

## Ecology

Barnum Creek Nature Reserve is a mosaic of habitats ranging from tolerant hardwood, mixed wood, early successional forests, and grassland, to marsh and swamp. Running through this tapestry of habitats is Barnum Creek, which drains from Barnum Pond approximately 2 km to the east and empties into Barnum Lake approximately 6 km to the west. Barnum Creek flows through the middle of the property and serves as an important geographical divider, separating the farmed areas in the north from the more mature forests in the south.

**Barnum Creek:** The creek changes in nature as it traverses the property from a wide marshland area to a narrow flowing creek and finally to a series of beaver ponds. The creek area with its rich source of nutrients attracts neighbouring deer, moose, foxes, wolves, beaver, porcupines and muskrats. As well, blue heron occasionally land on the pond and the birdlife is abundant.

The variety of **wetlands**, particularly those in the south, provide important ecological functions:

- Wildlife habitat
- Flood retention
- Groundwater recharge/discharge
- Water filtration (sediments, contaminants)

**The Upland Forests:** A significant component of the property is a mature maple forest with abundant ground cover and shrub species such as wild leek, blue cohosh, leatherwood and maidenhair fern. All these species prefer calcareous soils. Calcareous soils in the County of Haliburton are derived from fingers of marble, limestone and dolostone extending into the Precambrian bedrock of the shield from the mixedwood plains to the south. This ecosystem is limited in the County of Haliburton. Other upland forest habitats include Young Maple Forest, Mixedwood Forest, Early Successional, and Red Maple Forest.

**The Open Habitat:** Open upland habitat is limited in the County of Haliburton, mainly associated with former agricultural lands. The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is managing these open grasslands as they provide important habitat for numerous Species at Risk known to occur in the County of Haliburton, including Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, Eastern Milksnake, Eastern Whip-poor-will and Common Five-lined Skink.



Open grassland habitat at BCNR

Other rare and at-risk species documented on site include Eastern Wood-Pewee, Plantain-leaved Sedge, Narrow-leaved Glade Fern, Downy Rattlesnake Plantain, Monarch, Blanding's Turtle and Snapping Turtle.

## The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust -

Get Informed, Become Involved,  
and Be Invested!

### Membership

By becoming a member, you take a direct role in protecting the natural and cultural heritage of our community by providing the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) with a dependable source of funding. This allows us to engage in new projects and develop innovative approaches to land and water conservation, environmental education, healthy outdoor activity, and nature appreciation. In addition, it provides opportunities for the HHLT to promote the significant economic value of the environment in the Haliburton Highlands.

### Donations

The HHLT gladly accepts monetary donations as well as gifts-in-kind from individuals, families, businesses, charities, not-for-profit and corporate organizations. Donations and gifts-in-kind will receive a charitable tax receipt. Monetary donations can be general or directed, as well as donated in memoriam or celebration.

### Special Occasion Gifts

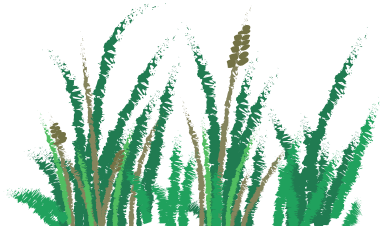
Consider adopting an acre (\$50) or half an acre (\$30) of Barnum Creek Nature Reserve in recognition of that nature lover on your gift giving list. Personalized certificates are issued with these donations and you can visit our office and choose your acre on our grid map. An excellent way to recognize a person's commitment to environmental conservation.

### Contact Us

If you love the Haliburton Highlands and want to support the HHLT, we'd love to hear from you!

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust  
P.O. Box 1478, 739 Mountain St.  
Haliburton ON, K0M 1S0  
705-457-3700

Our website is a good place to get more information about the HHLT's exciting events! Stay up-to-date by signing up for our newsletter. You can also make a donation or sign up as a member at [www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca](http://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca)



Thanks to TD Friends of the Environment  
Foundation for funding this project.



TD Friends of the  
Environment  
Foundation

Designed by Teghan Griffith, 2020



Haliburton  
Highlands  
Land Trust



## Barnum Creek Nature Reserve



Protecting the land we love for  
future generations

[www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca](http://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca)

## History

The land around Barnum Creek was likely used by First Nations for hunting, fishing and gathering for thousands of years before Europeans came to the area. In 1864, The Canadian Land and Emigration Company sold land to the first settlers as farmland. In 1865, a road was built to connect the Bobcaygeon Colonization Road with the hamlet of Haliburton. It was called Haliburton Road South. Barnum Creek Nature Reserve (BCNR) is on that old road, which now has many names and ends at the municipal building in Haliburton. The location on that road made it a highly valued property. Over the years, parts of the property were home to the Connor, Cowen, Moffat, Mitchell, Dugan, Gainforth and Ferguson families. Some of the descendants of these early settlers still live in Haliburton County.

