

## The Trails of Woolwich

The following is a description of the trails within Woolwich Township. Permitted uses on each trail are indicated by the icons in each description. Use this key to translate uses.

	Hiking
	Mountain Biking
	Bird-Watching Trail
	Wildflower Trail
	General Biking
	Cross-Country Skiing
	Canoe Launch
	Snowmobiling
	Snowshoeing

Municipal address locations and directions from the nearest centre are given for the main access points for each trail below. For more information on trail locations, please refer to maps indicating the trail routes, access points, and GPS coordinates provided for each trail in *The Guidebook to Woolwich Trails*.

### Avon Trail



104 km Linear trail between St. Marys and Conestogo  
14.7 km Linear in Woolwich Township

The Avon Trail is approximately 104 km in length running from the Village of St. Marys to the Village of Conestogo. It forms a link between the Thames Valley and Grand Valley Trail systems. This natural footpath meanders along streams, winds in and out of woodlands, skirts farm fields and sometimes follows roadways. The route is marked with white rectangular blazes which are painted or mounted on trees, fence posts or hydro poles. Much of the trail crosses private land with the kind permission of landowners. No motorized vehicles or bicycles are allowed on the trail.

The Avon Trail Hiking Association is a volunteer-run, charitable organization that coordinates hikes, trail development and maintenance and also publishes a guidebook. For more information visit [www.avontrail.ca](http://www.avontrail.ca)

In Woolwich, the trail can be accessed at the following points:

1055 Martin Creek Rd., Woolwich

From Waterloo, take Westmount Rd. to Benjamin Rd. Turn right, then left onto Martin Creek Rd. Park on Martin Creek Rd., just north of Benjamin Rd.

845 Weber St. N., Woolwich

From Waterloo, take Weber St. N. northwards to the St. Jacobs Market area. Park at Market Road Antiques on the west side of Weber St. N.

1000 Old Scout Pl., Woolwich

From King St. N. in St. Jacobs, turn east onto Printery Rd., then turn right onto Old Scout Pl. Park at the turnaround.

3075 University Ave. E., Woolwich

From Waterloo, take Northfield Dr. N. towards Conestogo. Turn left onto University Ave. E. Park along the side of University Ave. Please do not block the farm lane.

40 Golf Course Rd., Conestogo

From the four corners at Sawmill Rd. and Northfield Dr., travel east along Sawmill Rd. and turn left onto Golf Course Rd. Park in designated spaces along Golf Course Rd. or at the canoe launch in Priddle Park.

## Grand Valley Trail

The Grand Valley Trail is a marked footpath of about 275 kilometres which generally follows the Grand River through Haldimand County, Brant County, Waterloo Region (including Woolwich), Wellington and Dufferin Counties and Peel Region.

About 34 kilometres of the Grand Valley Trail fall within the boundaries of Woolwich Township. The trail follows the river valley from Breslau in the south, through

Bloomingtondale, Winterbourne and West Montrose to the Woolwich/Centre Wellington townline in the north. Due to the length and linear nature of the trail, the descriptive text here is divided into three parts.

The GVTA is a member of Hike Ontario and is an incorporated charitable organization. A guidebook of the entire trail is available through the association. For more information visit [www.gvta.on.ca](http://www.gvta.on.ca)

## Grand Valley Trail Section 1



In some sections

34 km Linear in Woolwich Township  
8.5 km Linear in Section 1

This section of the Grand Valley Trail extends from Breslau, where Victoria St. N. crosses the Grand River, to Snyder's Flats, just north of Bloomingtondale. The trail in this section is a combination of natural footpath, gravel shoulder, pavement, and gravel road. White blazing marks the trail. There are some boardwalks, log bridges and stiles over fences. Some areas are wet, and some portions of trail on land adjacent to the river may flood seasonally. Use caution in these areas at these times.

In Woolwich, Section 1 of the Grand Valley Trail can be accessed at the following points:

2000 Victoria St. N., Breslau

From Kitchener, take Hwy 7 East/Victoria St. N to Shirley Dr. Turn left onto Shirley Dr. and park in the Stanley Park Optimists Natural Area parking lot. Access the trail across the Grand River bridge.

550 Ebycrest Rd., Woolwich

From Breslau, take Ebycrest Rd. northwards to Hopewell Creek Rd. Park on the side of Hopewell Creek Rd. Access the trail just north of Hopewell Creek Rd. on the west side of Ebycrest Rd.

