

TINY SECTION Maps 29, 30, 31

The Tiny section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail runs south from just south of the Penetanguishene border with Tiny Township to Wasaga Beach. It goes through the Thompson Tract of Simcoe County Forests, along the Tiny Trail (rail trail) and through the Tiny Marsh which is a great location to view and listen to wildlife as you walk along the berms. Several species of waterfowl nest in the marsh and during spring and summer the wildflowers are gorgeous, and there are large batches of colorful dragonflies and butterflies along the trail.

KM DESCRIPTION

Main Trail

0.0 44.75014 / -79.96048

The Tiny section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail starts at Overhead Bridge Road just north of and Kingfisher Road in Tiny Township, where it meets the end of the Midland section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. There is parking here for about 2 cars (not plowed in winter), but there is additional parking further to the south on Overhead Bridge Road (44.74364, -79.95636), which can be accessed via the blue side trail of the Midland section. This parking lot is also not plowed in winter.

Follow the white blazes through the forest, making a zigzag down the hill. At the bottom of the hill turn left (south) and stay on the blazed trail (white trail markers). Lands adjacent to the trail are private. The white blazed trail will take you to the edge of a cliff side, where the Township of Tiny has built a set of stairs to take you down to the Tiny Trail. At the bottom of the stairs, turn left (south).

The Tiny Trail (<https://maps.simcoe.ca/TrailsMedia/TinyTrail>) is a rail trail designated as part of the Trans Canada Trail. It starts just north of Elmvale and links to Penetanguishene where it continues as the Penetanguishene Rotary Waterfront Trail.

The Tiny Trail follows the historic North Simcoe Railway. In 1847, stagecoaches used to run between Barrie and Penetanguishene with a tavern every 2 km for passengers to rest. The North Simcoe Railway was built in 1878 to replace the stagecoach service, much to the annoyance of the 37 tavern owners. The Tiny Trail and the Ganaraska Hiking Trail follow the route of the abandoned North Simcoe Railway.

There are 14 historic bridges on the Tiny Trail, of which 11 can be found north of Concession 12 and Penetanguishene. This section is very scenic, as the trail crosses

the Copeland Creek 10 times. Each bridge has a descriptive sign about its history. Be aware that the bridges can be very slippery. When riding a bike, it is recommended that you slow down or dismount. There is a washroom and parking at Concession 12 for about 8-10 cars (44.728380, -79.969251).

3.3 *44.735231 / -79.97268*

Trail crosses Tiny Conc. 12. There is parking here for 8-10 cars, and a washroom during the summer months.

44.728380 / -79.969251

East of the trail is the Balm Beachway Golf Club.

4.9 *44.722250 / -79.967680*

Cross Concession 11.

6.3 *44.710133 / -79.963346*

Across from Balm Beach Road (Concession 10) is Bernie Leclair Memorial Park, a parkette with a picnic area, washroom and large parking. There is also a replica of the North Simcoe Railway historic station. The village of Perkinsfield is just to the west of the parkette. Continue south to Wyevale and beyond.

7.7 *44.698127 / -79.958402*

Cross Concession 9.

9.2 *44.685142 / -79.953184*

Cross Concession 8.

11.9 *44.664342 / -79.935880*

Cross Concession 6 (there is no Concession 7).

13.3 *44.698127 / -79.958402*

Wyevale parkette & washroom (as well as an ice cream shop across the road) at Concession 5. There is parking at the Wyevale ball field just off Concession 5, east of County Road 6.

14.7 *44.642752 / -79.917066*

Cross Concession 4.

15.9 *44.633566 / -79.908827*

Cross Concession 3 as well as the bridge over the Wye River.

44.622034 / -79.898939

Go across the bridge at Concession 2 for another 400 metres.

44.618709 / -79.896089

Exit from the rail trail onto County Road 6 and turn north, back towards Concession 2.

18.4 *44.622034 / -79.898939*

Turn left (west) onto Concession 2.

44.620217 / -79.902853

You will cross the bridge over a tributary to the Wye River.

20.0 *44.614145 / -79.916837*

Turn right (north) from Concession 2 at the old washrooms and follow the gravel road to the NE1 parking lot. In the summer, this is a nice and shady part of the trail, under the tree canopy.

20.4 *44.615912 / -79.920951*

The NE1 Parking lot of the Tiny Marsh accommodates 10-15 cars. There is a sluice on the north side of the parking lot.

44.614866 / -79.920582

From the NE1 Parking lot, turn south until you see the Turtle Nesting Area sign, and turn west here onto a dyke.

21.1 *44.612605 / -79.924006*

Continue along the dyke. You will come to a green gate. Go straight through onto the Carolina Dyke. Alternatively, go south (downhill) and take the 2.2 km blue blazed side trail which forms a 5.5 km loop in combination with the main trail.

44.612101 / -79.928325

Continue along the Carolina Dyke or have a rest on a bench. Keep an eye out for all kinds of waterfowl including the white trumpeter swans.

22.3 *44.608617 / -79.940053*

At the intersection of the Carolina and Trotter Dykes, turn south. There are 2 benches here from which you can enjoy the view. To the north you can see an osprey nest.

