

LESLIE SPIT



Urban wilderness

This is the place where people come to drop their brick, cement, asphalt, etc. from demolished buildings and other construction. This is also the best place to feel like you're biking by the ocean.

You can remain on the smooth trail for 3 kilometres, or take one of the sandier side trails to different lookout points all around the peninsula.

We took an off the beaten track trail through a field and saw the most intriguing scene: a fully-blown white sail towering over the tall grass, the only indication that we were by the water.

In other parts of the park, we would have a full view of the glittering water taking turquoise shades under the summer sun.

Somewhere else, we saw weird sculptures made out of metal rods and bricks found in the landfill.

We saw a lighthouse on top of a hill on one side of the path, and the CN Tower



on top of the horizon on the opposite side.

We crossed a small bridge, we cycled by ponds, we even came across a bird sanctuary where cormorants nest in May.

It was past the time of the year when we're not allowed to enter the sanctuary and were in for a surprise (sensible souls beware): hundreds of dried bird skeletons were scattered all over the place. (We were later told by a park worker that many youngsters unfortunately fall off their crowded nests!)

It seems there are turtles, owls, snakes and frogs along with the butterflies and over 300 species of birds amidst the 400 plant species found on Leslie Spit.

Of course you won't see any of that if your main goal, when coming here, was to enjoy the feel of the wind through your hair and the sun on your face as you're swooshing by on your bike.



TIPS (fun for 5 years +)


- It will take you 45 minutes to bike on the looped trail of Leslie Spit at an average speed.
- Beware if you park in the parking lot adjacent to the entrance. It will be locked after the official hours! There's parking along Leslie Street and Unwin Avenue.
- There are normally chip trucks selling food and drinks by the entrance.


NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

Cherry Beach (5-min.) p. 401
 Beach Neighbourhood (10-min.) ... p. 402

Leslie Street Spit
www.friendsofthespit.ca

**D-3
 East
 of downtown
 15-min.**

 **Schedule:** Open year-round on weekends, 9 am to 6 pm. The bird sanctuary is closed from April 1 to September 1.

 **Admission:** FREE.

 **Directions:** Leslie Street Spit (Tommy Thompson Park), Toronto. From Lakeshore Blvd., turn south on Leslie Street until you reach the park.