Your guide to The Uptown LOOP
Welcome to The UpTown LOOP

This booklet will help you plan your adventure along this exciting trail. There are three walks to choose from: the Lake Walk, the North Walk and the South Walk. Or, embark on a combination of all three.

It doesn’t matter which tour you choose – each one offers a variety of attractions and interesting stops along the way. We hope you enjoy your journey through the heart of Waterloo.
A Brief History of Waterloo

On May 27, 1857, the crossroads at Erb and King streets became the Village of Waterloo. With a population of about 500 people, many of the village’s settlers were Pennsylvania-German Mennonites. The early inhabitants established Waterloo as an important industrial and commercial centre. The village had a council chamber, fire hall, post office, library, and four steam-powered factories, including the Granite Mills and Distillery, which became the Seagram Co.

The threat of fire led to the formation of the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Co. – Canada’s first mutual fire assurance company – in 1863. Many new insurance companies followed and Waterloo quickly became a centre for insurance, earning a reputation as “the Hartford of Canada.”

This booming economic base attracted many people to Waterloo and on Feb. 10, 1876, Waterloo became a town with Moses Springer elected mayor.

On Jan. 1, 1948, Waterloo officially became a city. Since this time, Waterloo has carried on in the innovative tradition of its founders and has experienced continued growth, progress and prosperity. Some of the world’s most innovative, creative and technologically advanced companies call Waterloo home, and the City was recognized as the world’s Top Intelligent Community in 2007.

The UpTown LOOP

In the late 1990s, the Uptown Transportation Study identified a need to encourage walking and discovery of places and spaces in the city’s uptown core, while showcasing the fabulous shopping, eating and business stops along the way. The UpTown LOOP opened on Sept. 27, 2007 as a legacy project to mark the City of Waterloo’s 150th anniversary.

The UpTown LOOP is a set of self-guided walking tours in uptown Waterloo. There is no better way to experience Waterloo!

The UpTown LOOP takes you to many points of interest, including parks, public art and significant architecture – both historical and contemporary, while at the same time showcasing many establishments along the way.

Choose from:

Lake Walk
Get acquainted with Waterloo Park while strolling around Silver Lake.

North Walk
Discover uptown Waterloo.

South Walk
Learn about Waterloo’s past and present.

Washrooms
There are many public washroom facilities in uptown Waterloo.

LAKE WALK:
Visitor and Heritage Information Centre
Corner of Erb Street and Father David Bauer Drive
Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex
101 Father David Bauer Dr.
Park Inn
In Waterloo Park

NORTH WALK:
Waterloo Public Library
35 Albert St.

SOUTH WALK:
Waterloo City Centre
100 Regina St. S.
Adult Recreation Centre
185 King St. S.
The Lake Walk will take you on a leisurely stroll around Silver Lake while you discover the wonders of Waterloo Park. Admire contemporary architecture at the Perimeter Institute and the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery on this journey.

**Length:** This walk can take as little as 15 minutes, but you can spend hours in Waterloo Park.
Manulife Place and Clock Tower
Manulife Place is an urban park that was developed in the late 1990s thanks to sponsorship from Manulife Financial. This area of uptown Waterloo will be undergoing substantial growth over the next few years with the Barrel Yards development and the Balsillie School of International Affairs slated to be built nearby.

Grist Mill Replica
This is a replica of what Waterloo founder Abraham Erb’s original grist mill may have looked like. That mill – which stood at the corner of King and Erb streets – was a social centre in the city’s early days. Farmers travelled there from miles around to grind their wheat into flour.

Sons of Waterloo
Sons of Waterloo is a memorial to those who made the ultimate sacrifice of war. Located at the back entrance to the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex, the installation features artwork and memorabilia.

Waterloo’s First Schoolhouse
Waterloo’s first log schoolhouse was built in 1820 near the present MacGregor senior public school. It was moved to Berlin, now Kitchener, in the early 1840s and rented as a residence. It returned to Waterloo Park around the turn of the 20th century, and was rebuilt in 1972 thanks to the efforts of local students.

