

## WHERE TO START?

Begin at the front door of Bayview Wildwood Resort go straight across the parking lot through the gate past the train tracks, through staff parking, and cross the street straight, you will see a barn continue straight past the barn with the field on the right side of you, the trail starts here there are yellow signs to guide you through.

### POST 1: LOOK ALL AROUND

Take a moment to observe the diverse trees around you; (31)White birch, (32) Red maple, (33)Trembling aspen, (34)Yellow birch, (35)Sugar maple, (36)Large-tooth aspen. In the clearing, mosses, lichens, and wildflowers thrive, creating a rich biodiversity that supports wildlife with food and shelter.

### POST 2: THE CREEPY SEEPAGE AREA

Water naturally flows downhill, but shallow slopes or obstacles can slow its path. Here, the water creeps and seeps, eventually making its way to Sparrow Lake despite the challenges.

### POST 3: RUMBLING, TUMBLING, ROCKY RIDGES

In the mid-1800s, white pines were heavily harvested for European sailing ships, possibly including one that crossed the North Atlantic. Before modern fire control, wildfires were common and unstoppable; evidence suggests a 1915 fire burned this area, as seen in the scorched stump. Fun fact: a new tree will eventually grow from this stump's remaining roots.

### POST 4: HOW GREEN IS THIS VALLEY?

This area is damp and the perfect home for all different types of ferns such as Oak fern, Cinnamon fern, Sensitive fern, Wood fern, Interrupted fern, and New York fern.

### POST 5: SUDDEN CHANGE

In 1992, sudden winds uprooted or snapped white pine, aspen, and white birch trees, which are vulnerable due to shallow roots or weak structures. While this may seem damaging, the loss of the canopy allows sunlight to reach the forest floor, promoting regrowth and new plant life.

### POST 6: ONCE WET, NOW DRY

The Spear Trail leads to a beaver meadow, once a forest with a small stream. Beavers created a pond by damming the stream, providing them with food access and predator protection. Over time, their activity transformed the landscape.

# BEAVER LAKE TRAIL

4.5 km total distance  
1.5 hours to complete  
Moderate difficulty  
Yellow Trail Markers

To start follow the path by the basketball court that crosses the railway tracks and Torpitt road where you will see the trail begin



### POST 7: USES OF THE BIRCH TREES

Birch trees thrive in damp soil, making this area ideal for their growth. Fallen birches resist rot, with intact bark suited for canoes, containers, and even writing—like a still-legible Jesuit document from the 1630s.

### POST 8: NATURE'S SKYSCRAPERS

In the 1800s, while large white pines were logged, while younger trees continued growing. Over 100 years, they've become forest "monarchs." White pine's demand as a building material sustains the logging industry even today.

### POST 9: YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS!

This area has collected water long before beavers raised the level by damming the outlet. It supports black spruce, sphagnum moss, leatherleaf, and other bog species. The floating vegetation adapts to water level changes, while migrating ducks and geese feed on insects and plants along the shores. Take a moment to capture this stunning view!

### POST 10: FAN FAVOURITE IN THE FOREST

High winds recently snapped aspen trees here, known for weak cell walls. This opened the canopy, allowing sunlight to promote wildflower and fern growth. Decaying logs, aided by fungi, break down into soft material that insects and bacteria transform into new soil.

### POST 11: JUMPIN' JUNIPER

Junipers are large shrubs with sharp needles, making them ideal shelters for small birds and mammals. Their blue-grey berries, used to flavor gin, were of great interest to early settlers.

### POST 12: YOU CAN TAKE THIS FOR GRANITE

The exposed rock here is thought to be the oldest on Earth. After the last ice age, around 1,000 years ago, the landscape resembled this rock's surface. Over time, eroded particles formed mineral soil as they settled in crevices.

### POST 13: OF BLACK & BEAVER DAMS

Beyond the trees on your right is Raven's Pond, which has overtaken the trail, so we've moved to drier land. Moisture-loving trees dominate here, with white and green ash thriving, but only black ash can survive in the constantly wet conditions. First Nations used these trees to make baskets.