

WASAGA BEACH SECTION

Maps 26, 27, 28, 29

The Wasaga Beach Section includes beach walking along the Georgian Bay shoreline, forest hikes through the Wasaga Beach Provincial Park with both coniferous and deciduous trees, river hikes with spectacular views of the Nottawasaga River and the ancient sand dunes. The trail joins some interesting local trails – McIntyre Creek and Lamont Creek in Wasaga Beach and Clearview Echo in Stayner. The western part follows a farm track through fields and meadows ending in beautiful views of the rolling countryside near Glen Huron. It is suggested that you hike the western end of the section from west to east, not only to fully enjoy the scenery but also because you are walking downhill.

KM	DESCRIPTION
1.0	<p><i>44.56511, - 79.99467</i></p> <p>North - East end point of Wasaga Beach section at Allenwood Beach. There is a small parking lot which needs a permit (May to September). At the townline is a small plaque dedicated to the founder of this section.</p> <p>Follow Eastdale and Coastline Dr. (44.54585, - 79.99979) along the shoreline of the longest freshwater beach in the world to River Road East. There is good swimming here and a washroom open in summer. Follow the sandy beach road running parallel to the beach up to where it merges with River Road East. Turn right, then walk for a short stretch to the intersection with Mary Street.</p>
3.0	<p><i>44.54585, - 79.99979</i></p> <p>Turn right on Mary Street which becomes Coastline Drive. The latter joins River Road East and turns south onto Zoo Park Road, then turns west (right) onto River Road West.</p>
6.0	<p><i>44.52332, - 80.00385</i></p> <p>The junction of River Road West, Main Street and Ansley Road. Main St. leads to the main beach area, Nancy Island Historic Site, Ontario Parks and town trails. The Ganaraska Trail blazes follow Ansley Rd.</p>
6.5	<p><i>44.51830, - 79.99960</i></p> <p>The trail enters Wasaga Beach Provincial Park. Enter the eastern end of the 500 hectare park at the top of Ansley Road. The trail runs for 17 kilometres through this unique sand dune system. In the park, the trail crosses a series of ancient parabolic dunes. The dry ridges support maple, beech and hemlock. The wet valleys host tamarack and cedar. In spring look for lady slipper orchids and trilliums. On lower sand plains pine and oak forest tracts are home to white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, snowshoe hares, porcupines and the threatened but harmless Eastern Hognose Snake. There are no poisonous snakes in the park.</p> <p>There is a 1.5km loop side trail to the Nordic Ski Centre (44.5150, -80.0075). In winter, hikers must keep off groomed trails. Benches were donated by Wasaga Beach Ganaraska Hiking club; interpretive signs by Ontario Parks.</p>

15.0 44.4889, -80.0335

The trail crosses Veterans Way and enters the western part of the park. Pink triangles show Harold Culham Off Road Bike Trail, a 7 km trail from Nordic Centre to Schoonertown Parkette. The trail continues into high dunes and along the Nottawasaga River with excellent views of the river and ancient sand dunes.

22.3 44.048996, - 80.04738

An Ontario Parks Heritage Site dating back to the war of 1812, Schoonertown Parkette has been transformed into a conveniently located picnic area with tables, benches and a small parking lot. There is a memorial to Harold Culham who did much to establish hiking trails in the area. Free Spirit canoe/kayak rentals is also located here. Turn left at River Rd. West to cross the bridge and go along town streets.

Following Sunnyside Lane the trail arrives at Sunnidale Road (44.048241, - 80.06099). Stay on the shoulders of this busy road.

Follow Sunnidale Road South to Andrew Court (44.47134, - 80.05414) below the water tower which is one of the largest in North America.

A short side trail on the left off Wasaga Sands Dr. (44.47018, - 80.05547) leads to a lookout offering good views of the town and Nottawasaga Bay.

The main trail continues down Wasaga Sands Drive and turns right between houses. For a short distance it merges with the McIntyre Creek Trail. There is a beautiful trillium show in spring, and giant ferns in summer (44.44913, - 80.05032).

Cross the golf course (no longer in use) to Club Court. Follow the blazes into the creek valley and exit onto Blake Court which merges with Wedgewood Drive. Turn left.

29.3 At the south end of Wedgewood Drive, turn west (right) onto Concession 12 Sunnidale Road. Walk to County Road 7 and turn south (left). This road can be busy; watch for traffic.

Shortly after, turn right (west) onto 27 & 28 Nottawasaga Sideroad. Follow the road past Mowat St. North to Clearview Eco Trail (44.437.48, - 80.08650).

The trail merges with the Clearview Eco Trail which ends in Stayner (44.042039 - 80.08786). Hwy 26 (Main St. East) in Stayner is very busy in summer. Hike with care. Follow the blazes through Stayner park to the Warrington Rail Trail.

38.0 44.40511, - 80.05909

At the junction of the Warrington Rail Trail and Centre Line Road, continue south to the junction of Centre Line Road and 18/19 Nottawasaga Side Road (Snowmobile Trail) (44.39261, - 80.05622). Turn right and follow the trail blazes along the snowmobile trail B111. This unassumed sideroad is a deeply rutted farm track and is very muddy in wet weather.

The trail crosses County Road 42 (44.38585, - 80.08873) where vehicles travel at high speeds. Be careful crossing the road.

43.0 44.37918, -80.12084

At the junction of 18/19 SideRoad and Fairgrounds Road, the trail runs east and south. There is some traffic on Fairgrounds Road. Stay on the shoulders to 15/16 Sideroad. Turn right on 15/16 Sideroad which offers great views of rolling hills over the Niagara Escarpment and Nottawasaga Bay.

Follow the trail to the junction of 15/16 Sideroad and Concession 6 South (44.35563, - 80.15043).

The end of the Wasaga section is 200 metres to left on Concession 6 South.

49.0 44.3519 - 80.1494

The Wasaga Beach trail meets the Mad River trail.