Since the mid-1860s much of the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve (BCNR) was used primarily for mixed farming which was difficult because of the shallow and rocky soils. Numerous rock piles along the northern part of the Heritage Hike attest to the laborious effort that would have been required to clear the land for farming.



Rock pile at BCNR

By 1974, Mr. John Dobrzensky & his son had purchased 500 acres of what is now BCNR. The property was included in a Woodlot Improvement Act Management Agreement with the intent of developing a long-term sustainable forest. In 1987, 300 acres (of the original 500 acres) were sold to Mr. Dobrzensky's daughter, Margaret, who continued to ensure the long-term sustainability of the forests. Ms. Dobrzensky also continued to maintain much of the now abandoned farmland in its grassland state recognizing the importance of this habitat for a number of Species at Risk.

In 2008, Margaret Dobrzensky purchased an additional 100 acres and enrolled the entire 600-acre property in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program.

In 2018, Leopoldina and Margaret Dobrzensky, under Environment and Climate Change Canada's Ecological Gifts Program, donated 500 acres to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, and entered into a Conservation Easement Agreement with the Land Trust on the remaining 100 acres.



## Conservation Planning

The Dobrzensky family were excellent stewards of the land, and the Land Trust is honoured to continue this stewardship.

Keeping the area around Barnum Creek and its associated wetlands natural promotes water quality flowing into Barnum Lake. It also provides covered access to the creek and its wetlands for wildlife.

Keeping open areas cleared maintains habitat for those species at risk that forage in open areas and/or bask in full sun.

Regular monitoring of the property ensures the vitality of the forest by keeping an eye on the health of the trees and watching out for the presence of invasive species.

Maintaining a mature forest with old growth characteristics, such as standing dead snags, large diameter cavities and downed woody debris and super-canopy trees provides excellent habitat for many species and contributes to establishing and protecting old growth forest in Haliburton County.

Signing and maintaining trails makes it possible for members of the public to safely enjoy a variety of healthy activities in a natural setting. It also provides opportunities for the Land Trust to hold educational events that encourage nature appreciation and conservation. Signed trails minimize the potential for human disturbance to adjacent habitats which helps protect the natural flora and fauna.

Establishing permanent sample plots allows the Land Trust to identify and monitor changes in the biodiversity at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve over time.

## Trail Descriptions

Barnum Creek Nature Reserve has lovely trails from easy to challenging. At times, trails can be very wet, muddy, or icy. Wear appropriate footwear. Be cautious and use trails at your own risk.

### Heritage Hike – easy to moderate – 5 km

The trail winds its way across the property through forests and open fields, passing nearby wetlands. The trail is wide and generally flat, with some sections of moderately steep inclines. Bicycles are permitted on this trail.

### Waterfall Way – easy to moderate – ¾ km

This lovely trail follows Barnum Creek for a short distance and passes through forest and old farm fields. Part of the trail is narrow and passes near a wetland. No bicycles allowed.

### Ridge Trail – challenging – 1 km

This is primarily a narrow forest trail. The climb to the top is steep and includes an additional climb on the other side of the ridge. It is not advisable to hike this trail if it is wet and slippery or snowshoe if conditions are icy. Take care along the edge of the ridge as there is a steep cliff near the trail. No bicycles allowed.



# Barnum Creek Nature Reserve

Owned, managed and protected by






Haliburton Highlands Land Trust







### Barnum Creek Nature Reserve

-  HHLT Property
-  Conservation Easement








### Barnum Creek Trail Network

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Trail Distance Nodes





### Barnum Creek Trails

-  Heritage Hike 
-  Ridge Trail 
-  Waterfall Way 

### Other Features

-  Cultural Heritage Site
-  Private Residence
-  Creeks/Rivers
-  Contours
-  Roads
-  Public Trail
-  Haliburton Rail Trail

