

“Beautiful, one-of-a-kind...”

Rock Glen Conservation Area

International Fossil Viewing Site • Home of Rock Glen Falls and the 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

Looking for a unique, scenic place for your wedding, family reunion, or picnic?

Consider **Rock Glen Conservation Area**. Ausable Bayfield Conservation also has eight other scenic conservation areas. ABCA owns more than 9,000 acres of land for environmental purposes. To learn more about these islands of nature visit us online at abca.ca or phone **519-235-2610** or toll-free **1-888-286-2610**. #RockGlenWedding

Welcome to Rock Glen Conservation Area, a 27-hectare area of scenic, historic, and geologic significance. Start your visit with a stop at the **Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre**, at the top of the hill. The centre has exhibits of fossils, minerals, meteorites, fluorescent mineral room, mussels, birds, artifacts, the Carolinian Canada zone, conservation areas information, and more.

Take a hike to the Ausable Gorge, a provincially-significant natural area. Along the trails, 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 the Hobbs-Mackenzie Drain (a creek just upstream of the Ausable River), allow you to safely see the entire park.

The accessible trails allow visitors with limited mobility to visit the park highlights, including the 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!



Come check out our playground equipment!

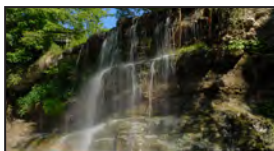
Thank you to the Arkona Lions Club, the Arkona Lioness Club, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, ABCA, and donors!

Welcome to Rock Glen Conservation Area!

- Enjoy the numerous trails, boardwalks, and lookouts. Some trails are wheelchair-accessible.
- 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.
- There are two playgrounds with new equipment for the children's enjoyment
- Watch for Poison Ivy on trails and wear appropriate clothes and footwear.
- 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.



Carolinian Canada

Rock Glen Conservation Area is in a transition zone – an area between the Carolinian Forest Zone to the south, and the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Zone to the north. This results in a large diversity of 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 parts of southern Ontario. Visit carolinian.org for more information.

The Historical Significance of Rock Glen

When the pioneer settlers arrived in the area in the mid-1800s, they built some 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, the Rock Glen Power Company constructed a small hydro-electric dam on the Ausable River at Rock Glen. Following the formation of Ontario Hydro, the Rock Glen dam ceased operation shortly after the Second World War. In response to complaints from anglers that fish were unable to travel upstream to spawn, a Canadian Army demolition squad blew up the dam with dynamite. Parts of the old dam can still be seen in the bottom of the Ausable River.

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

Facts about Rock Glen Conservation Area

The plant life is very diverse, with Tulip Trees, Maple, Oak, Ash, and Pine species. Wildflowers are abundant, with more than 50 types found within the boundaries of Rock Glen Conservation Area. Small mammals and songbirds are common. There are also examples of extinct animal life along the walls of the Ausable Gorge, small sea creatures that lived 350 million years ago. Fossils of some of these ancient animals include: brachiopods, horn corals, coral, crinoids, gastropods, trilobites, and starfish. For more information, you can visit the **Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre** located within the conservation area. Some of the trails are accessible to wheelchairs and strollers, but due to the nature of the gorge there are large sections of stairs to get to the bottom. Also, be sure to stroll through the Commemorative Woods by the museum.

Some of the Best Fossils Anywhere



Brachiopods



Corals



Crinoid Stems



Crinoid calyx



Trilobites

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 dusk to dawn.
- **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.
- Fires shall be built only in receptacles provided.
- All recyclable material should be put in recycling bins provided in the conservation area and any waste material should be put in container provided for that purpose (or taken home in your vehicle).
- Dogs and other pets must be under control at all times and on a leash not exceeding two metres in length.
- Park only in designated areas.
- 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

