



Haliburton
Highlands
Land Trust

*Protecting the land we love
for future generations*

Barnum Creek Habitat Hike An Educator's Guide

Produced by the
Haliburton Highlands Land Trust
admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca
With funding from TD Friends of
the Environment Foundation

Introduction

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 into Barnum Lake. It is a perfect outdoor classroom to explore habitats, diversity, and ecology! Take your students on the suggested Habitat Hike using the Educator Guide we have created just for you!

How to get there!

The reserve is located at #1118 Gould Crossing Road, Haliburton Ontario (Google Maps mistakenly calls Gould Crossing Road, Cowan Road) Park near the rail trail crossing. **Not advised** for school buses to drive up the steep hill. It is approx. 100m walk to the main gate.

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. It is approximately 5 km from southeast of Haliburton Village.

Parking: Spring, summer and fall only. Parking area is by trailhead. Road leading to this parking area is not regularly maintained and it is recommended that you check conditions before driving up hill to trailhead. Park at the side of Gould Crossing Road, near the rail trail in winter and then walk up the hill to the nature reserve.

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

History

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 an adjacent 100 acres. The property, now known as Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, was opened to the public in October 2020. This Educational Guide was developed in 2022 by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, Irene Heaven, and with funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

About HHLT

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is an independent, non-government community resource organization for land and water protection. It protects land and water within Haliburton.

The Land Trust believes that all our lives are improved by the presence of a healthy natural environment. We believe it is our duty to protect our natural and cultural heritage for future generations to come.

To learn more about the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust please visit www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca



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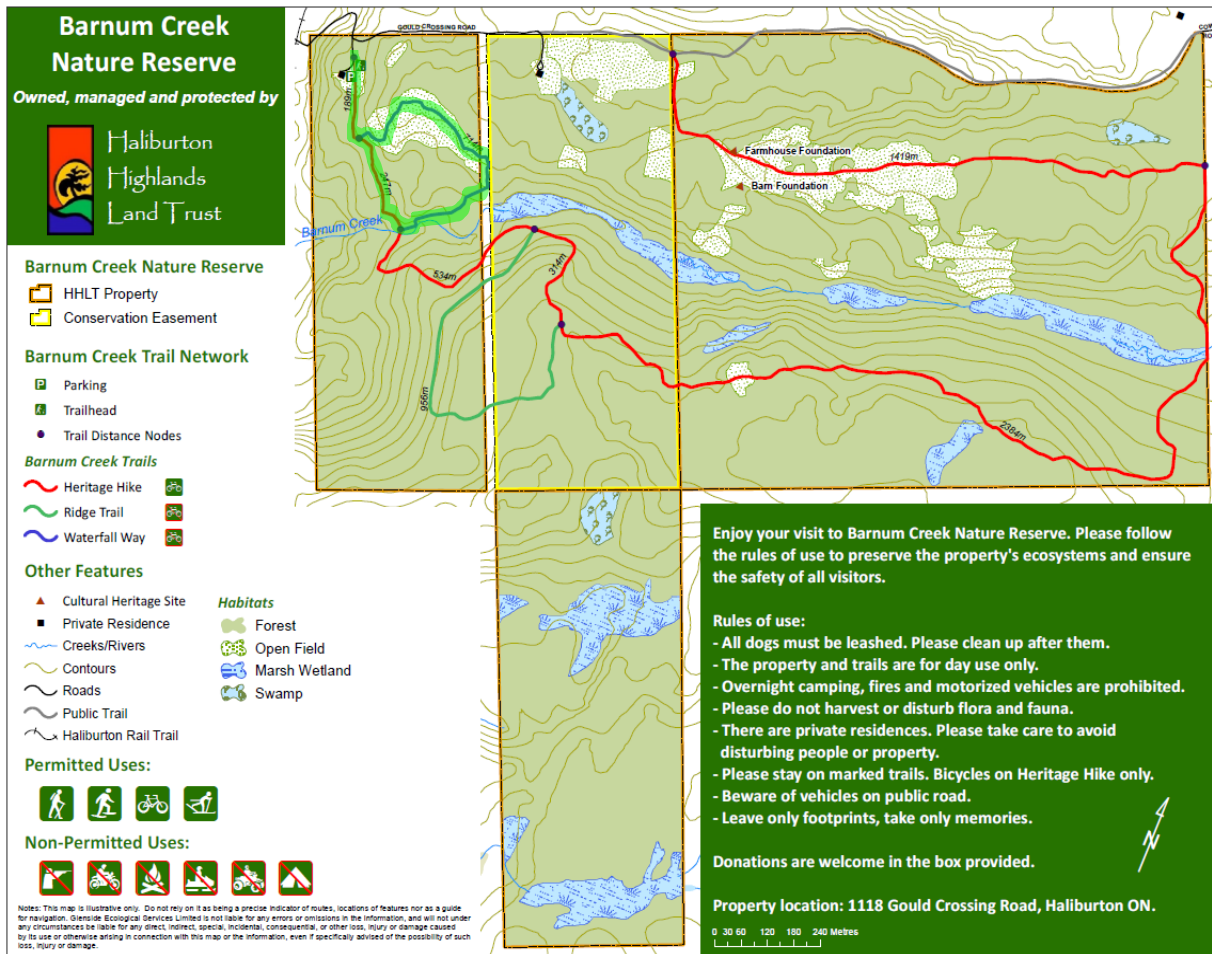
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Barnum Creek Habitat Hike

The Habitat Hike is an easy to moderate 1.4km walk which will take you and your students on sections of the Heritage Trail and the Waterfall Way. The Habitat Hike is highlighted in lime green on the map below.





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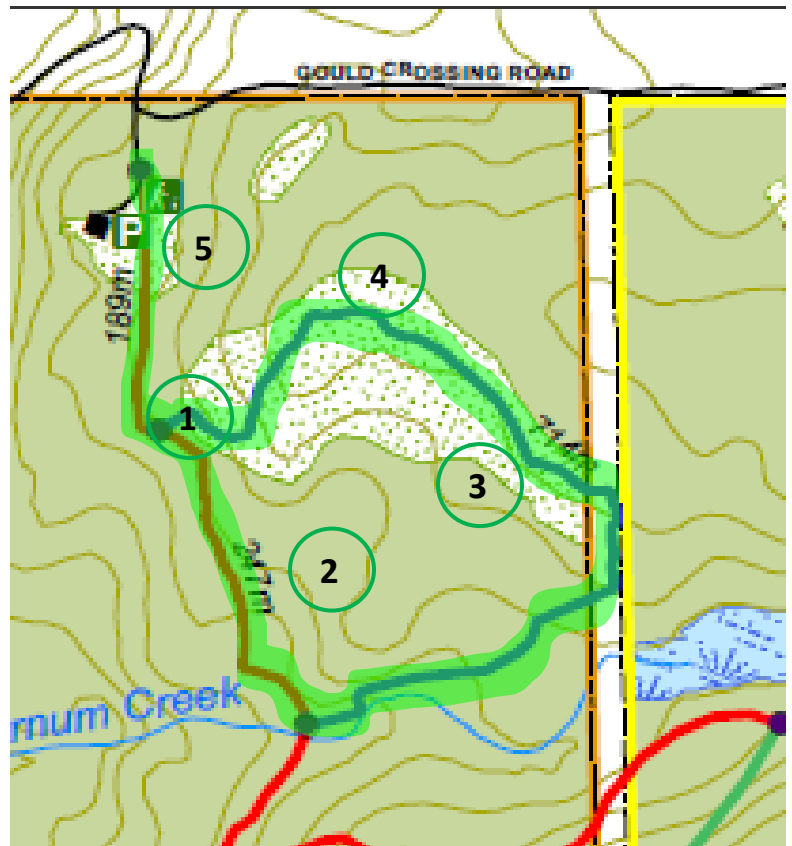
Stop #2 – Barnum Creek

Stop #3 – Forest: Mixed Wood

Stop #4 – Open Field

Stop #5 – Forest: Early Successional

Note: Stops #1, 3 & 5 are different forest types. It is always interesting to compare and investigate differences within similar habitats, but you can also reduce your field trip by choosing just one of the forested habitats.





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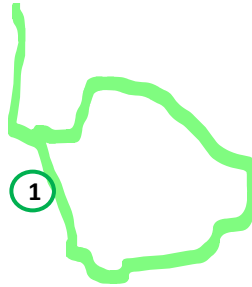
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Stop #1

Forest: Mature Sugar Maple



Key Messages:

- Forests are not all the same! They are different depending on the types of trees that make them up (species), the number of trees (abundance), and the different ages of trees.
- Deciduous trees have broadleaf leaves, coniferous trees have needles.
- Diversity is differences. Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth.
- Leaf litter and decomposers are important for forest habitats.
- Forests are an important habitat for wildlife.
- Camouflage means to blend in. It is important for many wildlife and some change with the seasons.

What to look for?

- Trees with different widths of trunks and some large!
- Trees that are dead but still standing.
- Dead trees laying on the ground and some are big!
- Large holes in trees ... where someone may live!
- If you look up, the canopy is full, but you can see gaps where trees have fallen.
- A lot of Sugar Maple trees! (Show sugar maple print out and challenge students to find one!)

Who may live here?

- Eastern Wood Pewee (listen for “pee-a-wee” or “pee-yeer”), woodpeckers, salamanders, flying squirrel, fisher, and black bear.

Activity suggestions: (See *Educator Companion* for details)

No Equipment Required (See *Educator Companion*):

1. **Sit... look, listen & smell!**
 - **Concept(s):** Introduction to habitat, habitat use, and observation.
2. **Camouflage**
 - **Concept(s):** Adaptations, and camouflage.
3. **Who lives here?**
 - **Concept(s):** Habitat use, and adaptations.



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Some Equipment Required (See Educator Companion):

1. Bark & Leaf rubbing scrapbook

- **Concept(s):** Understanding diversity, and introduction to identification.

Prior Preparation Required (See Educator Companion):

1. Litter Critters/Leaf Litter

- **Concepts:** Understanding diversity, and importance of decomposers.



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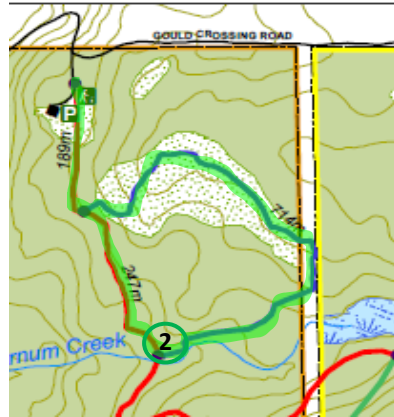
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Stop #2

Barnum Creek



Key Messages:

- Water is important for all living things.
- A body of water is any large accumulation of water on the surface of the Earth. It can be fresh or salt water.
- Rivers and streams are flowing bodies of water, they are in motion.
- Creeks are important for maintaining water quality.
- Creeks, like Barnum Creek, are important habitats for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species.

What to look for?

- Running water. Listen as well!
- A distinct channel or water course.

Who may live here?

- Raccoon, Porcupine, crayfish, otter, macroinvertebrates (insect larval stages), frogs (adults & eggs) and salamanders (eggs).

Activity suggestions: *(See Educator Companion for details)*

No Equipment Required (See Educator Companion):

1. **Sit... look, listen & smell!**
 - **Concept(s):** Introduction to habitat, habitat use, and observation.
2. **Who lives here?**
 - **Concept(s):** Habitat use, and adaptations.

Some Equipment Required (See Educator Companion):

1. **Water Colours**
 - **Concept(s):** Introduction to habitat, observation and understanding diversity.



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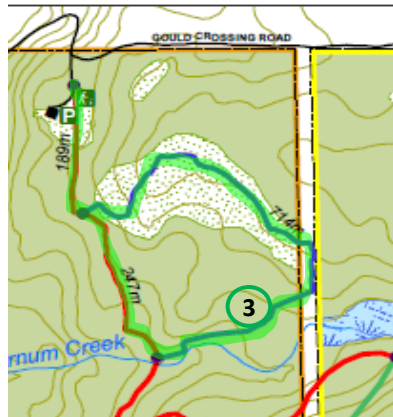
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Stop #3

Forest: Mixed Wood



Key Messages:

- Forests are not all the same! They are different depending on the types of trees that make them up (species), the number of trees (abundance), and the different ages of trees.
- Conifer trees can have needle-like leaves or scale-like leaves. Deciduous trees have broadleaf leaves.
- Diversity is differences. Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth.
- Forests are an important habitat for wildlife, providing food, shelter and sites for reproduction.
- Camouflage means to blend in. It is important for many wildlife species and some change with the seasons.

What to look for?

- Coniferous and deciduous trees.
 - More than 25% of the forest is conifer tree species.
 - More than 25% of the forest is deciduous tree species.

Who may live here?

- Broad-winged hawk (listen for high-pitched 2-4 second whistle), White-throated Sparrow (listen for “Oh Sweet Canada, Canada, Canadaaa”), red squirrel (listen for a scolding chatter), Pine Marten, Moose, woodpeckers and salamanders.

Activity suggestions: *(See Educator Companion for details)*

No Equipment Required (See Educator Companion):

1. **Sit... look, listen & smell!**
 - **Concept(s):** Introduction to habitat, habitat use, and observation.
2. **Camouflage**
 - **Concept(s):** Adaptations, and camouflage.
3. **Who lives here?**
 - **Concept(s):** Habitat use, and adaptations.

Some Equipment Required (See Educator Companion):



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1. Bark & Leaf rubbing scrapbook

- **Concept(s):** Understanding diversity, and introduction to identification.

Prior Preparation Required (See Educator Companion):

1. Litter Critters/Leaf Litter

- **Concepts:** Understanding diversity, and importance of decomposers.



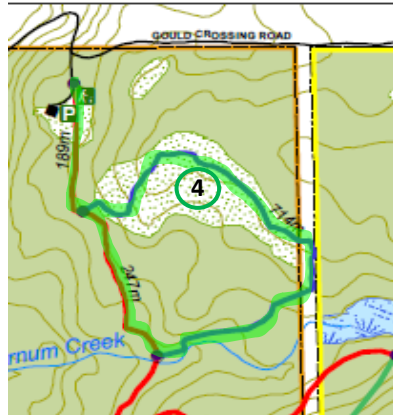
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Stop #4 Open Field



Key Messages:

- Ecological succession is the predictable change of one habitat or community type to another, over time.
- Primary succession is when a newly formed area is inhabited by species (a community) for the first time.
- Secondary succession takes place after a disturbance, natural or human caused.
- Herbaceous plants have soft green stems, not much woody material.
- Shrubs are woody plants that have many stems starting from the bottom.
- Migration is the seasonal movement of animals from one area to another.
- Species at Risk are naturally occurring plants or animals whose numbers are decreasing/low and in most cases, human activities are the cause.

What to look for?

- An open area with little or no tree cover and containing field plants such as grasses, herbaceous plants, and shrubs.

Who may live here?

- Monarch Butterfly, Northern Flicker, Wild Turkey, Garter Snake, and Eastern Milksnake.

Activity suggestions: (See Educator Companion for details)

No Equipment Required (See Educator Companion):

1. **Sit... look, listen & smell!**
 - **Concept(s):** Introduction to habitat, habitat use, and observation.
2. **Camouflage**
 - **Concept(s):** Adaptations, and camouflage.
3. **Who lives here?**
 - **Concept(s):** Habitat use, adaptations, and land use history.

Prior Preparation Required (See Educator Companion):

1. **Leaf and flower imprints**
 - **Concept(s):** Introduction to habitat, observation, and understanding diversity.



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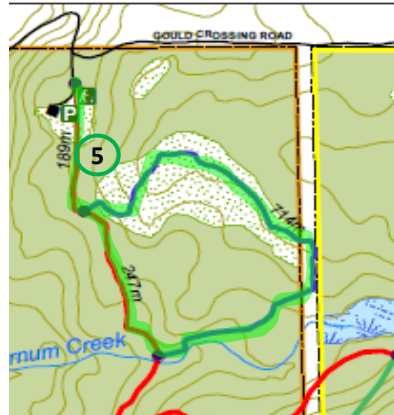
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Stop #5

Early Successional



Key Messages:

- Forests are not all the same! They are different depending on the types of trees that make them up (species), the number of trees (abundance), and the different ages of trees.
- Forest succession is the gradual change of a plant community to another, including trees.
- Early successional forests have mostly shade intolerant tree species.
- Shade intolerant species are “sun loving” tree species that grow well in full sun. Shade tolerant species grow well in shade.
- Forests are an important habitat for wildlife.
- Camouflage means to blend in. It is important for many wildlife and some change with the seasons.

What to look for?

- Mostly shade intolerant trees.

Who may live here?

- Ruffed Grouse (listen for drumming), White-tailed deer, Weasel, Snowshoe Hare, and Red Fox.

Activity suggestions: (See Educator Companion for details)

No Equipment Required (See Educator Companion):

1. **Sit... look, listen & smell!**
 - **Concept(s):** Introduction to habitat, habitat use, and observation.
2. **Camouflage**
 - **Concept(s):** Adaptations, and camouflage
3. **Who lives here?**
 - **Concept(s):** Habitat use, and adaptations.

Some Equipment Required (See Educator Companion):

1. **Bark & Leaf rubbing scrapbook**
 - **Concept(s):** Understanding diversity, and introduction to identification.

Prior Preparation Required (See Educator Companion):



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4. Litter Critters/Leaf Litter

- **Concepts:** Understanding diversity, and importance of decomposers.