

“Beautiful, one-of-a-kind . . .”

Rock Glen Conservation Area



International Fossil Viewing Site • Home of Rock Glen Falls
and Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre

Two kilometres northeast of Arkona, Ontario, Canada at 8680 Rock Glen Road
43° 5' 3" N • 81° 49' 67" W

Gatehouse: 519-828-3071 • **ABCA Office:** 519-235-2610 • **Toll-free:** 1-888-286-2610

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) • abca.ca • info@abca.ca

Welcome to Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA), a 27-hectare area of scenic, historic, and geologic significance.

Start your visit at Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre, at the top of the hill. The centre has a fluorescent mineral room and exhibits of fossils, minerals, meteorites, mussels, birds, artifacts, Carolinian Canada zone, conservation areas information, and more.

Thanks go to Arkona Lions Club, our community partner.

Take a hike along the recreational trails where you'll see many of the trees, plants and wildlife which make Rock Glen so exceptional.

Stairs along the steep sides of the glen, and a bed-level crossing traversing Hobbs-Mackenzie Drain (a creek just upstream of the Ausable River), allow you to safely see the entire park.

Accessible trails allow visitors with limited mobility to visit the park highlights, including scenic lookouts, museum, and picnic areas. Finish your visit with a relaxing picnic lunch.

There are pavilions, picnic tables, barbecues and two playgrounds.

Enjoy your day at scenic and memorable Rock Glen!



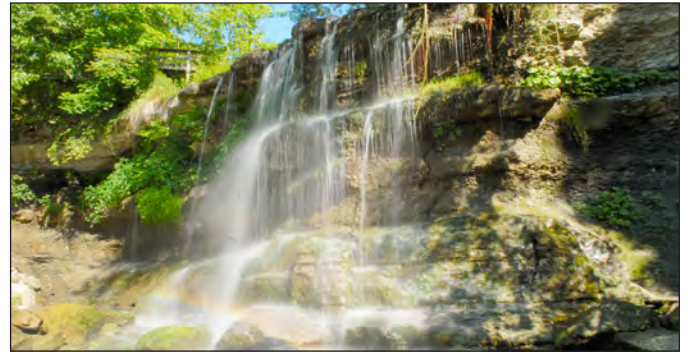
Ausable Bayfield Conservation owns several conservation areas and forests.
To learn more about these islands of nature visit us online at **abca.ca**

Welcome to Rock Glen Conservation Area!

- Enjoy the recreational trails, boardwalks, and lookouts. Some trails are wheelchair-accessible.
- Stay on the trails and wear appropriate clothes and footwear.
- Washroom facilities and potable water are available in the conservation area.
- Two picnic pavilions can be reserved for groups, family reunions, or weddings by calling 519-828-3071 from May to October or 519-235-2610 in the off-season.
- Picnic tables are throughout the grassed areas. • Children can enjoy two playgrounds.
- Be sure to stroll through the Commemorative Woods across from the museum.
- Watch for Poison Ivy and ticks. • Trails can be uneven and slippery.
- The conservation area is not maintained in the winter.
- Guided hikes and education programs are available – call ABCA for information.

Rock Glen Falls

The breathtaking 10.7-metre-high waterfall is the park's most popular feature. Television crews and print publications have visited the area to videotape and photograph this scenic natural tourist destination. The water flow fluctuates through the year and the water quality is not tested.



Nature Abounds

Rock Glen Conservation Area is part of the provincially-significant Ausable Gorge and is in a transition zone between the Carolinian Forest Zone to the south and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Zone to the north. This results in diverse species representative of both zones. Sycamore, Sassafras, Black Walnut, and Tulip Tree, which thrive in the warmer climates of the south, are found alongside Sugar Maple, Beech, White Elm, and Basswood trees – which grow further north in the cooler climate. Wildflowers are abundant, with more than 50 types found here. Small mammals and songbirds are common. Learn more at: carolinian.org

The Historical Significance of Rock Glen

First Nations people have walked on this land for thousands of years. Here, in their traditional territory, we thank them for their many generations of past stewardship and their current stewardship of this land we share. We are in the traditional territories of Anishnaabek First Nations and we are neighbours of the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. We thank them for sharing this land with us.

When settlers arrived in the area in the mid-1800s, they built grist mills within the present-day conservation area. One of these mills was run by an 11-metre overshot wheel. The mill pond, although dry, can still be seen immediately upstream and southwest of Rock Glen Falls. Part of the mill foundation has a platform that affords visitors an excellent view of the waterfalls. In 1907, Rock Glen Power Company constructed a small hydro-electric dam on the Ausable River at Rock Glen. After Ontario Hydro began to supply electricity, the Rock Glen dam ceased operation in the late 1940s and was demolished to allow fish to travel upstream to spawn. Parts of the old dam can still be seen in the Ausable River.

Visit the Arkona Room in the museum to see the historical photos display.

Some of the Best Fossils Anywhere



Brachiopods



Corals



Crinoid Stems



Crinoid
calyx



Trilobites

Fossil images courtesy of Bob O'Donnell

This area features some of the best Devonian-Era fossils in North America. It is home to a fossil deposit dating to 350 million years ago. The erosive powers of water have exposed the Widder geological formation; Hungry Hollow (a member of the Widder Formation); and the Arkona Shale, and washed out different fossils. The most commonly found fossils are brachiopods, horn corals (*heliophyllum halli*), and crinoid stem sections and are remains of the marine life of the Devonian geological period. Trilobites have also been found. It is important fossil hunters never dig for fossils and remove no more than one fossil per person. That way, everyone will have a chance to find fossils without adding to erosion problems and depleting resources. We appreciate that our visitors respect this request – and thank you for being one of those responsible visitors.