Visitor and Heritage Information Centre
The City of Waterloo’s Visitor and Heritage Information Centre operates out of the old Waterloo Rail Station on Father David Bauer Drive. There, visitors can hop on the Waterloo Central Railway train bound for St. Jacobs, the Farmers’ Market or Elmira, or embark on a guided historical walking tour at certain times of the year.

Perimeter Institute
This impressive building is the Perimeter Institute, an independent research institute devoted to furthering the study of theoretical physics. Founded by Research In Motion co-founder Mike Lazaridis in 1999, the PI attracts people of all ages to its easy-to-understand public lectures on macro physics theory. It’s said that the building’s façade was inspired by a computer chip.

Trans Canada Trail Pavilion
The Trans Canada Trail Pavilion in Waterloo Park connects walkers, cyclists and in-line skaters to the nationwide trail that runs through this community. Lace up your sneakers and head out on the trail – there are plenty of rest stops along the way.

Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex
The Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex is the city’s premier public ice arena and swimming pool. Opened in 1993, this facility has hosted the Scott Tournament of Hearts, as well as many hockey tournaments, concerts and special events. Its pool – called the Swimplex – is used by more than 250,000 people each year.

Park Inn
Located near the Lions Lagoon water park, the Park Inn is the perfect place to get cool treats and yummy snacks when visiting Waterloo Park. Built in 1955, this concession stand is closed in the winter.

Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery
Opened in 1993, the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery has been internationally recognized for its exhibitions, which have included such big names in the arts world as Judy Chicago and Paul Stankard. The building is an example of award-winning contemporary architecture by Patkau Architects of Vancouver.

Human Quilt
The Human Quilt can be seen on the outside of the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex. This large piece of art was among the chosen Millennium Projects.
Etched into Memory
Installed at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex, Etched into Memory is a series of six pieces that forms a human head when combined. Brass plates carry etchings, including portrayals of bodies in various athletic actions. This work was created by Evan Penny and Stephen Andrews.

Waterloo Park
The park you are standing in was all farmland in 1890. That was the case until the Village of Waterloo, along with men from the local Board of Trade, had the vision to transform the Jacob Eby farm into a community park. Today, Waterloo Park provides the community with 111 acres of active and passive public land. Throughout its rich history it has been the site of many picnics, concerts and reunions.

Eby Farm Animal Display
The Eby Farm Animal Display gives visitors an up-close opportunity to observe various animals. A trip to the farm is free, and staff are often on hand to answer questions while they feed the animals.

Eby Farmhouse
The Eby farmhouse stands in what was originally called West Side Park. Today it is used by the Waterloo Potters’ Workshop.

Victorian Gardens
Walking through the Victorian Gardens is like taking a step back in time. These beautifully maintained flowerbeds feature horticultural plantings, gazebos, heritage perennials, pergola and other Victorian-era features. Famous for its heritage, the award-winning gardens can be reserved for wedding ceremonies or photography shoots.

Lions Lagoon
The fun never seems to end at the Lions Lagoon water park. Visitors beat the summer heat by facing off against water-breathing dragons and shooting water cannons.

Silver Lake Boardwalk
Silver Lake was dug by hand to serve as a water source for Abraham Erb’s grist and sawmills. In the early days, its ice was harvested for refrigeration, and kept in a storehouse where the Perimeter Institute now stands. It was also a popular place to go fishing, skating and swimming. Today, Silver Lake is a scenic stop in Waterloo where visitors can embark on an interpretive walk around its boardwalk or watch the waterfowl in action.

History Walk
Circling Silver Lake, the History Walk is a series of interpretive signs highlighting Waterloo’s rich history. This educational adventure, which teaches the public about the city’s natural and cultural past, was the brainchild of local history teacher Ellis Little.

Trans Canada Trail
The Trans Canada Trail passes through Waterloo, following the Iron Horse Trail and part of the Laurel Trail. With a pavilion in Waterloo Park, the trail links Waterloo residents to their neighbours in Kitchener and Woolwich, as well as to the St. Jacobs Farmers’ Market.

