

The Kinsmen Park area has many loop trails that offer the hiker choices of terrain, lookouts and varying lengths to suit anyone’s schedule and abilities. The four descriptions following are a good indication of the many hiking trails in the Kinsmen Park area and are an excerpt from the Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook v4.1 (2014) – a collection of over 700 kms of hiking trail in Northern Ontario.

The Voyageur Trail blazing system: If you are standing at a blaze, the next one should be in sight. Blazes are made with pieces of discarded vinyl siding, which reduces the amount of vinyl taken to our landfill. One blaze on a tree indicates a fairly straight trail. If there are two blazes, this indicates a sharp turn and the top blaze will be offset in the direction of the turn. Blue blazes indicate an access to the main trail or a side trail to a lookout. Main trail blazes are white and yellow blazes indicate a loop trail. Notice that blazes are attached to trees with aluminum nails. This ensures that if the tree is harvested in the future, the imbedded nails will sheer easily and not injure forest and mill workers.

HIAWATHA LOOP TRAIL

From the main Voyageur Trail (white blazes) below the bluff north of Sixth Line [N 46° 35.716, W 84° 17.259], follow the yellow-blazed trail S to cross Sixth Line and immediately cross the railway tracks (use extreme caution). Enter a mixed hardwood and conifer forest as the trail swings sharply left. Follow a well-defined trail and cross an access road. Continue on level terrain until trail crosses another access road. Trail gradually heads SE, passing a large pine stump and bench. Cross a third access road and pass through an interesting rock-sided ravine. Cross another access road and pass through a younger mixed forest before reaching a cedar rail fence.

Follow along outside of fence (field to the E) before entering a Scots/red pine plantation. Trail reaches Landslide Rd. just N of the Kinsmen Centre and adjacent to Mockingbird Hill Farm. Cross road (with caution) and continue through older pine forest (plantation). Cross two well-used ski/cycle trails before the trail descends steeply (a rope has been installed to assist hikers). Meet paved road (access road to Kinsmen Park). Follow beside the Crystal Creek on wood and steel boardwalk and ascend on stairs beside the waterfalls – there are two look-out platforms. Pass the 2nd platform, leave the boardwalk and follow the marked trail to the top of the falls where it meets the main trail (white blazes). To complete the loop, follow the main trail (white blazes) W for 1.5 km.

ODENA LOOP TRAIL (3.7 km return)

The yellow-blazed 4.3 km Odena Loop Trail leaves the main trail ~10 m N of where the main trail (white blazes) leaves Sixth Line. The main trail turns right (E) and parallels Sixth Line; take the loop trail which continues straight.

The loop trail ascends gradually through mixed hardwood forest to a blue-blazed side trail on the right. The 400 m long blue-blazed side trail leads to a not-to-be-missed lookout overlooking Sixth Line, with views of Hiawatha Park, St. Mary’s River and Sault Ste. Marie areas. Continue E along the loop trail for 600 m before descending steeply to the railway tracks. Use extreme caution crossing this right-of-way.

East of the tracks the trail traverses a cedar swamp for a few metres before entering drier land. Pass through a mixed conifer and deciduous forest with interesting rock formations for 1 km. The trail crosses the Old Trout Lake Rd and a small creek, and climbs briefly before descending to skirt along a wetland. For the next several hundred metres the trail passes through mostly hardwood forest. At times, shooters at the local Rod and Gun Club may be heard practicing to the S – there is no danger to hikers.

The trail passes along the base of a cliff and eventually crosses a small logged area before reaching the point where the Beaver Loop Trail branches off E.

The Odena Loop Trail continues S over a number of hills and recent partially logged areas. Note a large glacial erratic boulder in this area. The loop trail then crosses Connor Rd just E of the gate and heads SE through Thayer to connect with the main trail just after crossing the Crystal Creek on the snowmobile trail bridge. It’s about a 2.5 km walk W along the main trail back to the start to complete this loop.

BEAVER LOOP TRAIL

The yellow-blazed 4.1 km Beaver Loop Trail branches E from the Odena Loop Trail 1.5 km N of Connor Rd. The trail heads NE over rugged, undulating terrain, passing through mixed hardwood forest and past rocky outcrops before coming to the N end of picturesque Farmer Lake where there is a short

blue-blazed side trail S to a shore picnic spot [*]. Past the lake the trail follows an old logging road for ~500 m where it leaves the road to the left heading E. The trail follows along the top of a ravine, and descends to a small stream. Upon crossing the stream there is a short, steep climb. The trail follows rolling terrain, passing several rocky outcrops, before descending to meet Connor Rd.

