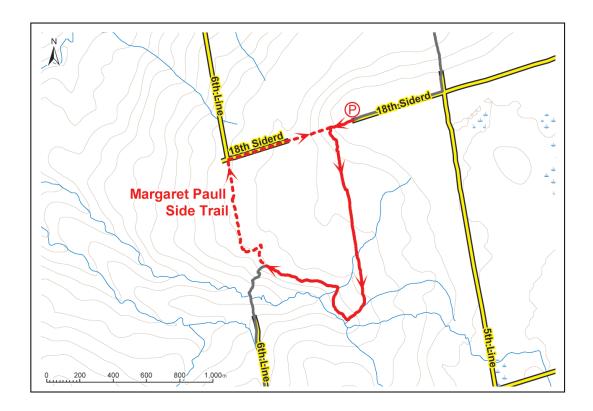


Margaret Paull Side Trail Loop

Hike Length: 3.4 km

Section: Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club



How to get there and Where to Park: From the hamlet of Banks on the top of the Escarpment above Blue Mountains (west of Collingwood), drive north on the 4th Line for one concession, and turn west (left) on the 18th Sideroad and go past the 5th Line. Park beyond the last farmhouse where the road deteriorates to a track over the Escarpment edge.

Description of the Hike: Follow the white blazes from where you parked your car, and continue west as the track descends the Escarpment. Follow the main Bruce Trail where it heads left (south) part way down the hill. The Trail passes through a hardwood bush and abandoned farm fields to enter a pretty wooded area. It then winds along the edge of a ravine, carved out by a small stream that is the headwaters of Indian Brook. The bubbling brook drops over dolostone ledges as it rushes on to Georgian Bay. The Trail passes a small flowerpot formation created by wave action along the shore of an ancient glacial lake.

Where the main Trail drops into the ravine, the blue-blazed Margaret Paull Side Trail branches off to the right, soon to reach the 6th Line Road Allowance. Here it turns north (right) to reach the 18th Sideroad Road Allowance where it turns right again to return you to your car.

The land crossed by this loop trail was one of the earliest purchases in the 1980s under the Bruce Trail's Land Acquisition Program by which a Conservation Corridor is being secured to protect the Niagara Escarpment in perpetuity. Margaret Paull was one of those many early Bruce Trail volunteers who made such a dream possible.