Laurel Trail
The Laurel Trail follows Laurel Creek from the north side of Waterloo through to the uptown core. This eight-kilometre pedestrian and cycle route is the busiest in the region, known to carry up to 300 people per hour. In 2000, it became part of the Trans Canada Trail, which winds though every province and territory in the country.
Along the North Walk, you will discover uptown Waterloo, complete with first-class shopping and eating establishments. Explore a variety of heritage buildings that have true character and catch the reading bug at the library.

**Length:** This walk takes about 30 minutes.

**LEGEND**

- **Heritage**
  - 15 Market Hotel
  - 16 Carnegie Library
  - 17 Snyder-Seagram House
  - 18 Huether Hotel
  - 19 Old Post Office
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  - 21 Old Train Station
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  - 11 Carnegie Green
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Market Hotel
Built in the 1850s in Georgian-Mennonite style, this building was originally the Market Hotel, serving, as its name implies, as a market and hotel. Later, this Waterloo landmark housed the John Forsyth Co., which made shirts, pyjamas and undergarments.

Carnegie Library and Carnegie Green
Thanks to a grant from American industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Library was built in the early 1900s at the corner of Albert and Dupont streets. The Classical Revival-style building features many significant details, including ornamental brickwork and pediment over the entrance and cornerstones that read “Carnegie” and “1903.”

Snyder-Seagram House
This home was built in 1903 for Herbert Snyder, owner of Snyder Brother’s Furniture. It was given to Joseph Seagram’s grandson, J.E. Seagram, as a wedding present in 1929. The home is unique because it was made of poured concrete.

Huether Hotel
The Huether Hotel is a Waterloo landmark built in the 1880s that features an elaborate Victorian façade. Inside, the Lion Brewery Restaurant has a massive arched-stone vaulted ceiling, as well as two display cases highlighting “hide tunnels” that may have been used to smuggle alcohol during the Prohibition Era.

Old Post Office
The former Waterloo Post Office and Custom House was completed in 1913 at a cost of $50,000. It features typical federal post-office architecture that’s Romanesque in style with rounded arches on the main façade. This Heritage Landmark also has an imposing clock tower that has been shortened over the years because of decay and fire.

Waterloo Hotel
Hotels have sat on the northeast corner of King and Erb streets since 1835. The first, called Farmer’s Hotel, later Bowman House, was destroyed in an 1850 fire, rebuilt and then burned down again in 1889. The current building first opened its doors in 1890 as Zimmerman House.

Old Train Station
This old train station was constructed in 1910, replacing the original station house, in the typical style of Grand Trunk Railway stations. It was the site of many local historical events, including being the departure place of troops serving in the First and Second World Wars. The building is now an upscale men’s clothing store called Paul Puncher Menswear.

Button Factory
The Button Factory was built in 1886 to house a growing business that employed more than 100 button makers working with imported shells and ivory nuts. The building is an example of late-19th-century Industrial architecture, featuring large windows to maximize natural light. The invention of plastic and zippers precipitated the closure of the factory in 1945. Today, it’s home to the Waterloo Community Arts Centre, which offers classes in all artistic disciplines.

Snyder-Hahn Building
Built in 1857 by Jacob Bricker, this architecturally significant building first served as a pharmacy under proprietor J.S. Hoffman. Over the years its ownership passed through the hands of several prominent figures, including Moses Springer, Waterloo’s first mayor, Simon Snyder and Melvin Hahn. The Snyder-Hahn building has retained some of its original features, including bark-covered beams behind the dispensary, ornamental brick work and an early tin ceiling complete with connections for gas lights. This site is also important locally because it was there, in 1888, that the idea of the Dominion Life Assurance Co. first was tossed around.
Molson’s Bank
Molson’s Bank, now the Bank of Montreal, is the oldest establishment of its kind in Waterloo. Dating to 1914, this Heritage Landmark is an architectural gem with its Ionic columns, recessed transom, pediments, keystones, eared trim and more. It’s built on land that was used as a public square for a century, but was sold to the bank when its former owner, William Snider, tired of paying taxes on property that was used for civic purposes.

Bahnsen-Bierstock-Marsland House
This Tudor Revival-style home was built in 1924 by John Bahnsen, the manager of the Globe Furniture Co., which was a world leader in furniture manufacturing at one time. Now the house is owned by the Marsland family.

