

Sedge Wren Marsh Trail

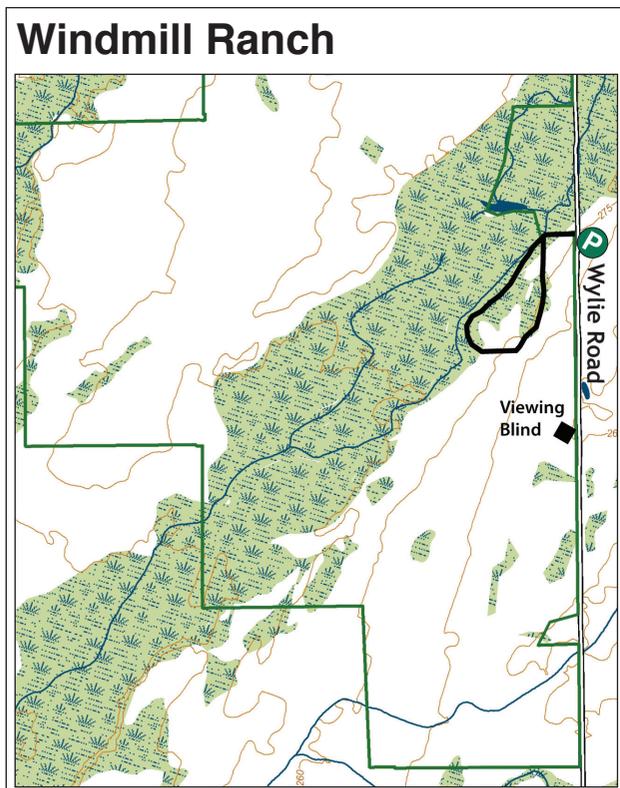
Access: From parking area on Wylie Road, just south of Sedge Wren Marsh

Trail length: + 1.5 km loop

Difficulty: Easy walking; may be wet in spots

Points of interest: Most of the trail is in coniferous woodland with large white cedar and white spruce trees. Trail follows the edge of Sedge Wren Marsh and beaver pond, with American Bittern, Swamp Sparrow, Kingfisher, and other wetland species. Forest has Black-throated Green Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush.

Cautions: Poison Ivy is abundant in places; wear protective clothing.