### Habitats

-  Forest
-  Open Field
-  Marsh Wetland
-  Swamp

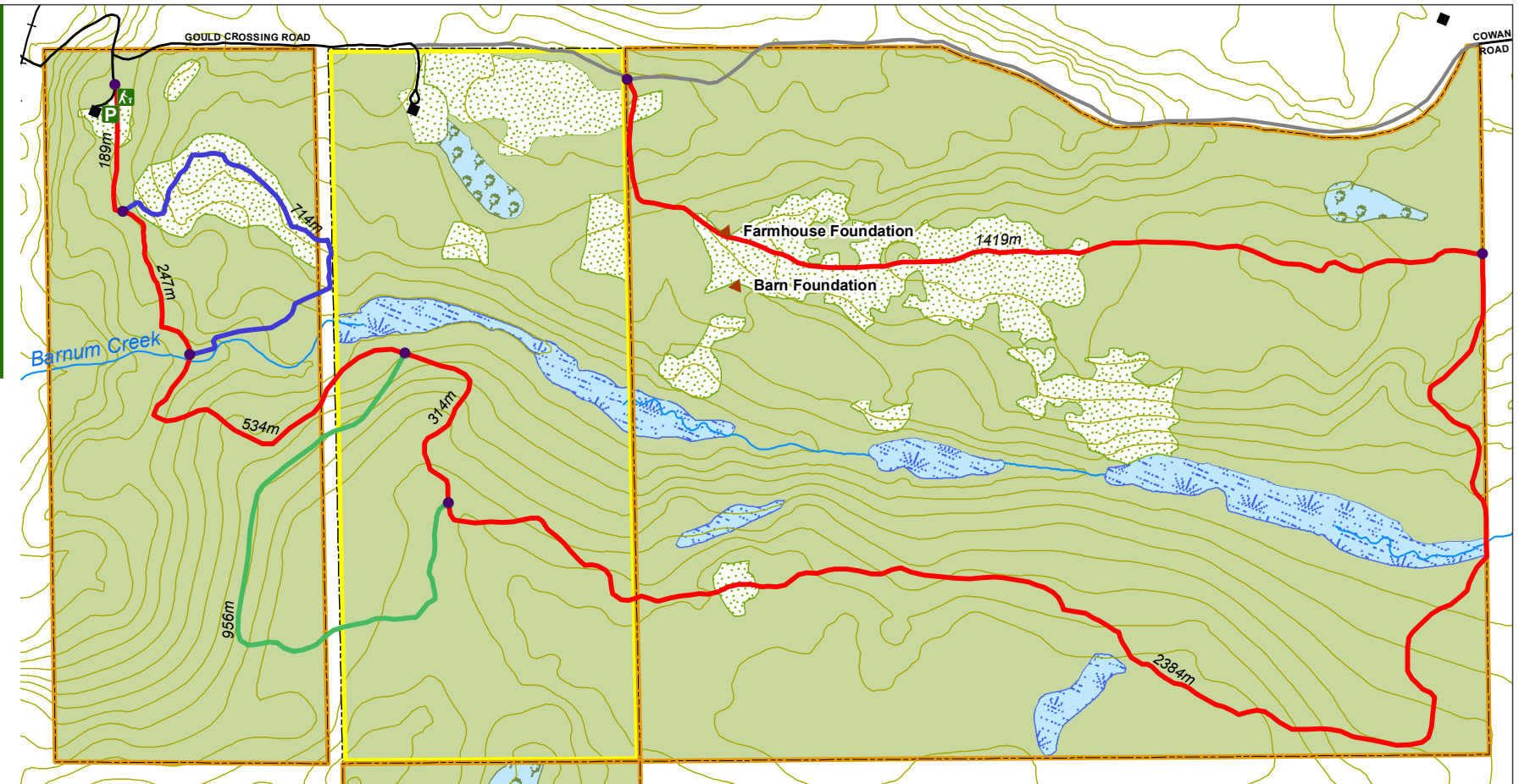
### Permitted Uses:



### Non-Permitted Uses:



Notes: This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features nor as a guide for navigation. Glenside Ecological Services Limited is not liable for any errors or omissions in the information, and will not under any circumstances be liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential, or other loss, injury or damage caused by its use or otherwise arising in connection with this map or the information, even if specifically advised of the possibility of such loss, injury or damage.



Enjoy your visit to Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. Please follow the rules of use to preserve the property's ecosystems and ensure the safety of all visitors.

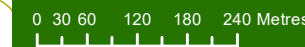
### Rules of use:

- All dogs must be leashed. Please clean up after them.
- The property and trails are for day use only.
- Overnight camping, fires and motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- Please do not harvest or disturb flora and fauna.
- There are private residences. Please take care to avoid disturbing people or property.
- Please stay on marked trails. Bicycles on Heritage Hike only.
- Beware of vehicles on public road.
- Leave only footprints, take only memories.

Donations are welcome in the box provided.

Property location: 1118 Gould Crossing Road, Haliburton ON.

GPS coordinates: N 45.0179, W 78.5318



## How to Get to Barnum Creek Nature Reserve

**From Minden:** Take South Lake Road (County Road #16) to Gelert Road. Turn left and follow Gelert Road to Gould Crossing Rd. It is approximately 24 km from Minden.

**From Haliburton:** Take Gelert Road (County Road #1) to Gould Crossing Road. The Nature Reserve is 5 km southeast of Haliburton Village.

**A note of caution -** Google Maps mistakenly calls Gould Crossing Road, Cowan Road. There is a sign on Gelert Road that says Gould Crossing Road.

### Parking

There is an area set aside for parking in spring, summer and fall near the trailhead. The road to the trailhead is not regularly maintained and the road can be rough.

It is always recommended that you check conditions before driving up the hill to the trailhead.

**No parking is available at the trailhead in winter.** The road to the trailhead and parking area are not plowed. You may be able to park on Gould Crossing Road at your own risk. From there you can walk up the hill to the trailhead. Please do not block the snow plow turnaround or private driveways.