Waterloo Public Library
The main branch of the Waterloo Public Library was built on Albert Street in 1966. About 1,600 people visit it each day to use its adult, children’s and reference departments, as well as its auditorium. Waterloo has had a library since 1876, with the original one serving as a resource for mechanics.

Looking Outward and Inward (at the Waterloo Public Library)
The Looking Outward and Inward sculpture by artist Susan Low-Beer is an ambiguous and contradictory piece that explores the relationship between men and women, as well as the male and female in everyone.

Marsland Building
Across the street is the Marsland Centre, which is located on the site of the city’s first City Hall. Later, City Hall was housed in this building until moving to its current home on Regina Street.

Waterloo Dark Wall Mural
The Waterloo Dark wall mural can be seen by passersby on King Street.

Memorial Park
Memorial Park, located beside Knox Presbyterian Church on Erb Street West, was created in 1924 to honour Waterloo’s fallen soldiers. The Cenotaph stood there from 1957 to 1993, when it was moved to a park beside City Centre to make way for a parking garage at the Marsland Centre.

Visit the City of Waterloo’s website at www.waterloo.ca to learn more about what’s happening here. This dynamic and innovative community offers a multitude of recreational, cultural and historical opportunities for residents and visitors.
MAP 3: South Walk

You’ll get the best of both worlds on the South Walk. Take a relaxing stroll in Waterloo’s old and new parks, and then re-energize at one of the many restaurants and shopping establishments in uptown Waterloo.

**Length:** This walk is about 20 minutes long.

**LEGEND**

- **Heritage**
  - Pumphouse
  - Bean-Wright House
  - Kuntz-Eckert House
  - Kuntz-Labatt House
  - Erb-Kumpf House
  - McLaughlin House
  - Seagram-Remax Buildings

- **Places**
  - City Centre
  - Timeteller
  - Adult Recreation Centre
  - Old Seagram Distillery
  - Waterloo Public Square

- **Art**
  - John Labatt Barley Field
  - Triad: Dual, Interface & Reunited

- **Parks**
  - Barrel Warehouse Park
  - Laurel Creek
  - Cenotaph Park
  - Heritage Park
  - Brewmeister Green
  - Labatt Park
  - Alexandra Park

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continued
MAP 3:
South Walk Points of Interest

Pumphouse
This Pumphouse was built in 1899 after the Town of Waterloo took ownership of its own waterworks plant. At a cost of $40,000, three wells were sunk to provide the city with water and fire protection. The yellow brick on this Heritage Landmark is common in uptown Waterloo because it's made of clay that's native to the area.

Bean-Wright House
This impressive Victorian home with Italianate-influenced architecture was built by town councillor Theodore Bellinger in 1882, and later sold to David Bean, who also was a councillor, mayor of Waterloo and owner of the Waterloo Chronicle. This Heritage Landmark features a frieze board and brackets under the wide eaves, a bay window with delicate mouldings and a double front door highlighted by an arched course of brick.

Kuntz-Eckert House
The yellow brick Kuntz-Eckert House is an example of a mid-to late-19th-century merchant’s home built in 1880 by David Kuntz. Purchased by Anna Eckert in 1898, the house reflects Italianate influences with its elaborate roof brackets and two-storey projecting bay.

Kuntz-Labatt House
Dating to the mid-1880s, the Kuntz-Labatt House has Italianate features as well as verandahs typical of architecture during that time. The Kuntz family owned a brewery that grew to become the second largest in the province by 1910. Eventually it was sold to Carling, and today this building holds offices and meeting rooms for Erb and Good Family Funeral Home.

Erb-Kumpf House
One of Waterloo’s oldest homes, the Erb-Kumpf House was originally occupied by Abraham Erb, the city’s founder. Ownership passed through several well-known families, including the Devitts, Sniders and Kumpfs, over the years. Parts of the structure date to 1812, and it has undergone a number of additions since then, resulting in a mixture of architectural characteristics – Georgian, Gothic, Doric and Regency.