Conservation Area Rules
















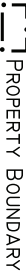
There is one basic rule at Rock Glen Conservation Area from which the others follow: have respect and consideration for your fellow visitors and the conservation area environment.

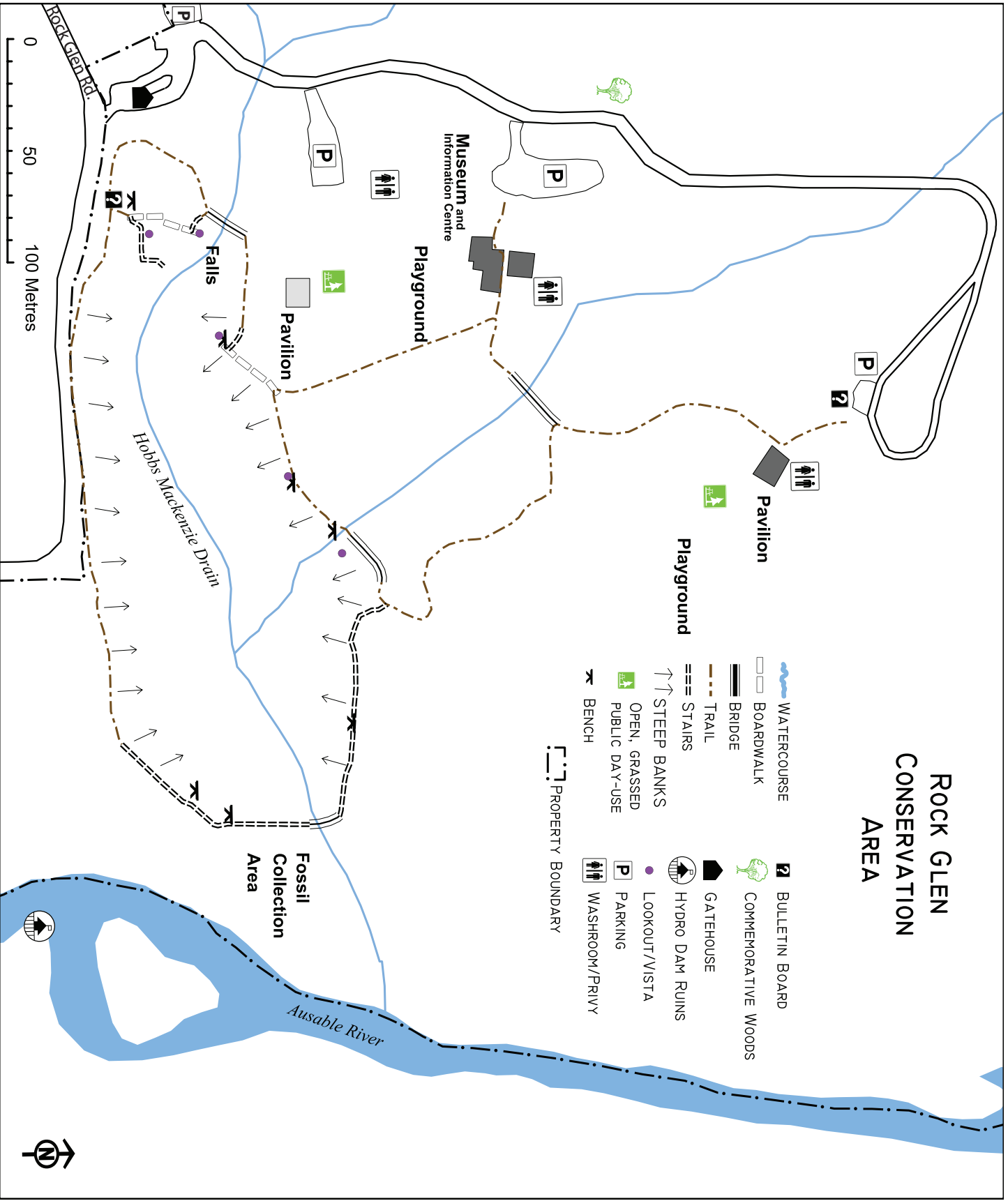
- The following are **strictly prohibited** in the conservation area: alcoholic beverages; hunting; off-road vehicles; camping.
- The park is closed to visitors from sunset to sunrise.
- Digging for fossils is strictly prohibited.
- It is important visitors remove no more than one fossil per person.
- Due to the small size of the area, reservations are required for the picnic pavilions and groups should call ahead to ensure they can be accommodated.
- Cooking fires must be only in receptacles provided. Portable barbecues are permitted.
- Park only in designated areas. • Use recycling and garbage containers.
- Dogs and other pets must be under control at all times and on a leash not exceeding two metres in length.
- All visitors are responsible for knowing and abiding by all Conservation Authority rules.

Other visitors are following these few simple rules – thank you for following them too!

**Rock Glen Conservation Area is owned and operated by Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), 71108 Morrison Line, RR 3 Exeter, Ontario N0M 1S5
abca.ca • 519-235-2610 • 1-888-286-2610**

ROCK GLEN CONSERVATION AREA

-  WATERCOURSE
-  BOARDWALK
-  BRIDGE
-  TRAIL
-  STAIRS
-  STEEP BANKS
-  OPEN, GRASSED PUBLIC DAY-USE
-  BENCH
-  BULLETIN BOARD
-  COMMEMORATIVE WOODS
-  GATEHOUSE
-  HYDRO DAM RUINS
-  LOOKOUT/VISTA
-  PARKING
-  WASHROOM/PRIVY
-  PROPERTY BOUNDARY



0 50 100 Metres

