

Headwater Hikes

Fleetwood Creek Natural Area City of Kawartha Lakes

Fleetwood is a large area of rolling hills, mature forests, and small streams and wetlands. In fact, it is so unspoiled that parts of Fleetwood have been designated Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest.

Fleetwood's hills are mostly glacial deposits of sand and gravel, typical of the Oak Ridges Moraine. While the area contains numerous small streams, most precipitation filters in to the ground to become groundwater or baseflow for ponds, wetlands, and watercourses that emerge elsewhere.

Like most Hikes in this series, Fleetwood offers three examples of headwaters: forests conducting water underground, headwater streams, and wetlands.

The Hike we suggest is the upper trail, which meanders through towering forests, and crosses a valley floor full of water-loving plants.



Two easier trails can be found off the lower parking lot. Please see the notes over-leaf on how to access the lower trails — a good 20 minutes by bicycle over rough roads from the upper parking lot— but also be aware that bicycles are not allowed on trails nor anywhere else in Fleetwood.

Both lower trails are markedly different from the upper Hike, described overleaf. While the latter is mostly upland forest with intermittent streams and tough, narrow trails, trails in the lower section are broader and surrounded by flat, water-soaked ground dominated by evergreens.

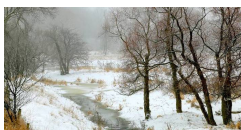
Headwater Hikes is an OHI project sponsored by The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation

Local Partners:

- ◆ Kawartha Conservation
- ◆ Ontario Heritage Trust
- ◆ STORM—Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition



Possibility grows here.



OHI Headwater Hikes— FLEETWOOD CREEK NATURAL AREA

Location	902 Ballyduff Road, Pontypool, Ontario, L0A 1K0
Map Search	Fleetwood Creek Natural Area
Watershed	Part of the Kawartha Conservation watershed. For general information, see: http://www.kawarthaconservation.com/watershed .
Hike Type and Length	Single use trail for hikers.. Headwater Hike suggested below is around 90 minutes.
Rating *	Relatively easy hike to the observation platform, after which there is a lot of undulating trail through forests, with rough sections that can be slippery. You'll need footwear with a good tread.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS

1. Take the first right and follow the signs to the platform at the lookout, as below.
2. Beyond the lookout, the trail begins to rise and fall through sand and gravel hills, with towering mixed forests.
3. Note the change in vegetation as you drop in to the valley.
4. The vegetation changes again as you cross the valley floor, with pocket wetlands, intermittent streams, and lots of plants that like to have their feet wet.
5. Save some energy for the hike back up. It is more gradual than the trip down, but a long steady climb.



* SPECIAL NOTE ON UNASSUMED ROADS

- ◆ Ballyduff Road east of Wild Turkey Road is an unassumed road. Use extra caution when traveling east of Wild Turkey Road as frequent washouts leave exposed ruts and large stones. Proceed at own risk.
- ◆ The main parking area on Ballyduff is not maintained from October 31 to May 1.
- ◆ Vehicle access on Ballyduff Road east of the Fleetwood Creek parking entrance to Porter Road is not recommended as road conditions are very poor.
- ◆ If you wish to explore the two lower trails shown on the previous page, we suggest you bicycle to the secondary parking area on Solanum Way, but note that no cycling is allowed on trails nor anywhere else in Fleetwood.

Please read the Safety Guidelines and Disclaimers at
www.ontarioheadwaters.ca/Hikes/Safety.

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