

ORILLIA SECTION
Maps 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

The Orillia section starts in Sadowa and ends after 70 kilometres at the Sugarbush Estate south of Horseshoe Valley Road. From Sadowa to Atherley the trail is primarily on country roads, mostly quite peaceful and scenic. The trail then skirts the shores of Lake Couchiching and runs along the Lightfoot Trail system through the city of Orillia following the Mariposa Trail. It heads south to cross under Highway 11 and through Scout Valley west of the highway. This area is picturesque and suitable for novices. It then runs west on roads turning north and finally east through fields and woods. Overall, the trail is mostly flat and presents a variety of hiking locales from lakeside parks to rural woodlands.

KM	DESCRIPTION
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0.0	44.75628,-79.15533
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Start of the Orillia Section of the trail. There is parking for 3 – 4 cars on the NW corner of Sadowa Rd. and Chisholm Trail.

The trail proceeds south on Sadowa then south through Sebright (km. 8.3).

5.3	44.72269,-79.17397
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The Head River is quiet, an excellent lunch spot with waterfowl often visible from the bridge. Continue south on the paved road through Sebright (km 8.3) to the 13th Line of Mara. Turn west (right). The road veers south (left) at km 14.6 to become the 5th Sideroad. At this point the trail leaves the road. Do not turn right into the swamp but follow the trail markers directly ahead.

The blazes lead in a south-westerly direction along a series of telephone poles, until a turning left (south) into a cedar/mixed forest. The trail proceeds through the forest, at times very swampy. In Spring and during wet weather this stretch can be a bit tricky. It is best travelled in winter on snowshoes.

You are passing through a terrain known as “Alvar” named after an island off the coast of Sweden. It is characterized by low, flat, barren limestone outcrops known as “karst.” Soils are too shallow to support much tree growth, but Wild Bergamot and other members of the mint family can be found. Camden Twp south of Sebright is home to the Loggerhead Shrike which is an endangered species.

18.3	44.65133, -79.20675
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The trail comes out at the extension of Concession 12 (east side of Simcoe Rd 169).

There is parking for about 6 cars off this extension of Concession 12. However, the parking area can be very muddy in spring and is not plowed in winter.

The trail continues west (across Simcoe Road 169) along Concession 12 to Fairvalley Road (km 23.8), then zigzags along country roads until it reaches Hwy 12 (km 31.1). It turns right (northwest) along Hwy 12, crossing Rama Road at the lights (busy intersection). Single file is advisable along this busy road.

There is parking for 3–4 cars at the entrance to the Ramara Trail, on the north side of the highway (44.60673, -79.37724).

At the Narrows, joining Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching (44.6045, -79.36961). The Mnjikaning Fish Weirs are located (not visible at this point, but, historically, this is where the First Nations carried out very successful fishing between Lakes

Couchiching and Simcoe).

- 33.8 Approximately 300 meters past the Narrows is a small strip mall where the trail turns right (north) off Hwy 12 to join the paved Lightfoot Trail. The trail turns west (the easterly path goes on a short distance to view the Narrows and the fishing weirs).

There is a large parking lot in Tudhope Park, as well as access to a public beach, public toilets, and concessions. There is a tribute to Gordon Lightfoot, Orillia's famous troubadour in the park (44.61160, -79.38431)

Inside Tudhope Park, the trail follows the shoreline along the Lightfoot Trail for approximately 4 km, until it reaches Elgin Street. It turns left on Elgin, then left on Front Street, crosses Front and King to SW corner, then proceeds along the south side of King St. on a bicycle/recreation path. It crosses West Street at lights, to SW corner; then left along the sidewalk on West Street, then R (SW) onto a recreational trail just before the Orillia Recreation Centre (km 38.3).

The trail follows the rail trail SW (44.60416, -79.41646) then S, crossing James Street, traversing a marshy area beside Lake Simcoe, crossing under Hwy 12, reaching Woodland Drive (the boundary for the City limits) at km 42.8. The tunnel under the highway is covered in graffiti from end to end.

Care should be taken crossing Memorial Avenue near the entrance to Scout Valley (44.57296, -79.44559) as it is very busy.

The trail turns northwest along Woodland. It follows Woodland for 1 km, then turns southwest along Memorial Avenue for about 1 km. The trail wends its way basically north through Scout Valley, a City of Orillia park, which has at least three different loop systems, blazed with different colours; the Ganaraska Trail is clearly marked with white blazes. The first part of the trail is through cedar swamp; in the spring it is quite wet. Then it enters mixed forest, rising to a hill, before gently descending to a parking lot on the south side of Old Barrie Road.

- 47.8 44.58641, -79.45324

The trail follows Old Barrie Road west for almost 5 km to Line 12 (Oro-Medonte), where it turns north. In approximately 0.5 km, near the top of the first hill, the trail leaves Line 12 to enter a field and proceeds west through a hardwood bush on a logging road. At the unopened Line 11 road allowance, the trail turns south (left) for about 300 metres to Rugby Estates, where the trail turns west at km 55.3.

- 55.3. 44.55607, -79.51790

The road allowance continues south where it leads to an excellent parking spot at a curve in the road where the open portion of Line 11 joins Scottdale Road. Do not park across the mouth of the unopened road allowance.

The trail continues west until it reaches Line 10, turns south to Old Barrie Road, west to Line 9, north for ~600 meters, then west into a forest/field area. The trail proceeds west, then north through the Simcoe County Forest Breedon Tract, which is heavily criss-crossed by mountain bike trails. It then enters private forested land and comes to Oro-Medonte Line 8N.

A blue side trail goes north on Line 10 for 100 meters, then west on a logging road

through hardwood forest. This area is carpeted with tiny pink flowers (spring beauty) in May. When you reach the end of this hardwood forest and meet a pine plantation, the side trail ends. Retrace your steps back to Line 10 to continue the main trail.

62.4 44.55998, -79.52112

The trail crosses line 8, continuing west for about 175 metres, then turns south through forest for about 250 metres to reach a parking lot.

62.4 44.53975, -79.56746

Parking for about 15 cars is accessed on the west side of Line 8 N. In winter, parking is cleared for about 6 cars.

The trail then turns west, then north, through the Strachan Tract of the Simcoe County Forest. Here the Simcoe County Mountain Bike Club has built a rolling wooden track feature and a kiosk (44.54163, -79.57693).

The trail zigzags through this tract, finishing up in a westerly direction, parallel and close to Bass Lake Side Road. The trail comes out onto Bass Lake Side Road at The Hub, a parking area bulged out of the south side of Bass Lake Side Road just east of Line 7 N (km 67.1) It was built by the Simcoe County Mountain Bike Club.

There are multiple parking lots, cleared in the winter, accessed off Bass Lake Side Road East 2 on the south side, and 1 on the north side, between Lines 7 and 8 of Oro-Medonte (44.55451, -79.59035). A forest road runs 0.9 km straight from the Hydro line parking lot on the south side of BLSR, south-east to the Ganaraska Trail.

67.1 44.553098, -79.595059

The trail crosses Bass Lake Side Road and enters the forest, angling northwest, crossing Line 7 N and entering forest again. This stretch of forest has display boards featuring local flora, fauna and social history. The trail winds its way through this tract to meet up with the Barrie Section.

69.8 44.55538, -79.61890

This is the west end of the Orillia Section. At this point a 0.25 km blue side trail provides access to Line 6N and parking for 6-8 cars on a bend in the road in Sugarbush (44.55738, -79.62037).

69.8 44.55538, -79.61890

This is the west end of the Orillia Section and the east end of the Barrie Section.