

## MAD RIVER SECTION

### Maps 24, 25, 26

*The Mad River section derives its name from the river which runs parallel to the trail in many places. Sometimes in the spring, west of Avening, trout can be seen going upstream to spawn. There are some outstanding scenic views from Ten Hill and McKinney's Hill. The Mad River section passes through the Hogback, Glencairn and Landon tracts of the Simcoe County Forests, as well as through the New Lowell, Carruthers and Glencairn Conservation areas, and the Escarpment Biosphere Reserve. The Mad River section meets the Bruce Trail high above Glen Huron at the Western Cairn of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail.*

*The section is mostly flat, with a couple of hills, and is suitable for beginners.*

KM	DESCRIPTION
0.0	<p><b>44.34019, -79.84278</b></p> <p>The east end of the Mad River trail meets the Barrie trail at County Road 90. An underpass walkway provides access to both trails from this point.</p> <p><b>44.34050, -79.84117</b></p> <p>Beside CR90.</p> <p>From the CR90 underpass the trail runs beside CR90 going about 200 metres east to Line 6 where the trail turns right (south) . There can be ATV traffic on this short section so walk on the side and listen for oncoming ATV vehicles.</p> <p><b>44.32940, -79.84752</b></p> <p>Junction of 30th Sideroad and Private Property.</p> <p>At this point the trail runs south onto private property and east along the 30th Sideroad. Stay to the edge of the private property.</p> <p><b>44.32748, -79.84657</b></p> <p>Junction of railway tracks and Private Property.</p> <p>At this point the trail runs north onto private property or follows the abandoned railway line west towards Angus and New Lowell.</p>
2.8	<p><b>44.32557, -79.85354</b></p> <p>Junction of Line 5 and railway line.</p> <p><b>44.35386, -79.96300</b></p> <p>Junction of railway tracks and Concession Road 3.</p> <p>From this point the trail follows the abandoned railway line east towards Angus and Utopia and goes west along Concession Road 3 in New Lowell.</p>

12.0      **44.35384, -79.96378**  
Concession 3 junction with railway tracks.

**44.35166, -79.97289**  
New Lowell Campground.  
From May 24 to October 31 parking is available inside the entrance to the campground. Please inform the management there. At other times roadside parking is permitted. <http://newlowellcampground.ca/>

**44.35211, -79.97554**  
New Lowell Conservation area.  
The 140 acre New Lowell reservoir is located on Coates Creek. It offers swimming, canoeing, and fishing opportunities. The Ganaraska Trail winds its way through the southwest of the property, an area famous for its old growth cedar forest. <http://www.nvca.on.ca/recreation>

**44.35148, -79.97693**  
The trail follows the main access road of the New Lowell campground to the left of the seasonal camping area, and towards an area of picnic tables close to the water's edge.

**44.35179, -79.97861**  
Entrance gateway to the woodlands.  
At this point, the trail enters into the mixed deciduous and coniferous woodlands for approx. 1.5 km of undulating topography, that parallels the south shore of the reservoir. The tree cover is age-variable and includes maple, ash, poplar, American beech, as well as spruce, pine, hemlock and balsam fir. The walking experience is interesting because hikers are moving up and down and across drainage gullies, leading from the southern edge of land towards the reservoir. This overland route is an excellent habitat for birds, animals and wildflower species in the spring. It ends at a cleared forest trail that leads upslope southerly.

**44.35179, -79.97861**  
Plaque honoring Blackdown Cadets.  
Years ago, the Blackdown Cadets of Base Borden did some extensive work to improve the trail. A plaque is erected in the gateway in appreciation.

**44.35117, -79.98188**  
New Lowell Reservoir.  
Take a short walk to the right, for an excellent viewpoint or picnic spot on the shore of the reservoir.

*44.34801, -79.98546*

Fork in the road.

Proceed up the sloped forest road to almost the top of the valley height of land, where there is a double right hand blaze. The trail continues for about 50 meters, where it meets another right hand blaze, at the edge of staghorn sumac on the right and an evergreen reforestation stand on the left.

*44.34762, -79.98565*

Shared trail.

This westerly heading part of the trail is easy walking, with a broad, needle based surface that gradually enters a mature red pine forest, where the tops of little valleys can be viewed to the right. This part of the route is also a snowmobile route, running all the way to the property boundary of the New Lowell Conservation Area. Caution in winter and listen for snowmobiles.

*44.34652, -79.99184*

Trail heads south from this point.