Continue across Connor Rd. a further ~300 m, before crossing over the Crystal Creek on two wooden bridges. Climb a hill and follow high ground; notice a backcountry ski trail leading E towards Mabel Lake. Ascend a low hill and remain on the high ground for another ~600 m, heading S until the loop trail descends to connect with the main trail (white blazes). (Turning left (E) at this point leads to Mabel Lake and the Echo Ridges Section.)

To return to the parking lot area, turn right and follow the white blazes ~3 km until reaching a yellow-blazed trail heading N on the right. This trail returns you to the parking area on Connor Rd.

Total hiking distance leaving from this parking area is ~9.5 km.

MABEL LAKE LOOP TRAIL

The ~1.7 km trail (yellow markers) connects the main trail (white markers) near Mabel Lake (km 28.2) with the Beaver Loop Trail (yellow markers) near the Crystal Creek crossing. It follows an existing cross-country ski trail path.

Crystal Lake Side Trail: This ~750 m trail (blue markers) connects the Mabel Lake Loop Trail (yellow markers) with the south shore of Crystal Lake at a rock outcrop which makes a suitable picnic spot. The trail path goes up over a ridge and crosses the extension of Connor Rd. reaching Crystal Lake. An alternative path back to is to follow the road heading W for ~4 km.

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This trail is made possible by the generosity of our private landowners, including the Sault Ste. Marie & Region Conservation Authority. Please respect the rights of our landowners and stay to the marked trail, pick up after your pet and take nothing but photographs.

Members of the Voyageur Trail Association receive:

- The Voyageur Trail News, a top-quality newsletter containing information of use and interest to members;
- Free advertisements in the Voyageur Trail News to sell used trail equipment;
- A discount on the purchase of the Voyageur Trail Guidebook through the Association;
- A membership card to be carried at all times on the trail and which provides discounts at identified selected businesses along and near the trail route;
- The knowledge that you are aiding in the development and maintenance of an 1100-kilometre long (when complete) volunteer hiking trail through some of Ontario’s most spectacular scenery.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM (12/17)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (home) _____
(work/cell) _____

Email: _____

Email is used for notification of newsletter, events and other club business only.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: *Prices subject to change without notification.*

Individual: yearly @ \$25 or 3-years @ \$70..... = _____

Family/Group: yearly @ \$30 or 3-years @ \$85..... = _____

Full-time Student @ \$10 yearly or 3-years @ \$25.... = _____

Donation: Charitable Reg. #119261923RR0001
(tax receipt will be sent) = _____

___ Gift Certificates (in \$5 denominations)..... = _____

___ Guidebook (limit 2)

@ members \$30 / non-members \$40 = _____

Shipping/Handling for all MAILED Guidebooks..... = \$ 12.00

TOTAL:..... \$ _____

If this is a gift, please provide name & address for the mailed acknowledgement.

Make cheques payable (in Cdn. funds) and mail to:

Voyageur Trail Association
PO Box 20040
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3

Questions? Email info@voyageurtrail.ca (over)

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:

- Trail maintenance
- Trail development
- Hike leadership
- Organization-executive
- Newsletter or guidebook, photography
- Landowners, records
- Maps
- Publicity, Special events
- Sorry, not at this time.
- Contact me with information on what's needed, and I'll decide then.
- Please add my membership to the membership of the club closest to my home town, OR
 - consider me a member-at-large, OR
 - consider me as a member of the following club:

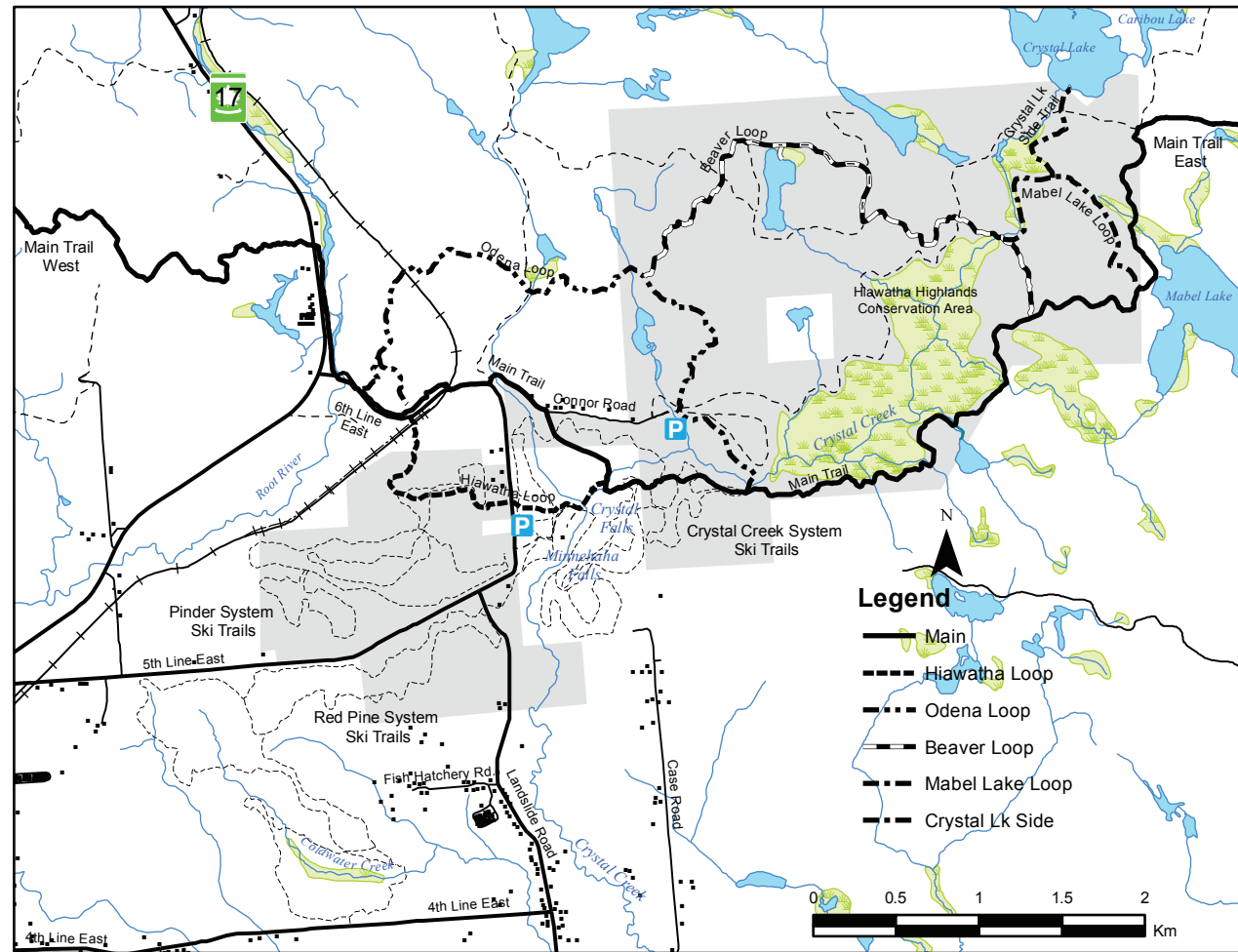
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VOYAGEUR HIKING TRAIL USERS' CODE

- Hike only along marked routes. Do not take shortcuts.
- Protect and do not disturb wildlife.
- Do not climb fences.
- Keep dogs under control (leash if necessary) and follow your club's guidelines concerning dogs).
- Carry out all garbage (if you can carry it in, you can carry it out).
- Light cooking fires at official campsites only. Drench fires after use (or better still, carry a lightweight hiker's stove).
- Respect the privacy of people living along the trail. Walk around the edges of fields, not across them.
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
- Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photos.
- Do not damage live trees or strip off bark.

BE A LOW-IMPACT HIKER!

DECLARATION: I understand that the Voyageur Trail is a wilderness trail and some remote or little-used sections may be in poor condition due to fallen trees or regrowth of vegetation. I understand that I hike it at my own risk. I have read and will abide by the Trail Users' Code (above). (signature)



The Voyageur Trail is a wilderness trail and some remote or little-used sections may be in poor condition due to fallen trees or regrowth of vegetation. You are welcome to use it but you do so at your own risk.

The Sault Ste. Marie branch of the VTA is called the Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club.

We are ALWAYS looking for volunteers to help with trail maintenance, club organization and the many other little jobs that help keep us a vibrant club.

If you have talents to offer, we want to hear from YOU!

Contact us:

Phone 705-942-1891 (message machine available)

Internet: <http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/trailssm.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Saulteaux.Voyageur.Trail.Club>

The Voyageur Hiking Trail Loop Trails in the Kinsmen Park Area

This brochure is distributed free-of-charge compliments of the Voyageur Trail Association (VTA).

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Visit the VTA online (including our online store, a calendar of club events, information/contacts for local clubs, trail photographs and much, much more):

www.voyageurtrail.ca

'Like' us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/voyageurtrailassociation

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