



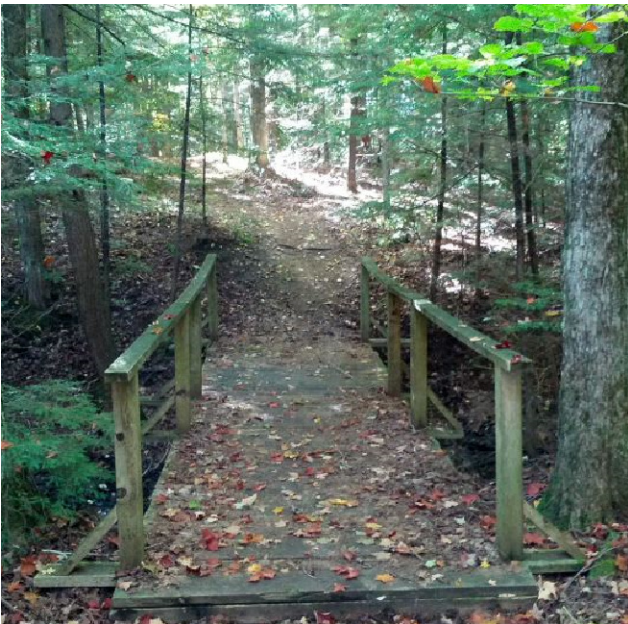
Headwater Hikes

Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area City of Kawartha Lakes

Pigeon River is **wet**. This 125 hectare property has numerous seeps and springs, fed by groundwater distilled at higher elevations on the Oak Ridges Mrine. Most of the west side is covered in water, culminating at a fabulous boardwalk that takes you through a wetland, while the East side features trail across a dry meadow.

With such a varied landscape, Pigeon provides habitat for water milfoil, turtlehead, asters, cattails & arrowhead; frogs, salamanders, & brook trout; beaver, mink, muskrat, & white tailed deer; and ruffed grouse, woodcock, hermit thrush, and sightings of warblers.

In addition, Pigeon's wetlands provide multiple ecological services to our watersheds. They store water, buffering flow that might otherwise present flooding and/or erosion; they nurture more than 30% of the



species in Canada, providing full-time habitat or niche roles for breeding or feeding; and they contribute significant aspects to downstream water quality and chemistry, including nutrients, organic material, and sediment.

While humans may be inconvenienced by the bugs in wetlands (take that as a hint about what to wear on any hike from spring through late summer), they perform valuable services to regional ecology, economies, and our social well-being.

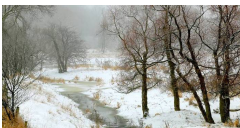
Headwater Hikes is an OHI project sponsored by The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation

Local Partners:

- ◆ City of Kawartha Lakes
- ◆ Kawartha Conservation
- ◆ STORM—Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition



Possibility grows here.

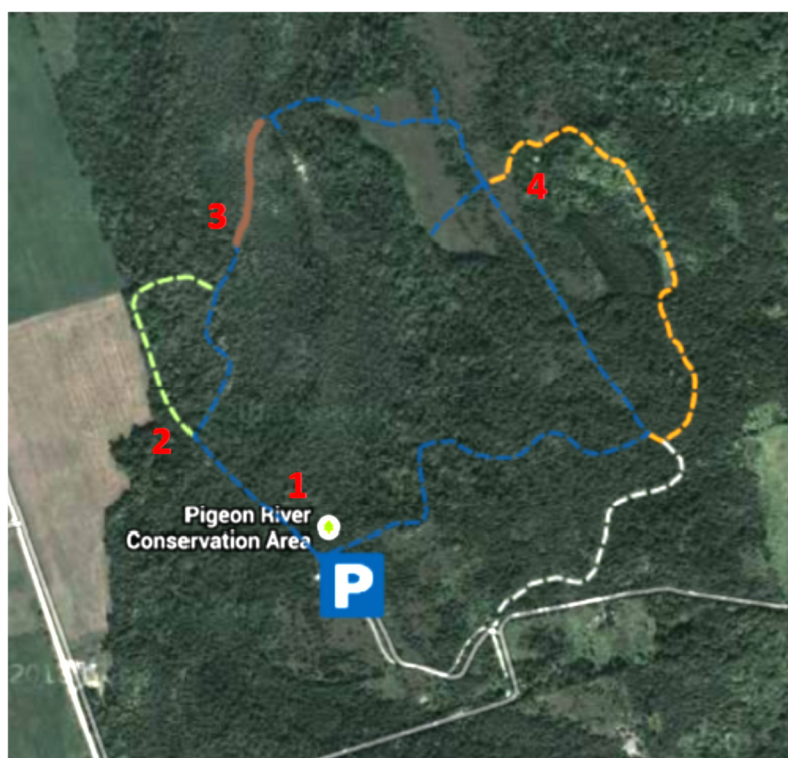


OHI Headwater Hikes— PIGEON RIVER HEADWATERS

Location	445 Gray Road, Kawartha Lakes, Ontario, L0B 1K0
Map Search	Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area
Watershed	Pigeon River. See http://www.kawarthaconservation.com/watershed .
Hike Type and Length	Single use trail for hikers. Headwater Hike suggested below will take about 90 minutes.
Rating	Easy trail but very soggy with lots of standing water and sections in corduroy: logs placed horizontally across the trail. You'll need footwear with a good tread.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS

1. Head left after you leave the pavilion. The footing is dry, through a cedar forest, then enters a wet section featuring corduroy trail leading to a bridge.
2. After the bridge, take the loop to the left, through the forest. Note the transition from cedar and other plants that like to have their feet wet to a mixed forest.
3. Spend some time on the boardwalk, enjoying the wetland species around you.
4. Decision time: Do we take the longer route or the more direct route back to the pavilion. Once through this area, both paths lead back to the pavilion.



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

Contact: Andrew@ontarioheadwaters.ca 416 231 9484



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