1031 and 1497 Snyder's Flats Rd., Bloomingtondale

From Breslau, take Ebycrest Rd. north to Sawmill Rd. Turn right towards Bloomingtondale. From Conestogo, take Sawmill Rd. south into Bloomingtondale.

In Bloomingtondale, turn from Sawmill Rd. onto Snyder's Flats Rd. Park in the lot on Snyders Flats Rd. at 1497 Snyders Flats Rd. or near Sawmill Rd. at the Community Centre lot at 1031 Snyders Flats Rd.

## Grand Valley Trail Section 2



34 km Linear in Woolwich Township  
12.3 km Linear in Section 2

Section 2 covers the Grand Valley Trail from Bloomingdale north to Conestogo and Winterbourne. The trail in this section is a combination of gravel shoulder, pavement, and gravel road. White blazing marks the trail. Please use caution when travelling along the roadside, and be mindful of traffic when crossing.

In Woolwich, section 2 of the trail can be accessed at the following points:

1031 Snyder's Flats Rd., Bloomingdale

Take Sawmill Rd south from Conestogo, or Ebycrest and Sawmill Rds. north from Breslau, into Bloomingdale. In Bloomingdale, turn onto Snyder's Flats Rd. and park in the Community Centre parking lot.

40 Golf Course Rd., Conestogo

From the four corners at Sawmill Rd. and Northfield Dr., travel east along Sawmill Rd. and turn left onto Golf Course Rd. Park in designated spaces along Golf Course Rd., or at the canoe launch in Priddle Park.

28 Katherine St. N., Winterbourne

From Breslau, take Ebycrest Rd. north to Sawmill Rd. Turn right. Proceed through Bloomingdale and turn right again onto Katherine St. S. at Crowsfoot Corners and proceed into Winterbourne. Outside of school hours, park in the lot at Foundation Christian School.

Grand Valley Trail Section 3



34 km Linear in Woolwich Township  
13.3 km Linear in Section 3

Section 3 covers the northern most part of the Grand Valley Trail within Woolwich. This portion extends from Winterbourne, north through West Montrose, and then up the west side of the valley to the Township boundary. The trail in this section is a combination of gravel shoulder, pavement, gravel road and natural footpath. White blazing marks the trail. Please use caution when travelling along the roadside, and be mindful of traffic when crossing.

In Woolwich, Section 3 of the trail can be accessed at the following points:

28 Katherine St. N., Winterbourne

From Breslau, take Ebycrest Rd. north to Sawmill Rd. Turn right. Proceed through Bloomingdale and turn right again onto Katherine St. S. at Crowsfoot Corners and proceed into Winterbourne. Outside of school hours, park at the lot at Foundation Christian School.

1232 Rivers Edge Dr., West Montrose

From Winterbourne, take Katherine St. north into West Montrose and turn left on Rivers Edge Dr.

From Elmira, take Line 86 east to Katherine St. in West Montrose. Turn right onto Katherine St. and right onto Rivers Edge Dr.

Park at the parkette at the corner of Rivers Edge Dr. and Letson Dr. This lot is not winter maintained.

6321 Middlebrook Rd., Woolwich

From Elmira take Line 86 east towards West Montrose and turn left onto Middlebrook Rd. Turn left onto Balsam Grove Rd. and park at the side of the road.

## Health Valley Trail



In some sections:

5.1 km Linear

The Health Valley Trail is multi-surfaced trail located along the Conestogo River extending from Albert St. E. in St. Jacobs, east towards University Ave. E. in Waterloo. The trail has a hard-packed stone-dust surface and is quite level from the trailhead in St. Jacobs to Arthur St. S. From there, the trail is a mix of natural footpath, stone-dust and woodchips. There are some boardwalks in wet areas. Hiking boots are recommended in wet seasons. Please close the farm gates as you pass through.

The Health Valley Trail can be accessed at the following points:

35 Albert St. E., St. Jacobs

From King St. in St. Jacobs, turn east onto Albert St. E. across from the Home Hardware store. Park in the large municipal parking lot at the end of Albert St.

3075 University Ave. E., Woolwich

From Waterloo, take Northfield Dr. N. northwards towards Conestogo. Turn left onto University Ave. E.

From St. Jacobs, take King St. N. southwards towards Waterloo. Turn left onto Bridge St and then left again on University Ave.

