

WHERE TO START?

From Bayview Wildwood Resort, cross the parking lot, go through the gate, and carefully cross the train tracks and staff parking to reach the road. Turn right, walk ~5 minutes, and look for a red sign and trail markers on the left for Old Joe's Trail.

POST 1: UP & DOWN WE GO

This trail winds through granite ridges framing beaver ponds, descending into ravines before climbing to stunning scenic views. The pond, around 40 years old, began as a stream dammed by beavers, creating food and shelter for wildlife. Once resources were depleted, the beavers moved on, leaving the dams to break and transform the area into the beaver meadow you see today.

POST 2: TAKE COVER IN THE GROUND COVER

This seepage area stays damp year-round, supporting ferns, wildflowers, and partridgeberry with striped leaves. Clintonia's yellow flowers bloom above green basal leaves. If mosquitoes are biting, remember only females do so for egg development, while males feed on nectar, aiding pollination.

POST 3: LET THE SUN SHINE IN

Blowdowns are trees toppled by strong winds, roots and all. Shallow soil and the spread-out roots of white pine and aspen make them vulnerable to even a single gust.

POST 4: I CAN SEE CLEARER NOW

At the hilltop, tall hardwoods give way to hardy, sparse oaks. The rocky ridges endure intense summer heat and winter cold, supporting resilient plants like staghorn, sweet fern, and blueberries, ripe for picking in August.

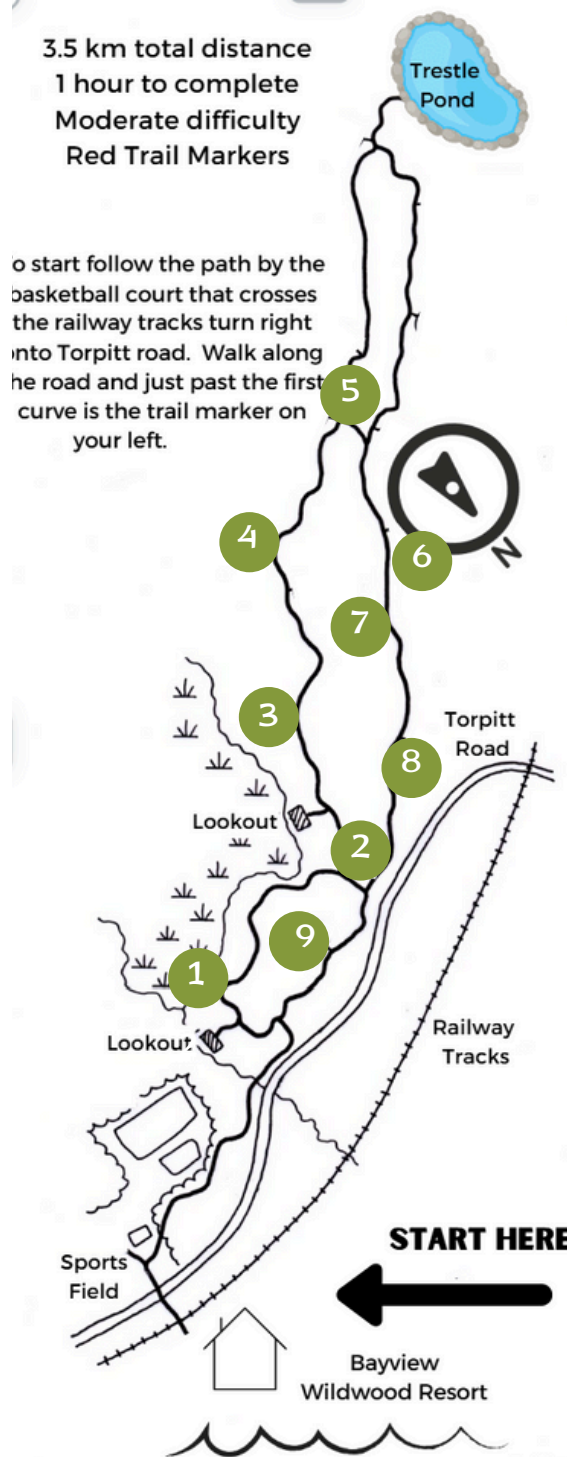
POST 5: ROCK ON JOE!

The rock floor on this hike is the Canadian Shield, one of Earth's oldest landforms at 2.8 billion years. Made of quartz (white), mica (black), and feldspar (pink), a feldspar deposit nearby was mined by prospector Joe Lalonde in the 1920s for fine china production. Despite setbacks, he later discovered nickel ore but was found dead in his cabin in the 1930s.

PLEASE NOTE ~ YOU HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE

You have a choice: go right to return to the resort via post 8, or left to explore an extended trail with historical significance before rejoining the main path at posts A-F.

OLD JOE'S TRAIL



POST 6: LICHENS ANYONE?

This rock hosts two types of lichens: crusty, hard-to-remove crustose lichens and foliose lichens, which resemble small plants. Lichens are a mix of algae (converts sunlight to food) and fungus (provides structure). The large lichen, rock tripe, was once used by Indigenous people to thicken stew. Please don't pick it—this is the only nearby sample.

POST 7: ACORNS TO BABY TREES

Acorns, the seeds of white and red oaks, grow at branch tips and fall to the ground to eventually sprout into oak trees. White oak is common in southern Ontario, while red oak is more prevalent here. White oak acorns are edible and were used to flavor stews, while red oak acorns are bitter but were used in tanning leather.

POST 8: WATCH OUT FOR THE IVY!

STAY ON THE TRAIL! Poison ivy grows here and should be avoided. The sap can cause itchy blisters that last up to two weeks. If contacted, wash the area with warm water and soap within 6 hours. Though irritating, poison ivy provides food for wildlife, with berries feeding grouse, deer, mice, and songbirds in fall and winter.

POST 9: DRAGONFLY COURT

This clearing is a prime spot for wildlife like ruffed grouse, deer, blue jays, mice, and snowshoe hares, so keep an eye out. Also, look up for dragonflies, which won't harm you but may hover nearby to catch deerflies.

NOTES FROM YOUR ADVENTURES

Date:

Weather:

People in the Hiking Group:

Highlights from the Hike: