Escarpment

- part of the Niagara Escarpment, 500 thousand year old rock
- fossils, geological interests, limestone surface
- crevices in rock formed by water flow, acids from leaves
- look for birds nests
- rock moderates temperature, holds moisture, stops wind
- acidic soil matter supports root system for trees to grow amongst the cracks
- coniferous trees, ferns, mushrooms, lichens & 5 different mosses
- observation deck overlooking canopy of trees

Wetlands

- remains of ancient forest (huge, old stumps & roots of trees)
- soil is mostly composed of decaying plant & tree matter
- ravens & crows nests
- wetlands supports diverse plant & animal life
- toads, tree frogs, salamanders, bats, partridge, deer & rabbits
- mushrooms, marsh marigolds, fungus, ferns, small trees
- mosses on all sides of trees
- insects, mosquitoes, cluster flies
- distinct smell, little air movement

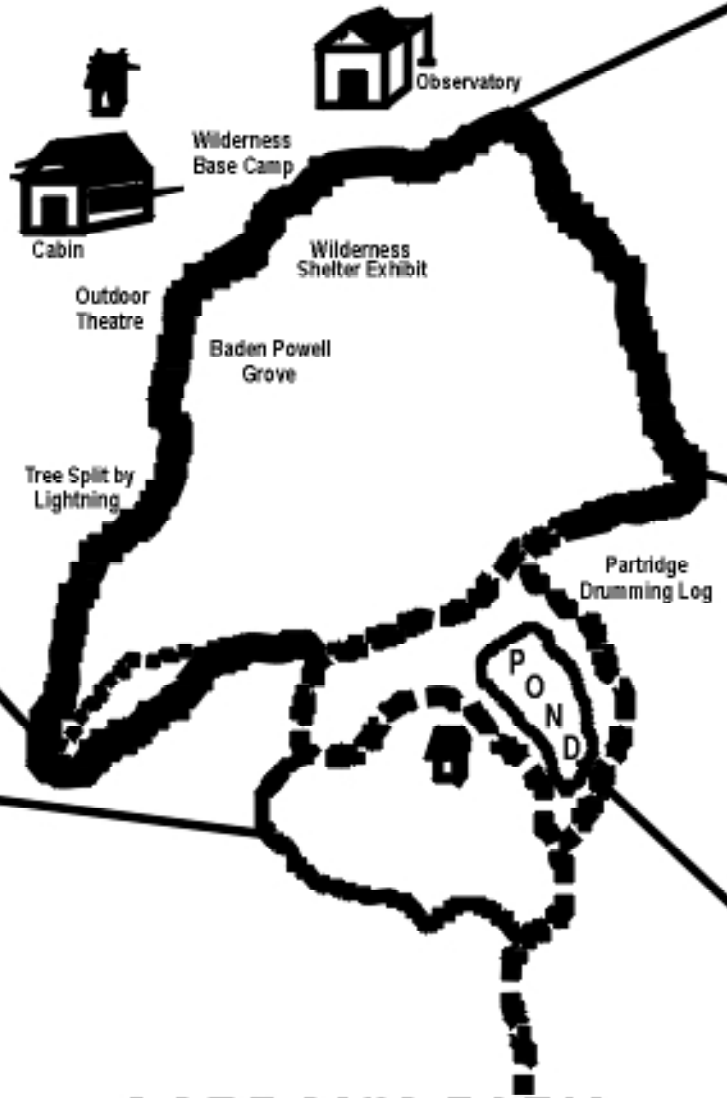
Mother Nature Trail
Green/1.2 km/30 min

Fossil Lane
Blue/2.4 km/45 min

Wetlands Foot Path
Orange

Escarpment Side Trail

Washrooms



GORDON'S PARK

Wilderness Retreat & Interpretive Center
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Tehkummah, Ontario
P0P 2C0
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Meadows

- dark sky sanctuary, wildlife viewing
- sea of grass, open & windy, sweet smell
- wild strawberries, junipers, prairie roses, hawthorn bushes, black berries
- anthills, fireflies, dragonflies & butterflies
- hawks, foxes, deer, porcupines, field mice rabbits & partridges
- wood lily, mouse-ear chickweed, devils paintbrush & black-eyed susan
- ferns & fiddleheads

Hardwood Forest

- abundance of trees including maple, poplar, oak, ironwood, ash, beech, spruce, black cherry, birch, basswood, chokecherry, balsam, leatherwood, tamarack
- largest beech tree, winner of the 1992 Great Manitoulin Tree Hunt
- hollows & cavities in trees are home to tree frogs, sapsuckers, woodpeckers & songbirds such as cardinals, bluejays, chickadees
- trilliums, baneberries, wild leeks
- insects, rodents, squirrels, deer & partridges feed on bulbs, roots, nuts & leaves

Pond

- natural butterfly habitat, look for ducks, blue heron, water strides, painted turtles, frogs & goldfish
- watering hole for a variety of animals, look for paths, tracks, beaver chews & scat & listen for song birds
- trees provide insects for aquatic life
- flowers & long grasses keep too much soil from going into the pond
- hawks go to the pond for frogs, birds gather insects & deer eat soft green vegetation along the waters edge
- bird watching & wildlife viewing station
- wild raspberries, pussy willows, ferns, jewelweed & other wildflowers
- pond supports aquatic plants such as cattails, coontails & water lilies, etc.