



Sydenham River

Harrison Park to East Boat Launch

5.5 km / 1-2 hours

The Sydenham River is one of Grey County's most historically significant rivers, and offers peaceful paddling in an urban setting. Before you start, leave a car near the boat launch on the east side of the harbour to simplify your return trip, then head up to Harrison Park and check out the aviary of exotic birds, RV campground, and the Harrison Park Inn before setting out.

Heading downriver you will see marshland that is home to a colony of mute swans, pass by gracious homes and gardens, and the forested banks with stately black walnut trees. At the Mill Dam, pull ashore on the right and portage down the grassy bank back to the river. The Dam also features a fish ladder, which was the first of its kind when built in 1959. After the next bridge, you may wish to pull ashore for a visit to the Tom Thomson Art Gallery or a downtown Cafe before you reach the harbour where your return car awaits.

Paddlers wishing to continue their trip can paddle to Kelso Beach Park and the Pottawatomi River on the west side of the bay, which has alternate exit points at the park and at Harrison Field.



Fishing the Sydenham River

The Sydenham River provides four-season angling from its grassy banks or harbour walls. Anglers eagerly cast lines into the river to catch Steelhead, Brown Trout as well as Chinook Salmon.

Caution: Low water levels, and obstacles between Inglis Falls and Harrison Park.