

NBTC Side Trail Challenge Suggestions &
Photo Requirements



Bruce Trail
CONSERVANCY
NIAGARA CLUB

The following hikes are suggestions for the Side Trail Challenge. Some hikers may prefer to complete the side trails without adding any of the main trail to their hikes. Others may choose to take a more leisurely approach to completing the Side Trails for the badge.

Whichever way you chose to hike the Niagara Side Trails, it is important to refer to the trail updates because there may have been a number of changes since the Bruce Trail Guidebook Edition 30 was printed.

Hike #1 Map 1 Total Distance: 16.5 km

Side trails: General Brock ST, Alfred's Trot ST, Upper Canada Heritage Trail

This is a 2-part hike.

Part 1:

Photos: picture of Alfred's Trot ST sign, War Memorial (soldier with gun), McFarland House, Niagara River, Brock's Monument

Park at Butler's Barracks (enter from John St). Carpool to the Southern cairn.

- 1) Follow the main trail through Queenston Heights until it meets Alfred's Trot ST. Follow the side trail until it meets the main trail and then return to the cairn.
- 2) Follow the General Brock ST back to Butler's Barracks parking lot. Pick up vehicle at the cairn.

Part 2:

Photos: Dry stone wall, ruins of lime kilns

Drive to parking area on York Rd just east of Concession 2. Take Upper Canada Heritage Trail out to where it meets the Main Trail at km 4.2, then back along same trail to vehicle.

Hike #2 Map 2 Total Distance: ~8 km

Side Trails: Wetland Ridge ST, Niagara College ST, Margaret Kalogeropoulos ST

Park in first parking area of Woodend, immediately off of Taylor Rd.

Photos: Outdoor Classroom, First Nations, Métis & Inuit Garden, Constant Gardener Bench, Wood duck nesting box, Lime kiln ruins, Margaret Kalogeropoulos ST sign

Enter Main trail at km 16.7

Take Main trail until it meets **Wetland Ridge ST** at km 16.4

Take **Wetland Ridge ST** until it meets **Niagara College ST**. Take **Niagara College ST** out and back.

Continue on Wetland Ridge ST until it meets the Main Trail. Go left on Main Trail.

Continue on the Main trail until it meets the **Margaret Kalogeropoulos ST**

Hike the side trail until it joins up once again with the main trail.

Turn left onto the Main trail and hike back along the trail until you reach the parking lot again.

Hike #3: Maps 2&3 Total Distance 15.0 km (carpool) or 23 km (loop)

Side Trails: Bert Lowe ST

Photos: Murals painted on the back walls of buildings going uphill by flight locks, City of Thorold Water Tower, Hiking Tunnel under 406

Option 1: carpool 15 km

Park at Sobey's, Glendale Ave and carpool to Decew House Heritage Park km 31.2 Main Trail

Cross the road and follow **Bert Lowe ST** until it reaches Main Trail at km 20.8

Take the Main Trail back to Sobey's at km 21.9

Option 2: Loop 23 km

Park at Decew House km 31.2 Main Trail

Cross the road and follow **Bert Lowe ST** until it reaches Main Trail at km 20.8

Follow Main Trail back to Decew House at km 31.2

Hike #4: The Twelve ST Maps 2&3 Total Distance 10.4 (out and back)

Side Trails: The Twelve ST (5.2 km)

Photos: Graffiti under the bridges, Twelve Mile Creek, Pedestrian bridge over Hwy 406

There is parking for 15 cars off of Glendale Avenue between Riverview Blvd and Twelve Mile Creek.

Twelve Mile ST follows the east bank of Twelve Mile Creek. Take the side trail towards downtown and when you reach the end, hike back and then continue on the side trail towards Brock University until the side trail meets the Main Trail at km 26.8. Take the side trail back to your vehicle.

******* If you are adventurous and have the maps, you can also do a lovely loop, using the Side Trail, Main Trail and Merritt Trail (yellow blazes) as guides.**

Hike #5: Map 3 Total Distance 12.21 (loop)

Side Trails: Morningstar ST, Black Walnut, Rim of Africa Friendship Trail

Photos: Morningstar Mill, Decew Falls, Terrace Falls

Park at Morningstar Mill and take Morningstar ST until it reaches the Main trail. Go left on the Main trail, down the escarpment and cross over Laura Secord Bridge.

Continue on Main Trail until you reach Black Walnut Side Trail. Take Black Walnut Side Trail and continue until it rejoins the Main trail at km 37.8. Continue on trail which is also called the Rim of Africa Friendship Trail until it reaches the Black Walnut Trail, forming a loop. Retrace the path along the Main Trail back to where it reaches Morningstar Side Trail. Take Side Trail back to car.

Hike #6: Maps 3&4 Total Distance: 11.5 (out and back)

Side Trails: Rockway ST, Louth ST, Staff Ave ST

Photos: Upper Rockway Falls, Lower Rockway Falls, Moss covered boulders (if not covered by snow) on Louth ST, Lower Louth Falls

Park at Rockway Community Centre.

Take **Rockway ST** to the end.

Hike back to where it meets the Main Trail @ km 47.9

Take Main Trail until it meets **Lower Falls Side trail**. Take **Lower Falls Side Trail** until it meets main trail again then continue up **Midway Side Trail** until it meets the Main trail again. Take Main trail up the hill until it meets **Staff Ave Side Trail**. Take **Staff Ave Side Trail** out and back. Then take **Louth Side trail** until it meets Main Trail at km 51.2. Turn right and follow Main trail back to Rockway.

Hike #7: Map 4 Total Distance: 5 km

Side Trails: Jordan Hollow, Jim Rainforth

Photos: vineyards, Jordan Hollow ST sign indicating direction to parking lot

This is a loop hike.

Park at Jordan Hollow parking lot. Take **Jordan Hollow Side Trail** until it reaches main trail. Go left on the Main Trail and continue to km 56.0 where the trail crosses 19th Street.

Shortly after, take the **Jim Rainforth ST** until it reconnects with the Main Trail.

Turn right on Main Trail and follow it back to where it meets Jordan Hollow Side Trail. Take the Side trail back to the parking lot.

Hike #8: Map 5: Total Distance: 4 km

Side Trails: Mountainview ST, Beamsville Bench ST, Angel ST

Photos: Mountainview ST sign with arrows going in both directions, Beamsville Bench ST sign, Angel's Gate Winery,

This is a loop hike.

Park at Mountainview Conservation Area parking Lot (km 73.5)

Follow the main trail until it meets **Mountainview ST**. Take **Mountainview ST** until it **ends** at main trail. Turn right onto Main Trail until it meets **Beamsville Bench ST**. Take **Beamsville Bench ST** until it meets **Angel ST**. Take **Angel ST** out and back. Turn left back onto **Beamsville Bench ST** and follow it until it meets the main trail. Go left on main trail and follow it back to parking lot.