24.0 *44.595167 / -79.928689*

At the bottom of the Trotter Dyke, the main trail turns right (west) over the sluice towards the Tiny Marsh Visitor Centre. Straight ahead is the Trotter Dyke parking lot which can accommodate 15-20 cars. On your left (east), you will see the blue blazes of the side trail that goes east in the direction of the "green gate", thus forming a 5.5 km loop with the main trail.

24.3 *44.592347 / -79.934231*

Tiny Marsh Visitor Centre, picnic shelter and parking for 20-25 cars. The visitor centre is usually closed, except for special occasions. There are no washrooms. ([Tiny Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area](#))

44.592190 / -79.934578

The main trail turns left (south) after a series of sluices which are an important management technique in the Tiny Marsh as they provide a stable habitat. To your right is the beginning of a scenic 2.2 km blue blazed loop trail that takes hikers to a lookout tower, and along a boardwalk and the Beaverland Trail to Mole Mountain and back to the beginning. Note that this area may be flooded in the spring or after a heavy rain.

44.591575 / -79.934708

Continue west along Tiny Floss Townline.

25.6 *44.587885 / -79.943737*

You will pass a "snowmobile parking lot".

26.9 *44.581772 / -79.957916*

Go straight across Crossland Road for another 1.5 km.

28.5 *44.574448 / -79.975019*

There is limited parking on the shoulder. Do not block any gates or driveways. The main trail continues along this unopened road allowance.

29.3 *44.571635 / -79.981096*

Turn right (north) towards a sand pit and immediately turn left onto an ATV track and immediately left again onto a narrow bush path. This area can be muddy until it reaches the unopened road allowance again. The unopened road allowance is very sandy, and meanders through the forest, and up and down the hills, until it reaches Sunward Drive.

30.1 *44.566340 / -79.992099*

Cross Sunward Drive and follow Archer Road to Tiny Beaches Road.

30.4 *44.565154 / -79.994674*

End of the Tiny section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail. There is a small parking lot here (5-8 cars), but note that a Tiny Township parking permit is required from May 15 to October 15 (and which is strictly enforced). There is lots of paid parking just south at Allenwood Beach (Wasaga Beach). Additional note: just walk another 100 m to the shore of Georgian Bay and enjoy this magnificent view or a dip in the water!

Tiny Marsh Side Trail West of Visitor Centre

0.0 *44.592554 / -79.936890*

From the main trail, west of the Visitor Centre, cross the bridge over the sluices and turn right to enter the beginning of the 2.2 km side trail blazed in blue. This trail will take you to a great lookout, across a boardwalk, and along the canal to Mole Mountain from where you have another great view over the Tiny Marsh. The blue blazes will bring you back to the beginning of this loop. Note that this area may be flooded in the spring or after a heavy rain.

44.593015 / -79.937328

As you walk on the dyke along the canal, enjoy the view, but also watch your footing because of uneven ground caused by wildlife and erosion.

44.593547 / -79.937873

This section is particularly beautiful when the waterlilies are in full bloom (June-July and possibly into August).

44.594507 / -79.940014

You may also see some interesting crayfish chimneys on the ground.

44.594942 / 79.941454

The Beaverland Trail takes you to Mole Mountain, which is an excellent picnic, viewing or rest spot.

1.5 *44.594777 / -79.941222*

The trail turns south from Mole Mountain.

44.592949 / -79.939763

Follow the blue blazes along the wetland, and past the first intersection.

44.591813 / -79.938475

The trail continues through a dense forest (mosquitoes!)

44.591984 / -79.937016

Follow the edge of a field.

44.592055 / -79.934290

Have a look at the pond on the north side of the trail.

44.591940 / -79.933905

The blue side trail loop meets the main trail again. Turn north (left) to close the loop and go back to the Visitor Centre. The main trail (white blazes) continues to the gravel road and west along the Tiny Floss Townline.

2.2 *44.592414 / -79.933961*

End of Tiny Marsh blue side trail loop west of the Visitor Centre.

Tiny Marsh Side Trail East of Visitor Centre

0.0 *44.614866 / -79.920582*

Start the 7 km loop trail from the NE1 Parking lot (follow the white blazes). Turn south until you see the Turtle Nesting Area sign and turn west here onto a dyke.

44.612605 / -79.924006

You will come to a green gate. The main trail (white blazes) continues west along the Carolina Dyke. However, the blue blazed side trail turns south (downhill) to form a 5.5 km loop in combination with the main trail.

44.611529 / -79.923020

Follow a beautiful canal and cross a small wooden bridge with another canal on the west side.

44.608900 / -79.920771

After about 500 m, there are 2 sluices on the east side and a path that leads to another parking lot that can be accessed from Tiny Concession 2.

44.601974 / -79.924312

Continue through an open area with glimpses of the marsh. You will then come to the shady part of the trail, at least in summer.

44.598526 / -79.926109

A small side trail leads to a lookout. You may even see a moose.

44.595167 / -79.928689

The blue side trail, which is 2.2 km long, ends at the southern end of the Trotter Dyke where it meets the main trail (white blazes). Take a right turn (north) and follow the white blazes to loop back to the green gate. Go straight past the gate and left at the next intersection to get back to the NE1 parking lot.

2.2 *44.595033 / -79.928414*

Trotter Dyke parking lot.