



We want to ensure a safe and ecologically sustainable experience for all Bruce Trail users. We ask for you to respect these goals when you see a Bruce Trail sign posted. Please do not use ATVs, dirt bikes or bicycles on the Bruce Trail.

We want everyone to experience the beauty of the Bruce Trail; we only ask that you do it on foot.

Boots only on the Bruce Trail!



Close to nature.
Close to home.

**THE BRUCE TRAIL
CONSERVANCY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Tread Lightly on the Bruce Trail

HELP US PROTECT OUR
CONSERVATION CORRIDOR



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The Bruce Trail is a public hiking path that spans almost 900 kilometres. It follows the Niagara Escarpment, which was designated a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 1990. This designation is shared by such world famous places as the Serengeti, the Florida Everglades and Yellowstone National Park.

The goal of the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) is to establish and preserve a conservation corridor for the Bruce Trail along the Escarpment, in order to protect its natural ecosystems and promote environmentally responsible public access. It is our hope that future generations will experience the beautiful scenery and unique features of this World Biosphere Reserve.

You can recognize the Bruce Trail when you see signs with this logo:



One of the challenges we face at the BTC is the use of the Trail, or properties that we manage as protected natural areas, for activities that may damage the natural environment or threaten the safety of hikers.

These are all examples of what we DO NOT allow on the Trail or anywhere on properties that we own or manage:

- All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)
- Dirt Bikes
- Bicycles

There are many good reasons that the Trail is used for hiking only.

Damage to the Trail

ATV and dirt bike riding on the Trail, particularly during wet conditions, can lead to these serious problems:



Deep ruts from an ATV can ruin the Trail and nearby vegetation

- Erosion
- Damage to vegetation and tree roots
- Disruption of wetlands and watercourses
- Poor hiking conditions
- Widening of the trail

Our goal is to leave the smallest possible footprint on the land, both ecologically and literally... from only our feet!

Wildlife

According to the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Niagara Escarpment is home to:

- 40% of Ontario's rare plant species
- The oldest trees in all of North America – Eastern White Cedars that are more than 1000 years old!
- Most of the world's population of the rare American Hart's Tongue Fern
- 37 species of orchid
- 25 nationally or provincially endangered, threatened or vulnerable birds



This Red Eft was photographed slowly crossing the Trail and would be extremely hard to spot while on a vehicle

We aim to do our part to preserve and protect these significant species along the Escarpment. Unintentionally, an ATV, dirt bike or even a bicycle, can destroy the habitats of ground nesting birds, trample rare plants, or kill any number of small amphibians, reptiles or mammals.



Rue Anemone, a provincially rare species, near the Trail

Invasive Species

Invasive species are typically non-native plants or animals that were introduced to an area and cause ecological damage. At the BTC, we are trying to reduce the impact of these invasive species – in particular invasive plants.

Invasive plants can be spread by the tires of vehicles on the Trail or anywhere on a BTC property because they:

- Are opportunistic and will invade disturbed areas such as the ruts left by vehicles
- Reproduce quickly and produce large amounts of seed that can be tracked along the Trail by vehicles
- Can be easily spread into natural areas when vehicles travel off the Trail



A colony of the invasive Dog-strangling Vine can spread rapidly given the right conditions