At the northwest corner of the New Lowell Conservation area lands, turn left (south) and follow the limits of the Simcoe County Forest tract all the way along the western boundary.

*44.33907, -79.99008*

Viewpoint.

Enjoy the view of a tree plantation from on top of the sandpit. A fascinating feature in this section of the trail is the incidence of blow out sand dunes. These are examples of why the County of Simcoe and Conservation Authorities purchased Class 5, 6 and 7 lands in the area, so that reforestation would heal such wind-eroded sites.

*44.33577, -79.98736*

Parking alongside Concession 2 Sunnidale.

16.9

*44.33385, -79.99656*

Junction with 6/7 Sunnidale Sideroad. Turn left (south) on a sand road which becomes paved after you cross Hogback Road. Watch for the trail turning east into Brentwood Forest.

*44.32139, -79.99392*

Trail runs north and east from this point.

The Trail turns east into Brentwood Forest.

*44.3185, -79.9926*

Brentwood Forest Parking.

While not exactly on the Ganaraska Trail, there is a parking lot to the south on the east side of the road.

*44.31509, -79.98536*

Simcoe County Forest.

Follow the trail in the Simcoe County Forest as it winds through scenic red pine and deciduous trees. The trail follows the eastern boundary of the forest for a bit, then turns west again, and goes through an area where the forestry department of the County of Simcoe did a “controlled burn” several years ago and has since replanted the area.

*44.31093, -79.99116*

A series of interpretive plaques along the trail.

21.8

*44.30968, -79.99097*

Intersection with Sunnidale-Tosorontio Townline. Turn right (west).

*44.30605, -80.00162*

Be careful here.

There is a dangerous corner on Brentwood Road, as you approach Concession Road 3 and the Mad River bridge. No parking!

*44.30542, -80.00219*

Escarpment Biosphere Reserve entrance.

Just before the bridge, enter the Escarpment Biosphere Reserve on the north side of the Mad River. It may be a bit difficult to see the entrance, but it is there! The Reserve comprises 111 acres along the river adjacent to the Glencairn Conservation Area. It was donated to the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy by the Stephens family, who also own the General Store and gas station in Glencairn.

*44.30506, -80.00190*

Road side parking south of the bridge on the west side of Concession 3.

25.3

*44.30185, -80.02051*

Glencairn Conservation Area.

Located in the village of Glencairn, this pleasant area offers a scenic getaway for an hour or the entire day. The Mad River winds through offering opportunities for fishing, short hikes and simple relaxation. The Glencairn Conservation Area is maintained by the Glencairn Park Committee. Parking is available for a nominal fee. <https://www.nvca.on.ca/recreation>

After a short hike along Webster Road, the trail then turns north onto a Christmas tree farm. This is private land. The trail travels through the farm and exits onto Centreline road and heads north.

29.5      *44.33051, -80.04212*

Parking.

There is off-road parking on the west side of Centre Line Road, where the trail enters the forest and continues west.

*44.32059, -80.07442*

Concession Road 42 and 6/7 Sideroad.

From this point the trail runs south along Concession Road 42 to the community of Avening and east along the 6/7 Sideroad (undeveloped road).

34.3      *44.30986, -80.07329*

Trail meets Mad River at Avening.

Between the community of Avening and Creemore the trail follows the Mad River shore line. At Avening the trail goes through Carruthers Memorial Conservation Area where washrooms are seasonally available.

*44.31276, -80.08362*

Mad River.

At this point the trail goes through a field along the shore of the Mad River.

*44.31750, -80.09066*

South of Creemore.

From this point the trail runs north through Creemore and continues north and west from Creemore on municipal roads until close to Glen Huron.

39.3      *44.33019, -80.11019*

North end of Creemore

*44.34943, -80.16630*

Junction of field and forest.

At this junction point the trail runs straight into the forest and also straight across the field to the tree line visible from the junction.

*44.34740, -80.17830*

Small creek.

The trail crosses a small creek which should be passable all year.

*44.34616, -80.18267*

There is a turning point where the trail from the field on the east side of the road meets the road and goes north on Concession 8 towards the village of Glen Huron.

*44.34899, -80.18237*

Intersection with road to Bruce Trail junction.

At this point, the trail runs west from Concession 8 to the junction with the Bruce Trail and south along Concession 8 for a short distance before turning into the fields on the east side of the road. Road side parking is possible here for a small number of vehicles.

50.0      *44.34718, -80.19329*  
Cairn.

This is the junction where the Ganaraska Trail meets the Bruce Trail. This is the western most point of the Ganaraska Trail.