Experience Carden Alvar on Foot

Walking Trails for Public Use

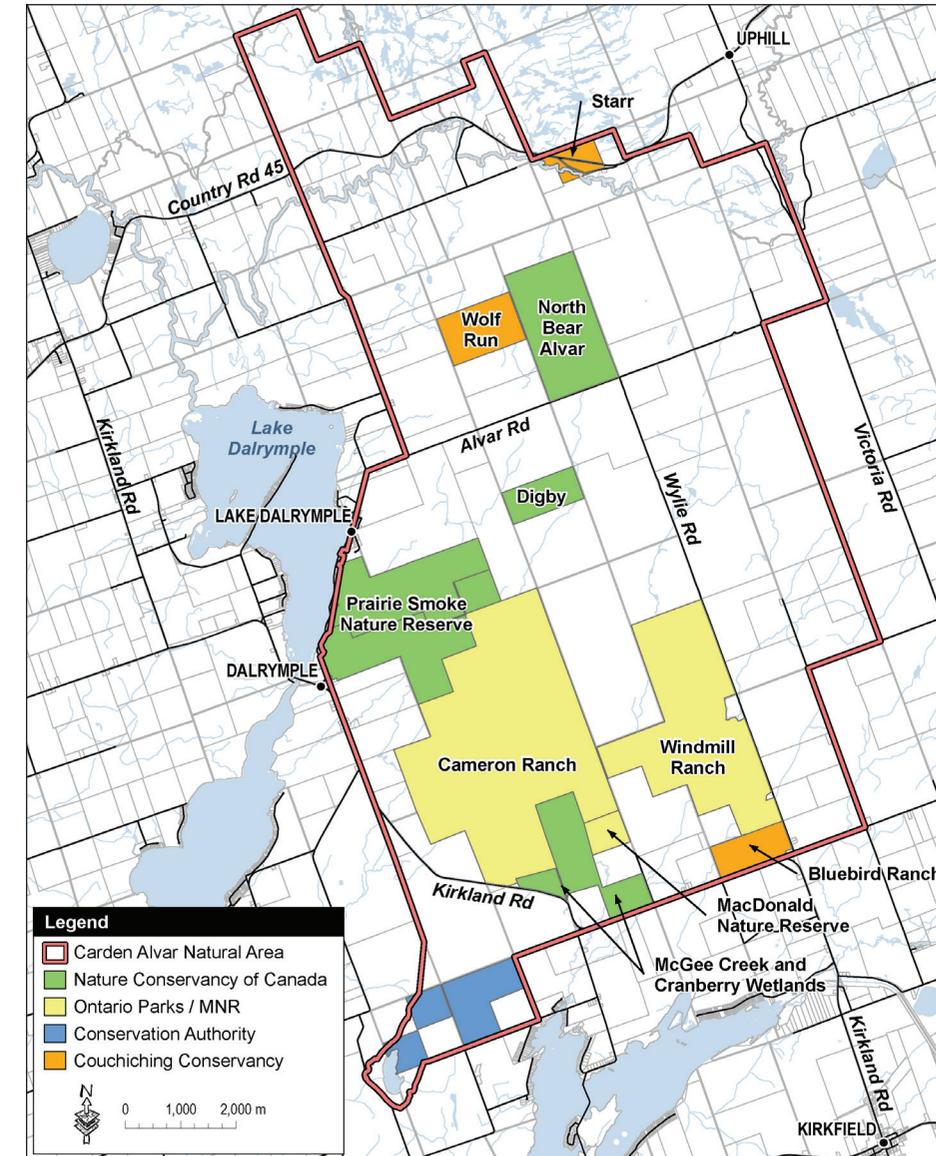


Opportunities for Birders, Hikers & Naturalists

The Couchiching Conservancy

New Options for Your Visit to the Carden Alvar

Many visitors to the Carden Alvar focus on the county roads such as Wylie Road, where you can see many birds and alvar flowers right from your car. This has caused over-crowding and sometimes conflicts with local landowners who are concerned that visitors may not respect their private property.



In recent years, nature-lovers have helped purchase large tracts of alvar in Carden, through projects headed by Nature Conservancy of Canada, Couchiching Conservancy, Ontario Parks, and other organizations.

As a starting point, four trails have been developed to allow you to leave the roadsides and more fully experience the natural charms of the Carden Alvar. Please enjoy responsibly. Keep dogs on leash. No motorized vehicles.

Remember:

- Most land in Carden is private and is strictly off-limits to trespass.
- Always be courteous to other users of local roads — don't block traffic, climb fences, or spook cattle in nearby fields.
- Interior areas of Carden are remote and often very hot in summer, so plan ahead.

Produced with the assistance of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario.

