For further information:

**Bill Pearson, Ph.D., P.Geo.**, Chair

Email: [chair@apgoedfoundation.ca](mailto:chair@apgoedfoundation.ca)

**Deana Schwarz, Ph.D., P.Geo.**, Manager

Email: [manager@geoscienceinfo.com](mailto:manager@geoscienceinfo.com)

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