Mclaughlin House
Built in 1867, the McLaughlin House stands out because it was rare to build frame houses in urban areas at that time. Brick houses were encouraged back then, and fire regulations restricted wooden constructions.

Seagram-Remax Buildings
The original Seagram-Remax buildings were built in the 1850s to house a foundry. They were purchased by the Seagram Distillery in 1905, and today they're used by Remax and Sole Restaurant and Wine Bar.

City Centre
This is Waterloo’s “civic centre” with Waterloo City Centre on one side of Regina Street, and the Region of Waterloo Public Health building on the other. Waterloo City Centre is home to City Hall as well as some businesses. Drop by the third floor to see a collection of watercolours by the late Peter Goetz and photos of all of Waterloo’s mayors. City council’s chambers are also on that floor, with many meetings open to the public. This building has a number of environmentally friendly features, including a green roof.

Waterloo Public Square
After years of planning and anticipation, the Waterloo Public Square officially opened in May 2009. Located in the heart of uptown Waterloo, the square is a place where people can take part in a variety of programming opportunities or relax with friends and family.

Waterloo Bell
The Waterloo Bell – also called Bell For Kepler – was unveiled in the Waterloo Public Square in June 2009. Created by artist Royden Rabinowitch, this piece of public art serves as a reminder of what this city has been, as well as what it will be in the future.

continued
Adult Recreation Centre
The Adult Recreation Centre opened in 1975 to provide space for adult and senior programming. Over the next few years there was increasing demand for its services, and the centre expanded in 1988 to accommodate this growth.

Old Seagram Distillery
The Seagram Distillery – which was the world’s largest producer of spirits and wines at one time – operated here from 1857 to the 1990s, employing as many as 250 people in the production of its fine whisky. Purchased by Joseph Seagram in 1883, this site is a Waterloo landmark, and it’s about to enter the next stage in its history as the home of the Balsillie School of International Affairs. Jim Balsille, one of the co-founders of Research In Motion, donated millions of dollars to the think-tank. Meanwhile, the distillery building where whisky barrels were once stored is now an upscale condominium complex.

Triad: Dual, Interface and Reunited
Called Triad: Dual, Interface and Reunited, the three bronze sculptures in front of the Uptown Parkade are by Ann Roberts. The pieces reflect upon the futility of war while introducing a sense of hope and regeneration.

Laurel Creek (public art)
Named Laurel Creek, this work by Nat McHaffie was inspired by the interrelation of Waterloo and its creeks, which weave under and through the buildings and landscapes in this city. In fact, the creek flows under the piece of art.

Cenotaph Park
The 18-foot granite Cenotaph was purchased in 1957, replacing a wooden cross that had been erected in memory of the 14 local men who died in the First World War. Now located by City Hall, the Cenotaph is the site of Waterloo’s Remembrance Day ceremonies honouring those lost in wars.

Heritage Park
Heritage Park was the site of Waterloo’s original public square. Back in the 1850s, a cattle market was held there on the second Tuesday of each month.

Brewmeister Green
Famous for its attractive floral displays, Brewmeister Green is Waterloo’s oldest park. A fountain has stood here since the early 1900s, although the original structure fell into disrepair and was replaced with this one around 1950. Bud Clair, whom Clair Lake was named after, and his family created the rock garden and pool that surround today’s fountain.

Timeteller
It’s hard to miss the German/Austrian design of the gazebo in Brewmeister Green. Known as the Oktoberfest Heritage Timeteller, this attractive landmark was built in 1984.

Labatt Park
Located on Park Street, Labatt Park was home to a brewery for almost 140 years. Today, the John Labatt Barley Field sculpture commemorates its heritage.

John Labatt Barley Field
The John Labatt Barley Field sculpture signifies the historical importance of agriculture in Waterloo Region. Representing a field of barley, this piece of public art consists of 61 plant forms that were constructed out of hand-forged steel stalks and leaves with copper flower heads.

Alexandra Park
Alexandra Park is located on a portion of the former Alexandra School site. The City of Waterloo acquired the lot in 1999 at a cost of $75,000, and cleaned it up and added play equipment for families in that area.