

Crawford Lake Conservation Area Notes

This hike starts in the parking lot along Twiss Road, north of the hamlet of Kilbride. Note parking here doesn't mean you do not have to pay the entrance fee for Crawford Lake but it does mean you do not have to worry too much about adhering to the limited time slot the authorities allot you. Please [pay for your entrance fee here](#).

The parking along Twiss Road offers limited parking (5 cars) in the official lot and a few more in the shoulder across from the lot.

From the lot, walk north for a few metres along Twiss Road and you will see the trail turn into the bush. From here walk uphill between rock formations. There is then some scrambling to reach the top of the escarpment and you need to look carefully for the white blazes.

The trail from hereon is mostly flat trail through pretty hardwood. Cross a creek via a bridge, cross Guelph Road (3 kms from the parking lot). Here you enter Crawford Lake Conservation Area.

The path is wide and not too interesting. The main trail turns right into the bush (you will return here later) but you continue straight ahead, then left, following the blue blazes of the Crawford Lake Side Trail. Once you are past the lake and the Crawford Lake parking lot the trail narrows and reaches the canyon edge.

Don't take the Canyon Bypass Side Trail but stay along the canyon rim still following the blue blazes of the Crawford Lake Side Trail. Soon after, where the blue-blazed trail meets the main Bruce Trail (white blazes), you would be inclined to go straight ahead but this trail will take you into the canyon. Instead turn a sharp right which is also the main Bruce Trail (white blazes) but instead of descending into the canyon it follows the western rim of the canyon.

Along this portion of trail there are some beautiful views as you walk along the rim over dolomite rock through hardwood forest. The trees and views are especially beautiful in fall.

Eventually you loop back to where you were earlier in the hike and here you turn left to follow the main trail back to the parking.