

NATURE TRAILS IN LAMBTON SHORES & VICINITY



1. Pinery Provincial Park Trails

Ministry of Natural Resources

Status: Developed Hiking & Bicycle Trails - Trailhead signs installed

Access: 1512 Lakeshore Dr. (Hwy #21) 10 km south of Grand Bend

Description: This large 6300-acre park has miles of sandy beaches and an extensive network of hiking & bicycle trails through Oak Savanna. An entrance fee applies.

2. Grand Bend Rotary Nature Trail

Municipal

Status: Developed hard-surfaced Walking & Bicycle Trail

Description: This 10 km multi-use and relatively flat trail runs parallel to Hwy #21 from Grand Bend to the entrance of Pinery Provincial Park at 1512 Lakeshore Drive (Hwy #21). Interest has been expressed to build a 'Pinery to Port Franks Bikeway'.

3. Ausable River Cut CA Trails

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

Status: Developed Hiking Trail System - Trailhead sign installed

Access: 9984 Northville Cr. just off Hwy # 21 at the Ausable Cut Bridge in Northville.

Description: This 32 acre road-side park on the Ausable Cut offers hikers a challenging 1.5 km loop trail over a high sand dune - moderate & easy short-cuts available.

4. Lambton County Heritage Forest Trails

Lambton County

Status: Developed Hiking & Mountain Bike Trail System - has Trailhead & On-Trail signs

Access: 9997 Port Franks Rd at the Port Franks Community Centre in Port Franks

Description: This 570 acre Oak-Savanna & Carolinian Forest offers three trails respectively 3.1 km, 5.2 km & 6.6 km in total length from the Community Centre. Degree of difficulty ranges from easy to difficult.

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5. Karner Blue Nature Sanctuary Trail (LWI)

Lambton Wildlife Inc.

Status: Blazed & accessible Hiking Trail Loop - no Trailhead or On-trail signs - trail is overgrown with poison ivy

Access: 9904 Nipigon St. in Port Franks - ½ km east of Port Franks Rd at Whatman St.

Description: This extremely rare 37 acre 'Dry Oak-Pine Woodland' has a 2 km trail traversing gently sloping sandy terrain. The Karner Blue butterfly after which this Nature Sanctuary is named is extirpated.

6. 'L' Lake Management Area Trail

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

Status: Developed Hiking Trail Loop - Trailhead sign installed

Access: 7101 Outer Drive west of Port Franks

Description: The 69 acre 'L' Lake site offers a gentle 1.5 km hiking trail through cedar wetlands and mixed Carolinian Forest.



Random Photos

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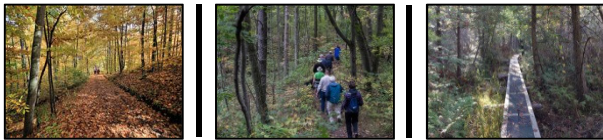
7. Forested Dunes Nature Reserve Trail

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Status: Passable Hiking Trail - no Trailhead or On-trail signs

Access: 7101 Outer Drive west of Port Franks through ABCA's 'L' Lake Management Area.

Description: The hike from Outer Drive to Mud Creek and back is approx. 5 km and leads through the 139-acre Forested Dunes Nature Reserve, part of the 150,000-acre Port Franks Dunes & Wetlands Complex designated provincially as an Area of Natural & Scientific Interest (ANSI) and nationally as an Important Birding Area (IBA).



Random Photos

8. Eastcourt/Ipperwash Dunes & Swales

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Status: Two trails have been blazed, trailhead & on-trail signs have been installed and unwanted ATV trails have been covered with brush to permit re-naturalization

Access: In Ipperwash from the end of Richardson Dr. off East Parkway

Description: The Carolinian Forest & Dunelands here cover over 500 acres and includes a 172 acre Nature Reserve owned by Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). The Dunes & Swales ('White') Trail is 5.5 km and winds through a Carolinian Forest of sand ridges and wet swales passable on boardwalks. A variety of wildflowers makes this trail a feast for the eyes in spring. The Cedar ('Green') Trail is 2.2 km and features many cedar coves. A 4.5 km Beach Trail through coastal wetlands, dune lands and along the Lake Huron shoreline is under review pending lot owner approval.

9. Town of Forest Trails

Municipal

Status: 1. Developed Forest Walkway 2. Railway Track-Lagoon Hiking / Partial Bicycle Trail 3. Proposed 'Green Tunnel Trail along Railway Track to the Shores Recreation Centre & Coultis Park - no Trailhead or On-Trail signs

Access: Rotary Civic Square behind the Library in Downtown Forest

Description: The formal 2.8 km (one way) asphalt Forest Walkway leads south to the Esli Dodge CA.. The informal trail along the Old Railway Track and around the Lagoons west of Forest provides a 4.5 return trip over flat lands. (LS). A 4 km return trip 'green tunnel' recreation trail following the abandoned Grand Trunk Railway track east from downtown to the Shores Recreation Centre & Coultis Park is under consideration.

10. Rock Glen CA Trails

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

Status: Developed Trail System - Trailhead signs & markers installed

Access: 8680 Rock Glen Rd – Follow the Conservation Area sign from County Rd#79 just north of Arkona

Description: This 67-acre gorge site has a 1.5 km hiking trail with steep stairways & a wheelchair-accessible overlook. An entrance fee applies.



Random Photos

11. Joany's Woods Trails (TTLT)

Thames Talbot Land Trust

Status: Developed Trails - Trailhead and On-trail signs installed - Trail Guide available

Access: Boothill Rd from north & Vernon Rd from south near Village of Sylvan on County Road #7

Description: The 367 acre property located in the Ausable River Valley (east side - just north of the bridge on County Rd #7) has a difficult 4.8 km and an easy 3.2 km trail loop through mixed Carolinian-Great Lakes Hardwood Swamp Forest, and a 2.2 km trail along the river.



Random Photos

12. Ausable River Valley Trail

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority & Private

Status: Blazed but at times difficult to follow in rugged terrain - no or few Trail signs

Access: 1. Scout Rd (2 km south of County Rd #7 at 'Prairie Restoration Project' sign 2. Drive 3 km south on Sylvan Rd from County Rd #7 - turn west on Macdonald Dr. and drive to end 3. Drive 5 km south on Sylvan Rd from County Rd #7 - turn west on Elm Tree Dr. and drive to the end - watch for small 'Mystery Falls' marker on right before end of the road.

Description: The 10 km rugged trail follows the Ausable River Valley on the east side. It includes steep ravines and gullies in a mixed deciduous forest of mostly beech and oak. The trail at times is very rough and the white blazes at times are difficult to see. On the trail's south end of Elm Tree Drive you can reach the Ausable River Valley Trail via the Mystery Falls Trail ('Blue' Blazes) for a rugged, moderate to difficult 3 km loop.



This brochure is made possible by Lambton Shores Nature Trails

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