Park on the side of University Ave. Please do not block the farm lane.

## Kissing Bridge Trailway



In designated sections only



45 km Linear trail between Guelph and Millbank  
16.5 km Linear in Woolwich Township

Extending from Guelph to Millbank, the Kissing Bridge Trailway is almost completely finished with a hard-packed stone-dust surface, making it an excellent trail for users of all ages. The portion of the trail within Woolwich extends from the eastern Township boundary and parallels Line 86 to West Montrose, where the route takes you into the village and over the Grand River on a covered bridge. From there, the trail continues west to the northern edge of Elmira, and then on to the western boundary of the Township where Woolwich meets Wellesley and Mapleton Townships.

This resurfaced former CP railway line is a great place for young children to safely learn to ride their bikes on a level, even surface away from traffic. The wide pathway makes a great trail for bikers or groups of hikers as it allows people to walk four or five abreast. More information about the Kissing Bridge Trailway may be found at:

[www.kissingbridgetrailway.ca](http://www.kissingbridgetrailway.ca)

Within Woolwich, the trail can be accessed at the following points:

725 Katherine St. N., Woolwich

From Elmira, take Line 86 east to Katherine St. N. Turn left. Park on the side of Katherine St. N., north of Line 86, near the trailway.

6055 Middlebrook Rd., Woolwich

From Elmira, take Line 86 east to Middlebrook Rd. Turn left. Park in the parking lot on the west side of Middlebrook Rd. at the trailway.

Please do not block the trailway gates. This parking lot is not winter maintained.

2395 Northfield Dr., Woolwich

From Elmira, take Line 86 east to Northfield Dr. Turn left.

From Waterloo, take Northfield Dr. north to just north of Line 86.

Park on the side of Northfield Dr. just north of Line 86 near the trailway.

Please do not block the trailway gates.

20 Arthur St. N., Elmira

Park in the parking lot on the west side of the street at 20 Arthur St. N., just north of the trailway.

North End of Snyder Ave. N., Elmira

A small parking area is available at the north end of Snyder Ave. N. Follow the gravel lane north from the bend in Snyder Ave. N. The railway intersects the gravel lane.

### Lions Lake Trail



7 km Loop

The Lions Lake Trail is an easy, well-maintained single track earthen trail encircling the Woolwich Reservoir at the north end of the township. It has some sections of double-track laneway, and at the Woolwich Dam crossing, some pavement. Bridges traverse wet areas. Follow the Lions Club trail markers. Outhouse facilities are located at the north end of the trail in Floradale Park near the picnic shelter.

The Lions Lake Trail can be accessed at the following points:

7224 Reids Woods Dr., Woolwich

From Elmira, take Arthur St. N. northwards, and turn left onto Reid Woods Dr.

When the park is open, parking is available at the Woolwich Dam and along the park entrance roadway. From October to May, please park at the Floradale Park entrance.

12A Florapine Rd., at Floradale Park, Floradale

From Elmira, take Arthur St. N., northwards and turn left onto Florapine Rd.

Parking is available in Floradale Park at the baseball diamond. Entrance to the park is via a laneway at 12A Florapine Rd. in the village of Floradale.

330 Florapine Rd., Woolwich

From Elmira, take Arthur St. N., northwards and turn left onto Florapine Rd.

Parking is permitted only on the roadside east of the gate. Please do not block the farm gate and obey roadside parking signs.

### Lions Ring Trail, Elmira



11 km Loop

The Lions Ring Trail was developed through a partnership between the Elmira Lions Club and the Township of Woolwich. Construction of the trail began in 2004 with funding received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The purpose of the trail is to provide trail

users with a circular or ‘ring’ trail around Elmira with a link to the Kissing Bridge Trailway at the north edge of town. Currently, the trail surface includes hard-packed stone-dust, wood-chipped side trails in more sensitive woodland areas, as well as sidewalk and roadside sections. Stone-dust trail sections are found south of Oriole Parkway and Whippoorwill Dr. The Elmira Lions Club and the Township continue to explore opportunities to extend the stone-dust sections of the trail on the east side of Elmira. Plans are in place to construct a portion of the trail in the new residential development in the north-west corner of Elmira, thereby completing the western link with the Kissing Bridge Trailway.

The Lions Ring Trail can be accessed at the following points:

#### 96 Southfield Dr., Elmira

From Arthur St. S., in the south end of Elmira, turn east onto Southfield Dr.

A small parking lot is available on the north side of Southfield Dr. between Union St. and the railway crossing.

This parking lot is not winter maintained.

#### Grey Owl Dr., Elmira

From Arthur St. S., in the south end of Elmira, turn west onto Whippoorwill Dr. Turn right onto Grey Owl Dr. and park along the side of the road. The trail access is at 25

Whippoorwill Dr, directly opposite Grey Owl Dr.

#### 35A South Parkwood Blvd., Elmira

From Arthur St. S., in the south end of Elmira, turn west onto South Parkwood Blvd. Park along the side of the Blvd near Burlwood Dr.

#### 20 Arthur St. N., Elmira

Park in the parking lot on the west side of the street at 20 Arthur St. N., just north of the trailway. Take the trailway west, to where it intersects with the Elmira Ring Trail at the laneway that extends from Snyder Ave. N.

#### North End of Snyder Ave. N., Elmira

A small parking area is available at the north end of Snyder Ave. N.

### The Mill Race Trail



1.5 km Linear

The Mill Race Trail is an easy, level, stone-dust trail that parallels the mill race diversion of the Conestogo River from the old Snider Mill in St. Jacobs, upstream to the dam at Three Bridges Rd. west of the village. Proximity to the village, and the hard-packed, level, stone-

dust trail surface makes it ideal for hikers of all ages. Seasonally, baby strollers can be maneuvered quite easily on the trail.

The Mill Race Trail can be accessed at the following points:

32 Front St., St. Jacobs

From King St. in St. Jacobs, turn onto Front St. by the old mill silos. Parking is available at the end of the street near the red caboose.

1505 Three Bridges Rd., Woolwich

From King St., at the south end of St. Jacobs, turn west onto Henry St. Pass the Home Hardware Distribution Centre. Turn right onto Three Bridges Rd. and continue to the low level buggy bridge. Parking is available just off the road before the bridge.

### Sandy Hills Pinery Trail



South Trail: 1.7 km Loop

North Trail: 1.1 km Loop/Linear

The Sandy Hills Pinery Trails are located north of Elmira in a pine plantation-type woodland managed by the Region of Waterloo. These trails are easy, single track sand/gravel trails with some areas of double track width. The side trails are somewhat narrower and traverse more varied elevation. There are few to no wet areas, but cyclists are cautioned on areas of loose, deep sand.

The Sandy Hills Pinery Trails can be accessed at the following points:

South Trail – 390 Sandy Hills Dr., Woolwich

From Elmira, head north on Arthur St. N. and turn east/right onto Sandy Hills Dr. The trail is located on the right. Limited parking is available just off the roadside.

North Trail – 275 Sandy Hills Dr., Woolwich

From Elmira, head north on Arthur St. N. and turn east/right onto Sandy Hills Dr. The trail is located on the left. One parking spot is available near the small trail sign.

### Trans Canada Trail



In designated sections only



#### A National Trail

29 km Linear in Woolwich Township

In Woolwich, the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) follows roadways and a former CP railway across both public and private land. The Woolwich portion of the route follows the Mill Race Trail, the Kissing Bridge Trailway, the Avon Trail and the Health Valley Trail, as well as some newly constructed sections along Farmers' Market Road. Trail surfaces vary and include pavement, stone-dust, natural foot path and some on-road sections.

In Woolwich the Trans Canada Trail can be accessed at the following points:

St. Jacobs, Elmira and West Montrose

Within these settlements, follow directions given in the sections above for the Mill Race Trail, the Health Valley Trail and the Kissing Bridge Trailway.

1000 Old Scout Pl., Woolwich

From King St. N. in St. Jacobs, turn east onto Printery Rd., then turn right onto Old Scout Pl. Park at the turnaround.

At the Farmers' Market – 790 King St. N., Waterloo

To walk towards St. Jacobs or the Health Valley Trail, park in the lot east of the St. Jacobs Outlet Mall on Farmers' Market Rd. Access the trail by traveling north on Farmers' Market Rd. to King St. N. Cross King St. N. at the signalized intersection and enter the trail at Municipal Emergency Number 790 King St. N.

To walk towards the City of Waterloo, park in the lot east of the St. Jacobs Outlet Mall, and follow Farmers' Market Lane to the west, and turn left onto Benjamin Rd. Follow Benjamin Rd. to Westmount Rd.