Cameron Ranch

Access: Parking lot on CKL Road 6

Trail length: 3 km

Difficulty: Mostly easy walking, boardwalks across wet areas

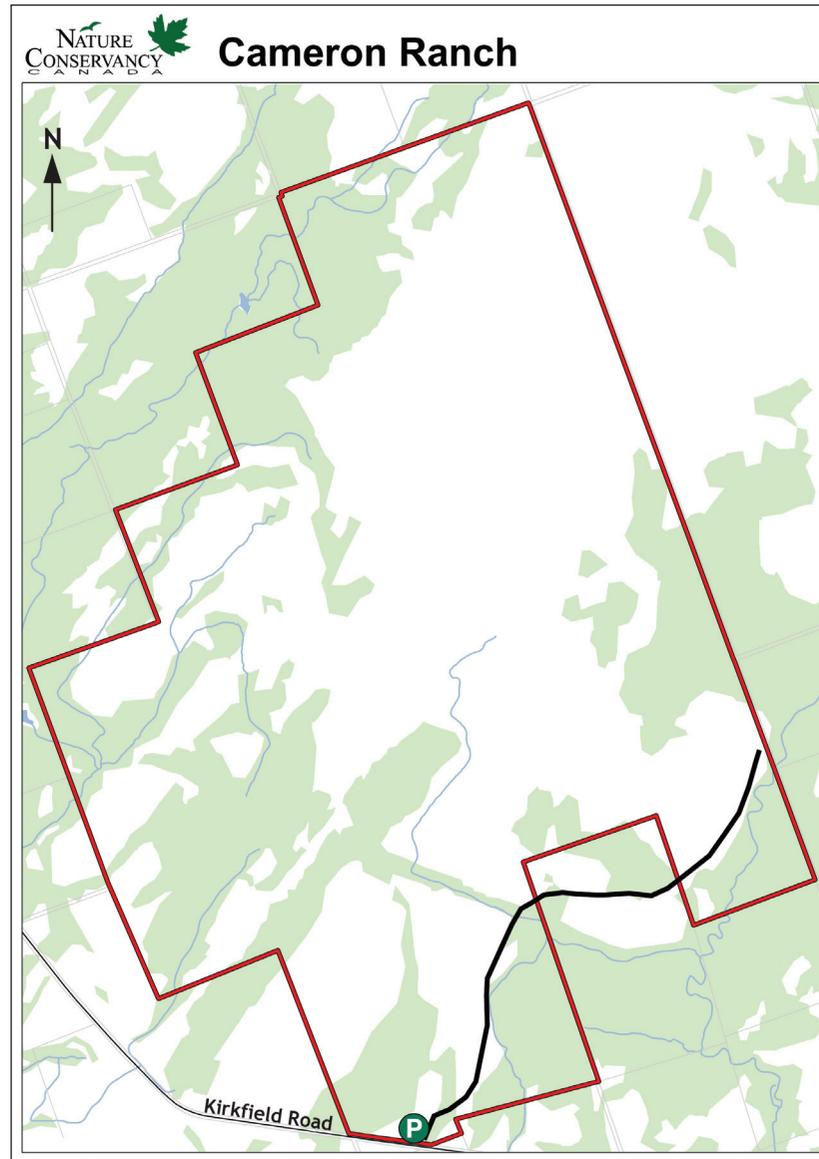
Points of interest:

- Interpretive panels on grassland birds and grazing.
- Wooded wetland and wet meadows support abundant frog song in April-May; listen for Chorus Frogs, Wood Frogs.
- Hawthorns west of the fence often have Loggerhead Shrike.
- Good populations of Brown Thrasher, Northern Flicker, Upland Sandpiper and other typical Carden birds.
- Many alvar plants along the trail: Fragrant Sumac, Tufted Hairgrass, Early Buttercup.

Cautions: **Poison Ivy in places; very limited shade so bring drinking water; do not cross the fence.**

The nearly 3000 acres of Cameron Ranch will become part of Carden Alvar Provincial Park, with an emphasis on protecting its alvar communities, extensive grasslands and shrublands, wetlands, and many rare species. Part of this trail also crosses the McGee Creek and Cranberry Wetlands Nature Reserve protected by Nature Conservancy of Canada.

A significant part of Ontario's population of endangered Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes nests on this property. Since short to medium grass



conditions are critical for this species and other grassland species such as Horned Larks and Upland Sandpipers, continued cattle grazing is an important management tool. Upgraded fencing and water supplies, using solar and wind power, allow us to manage grazing pressure to provide optimum habitat conditions.

Little Bluestem Trail

Access: South from parking area at Carden Recreation Centre, Dalrymple Road

Trail length: + 2 km

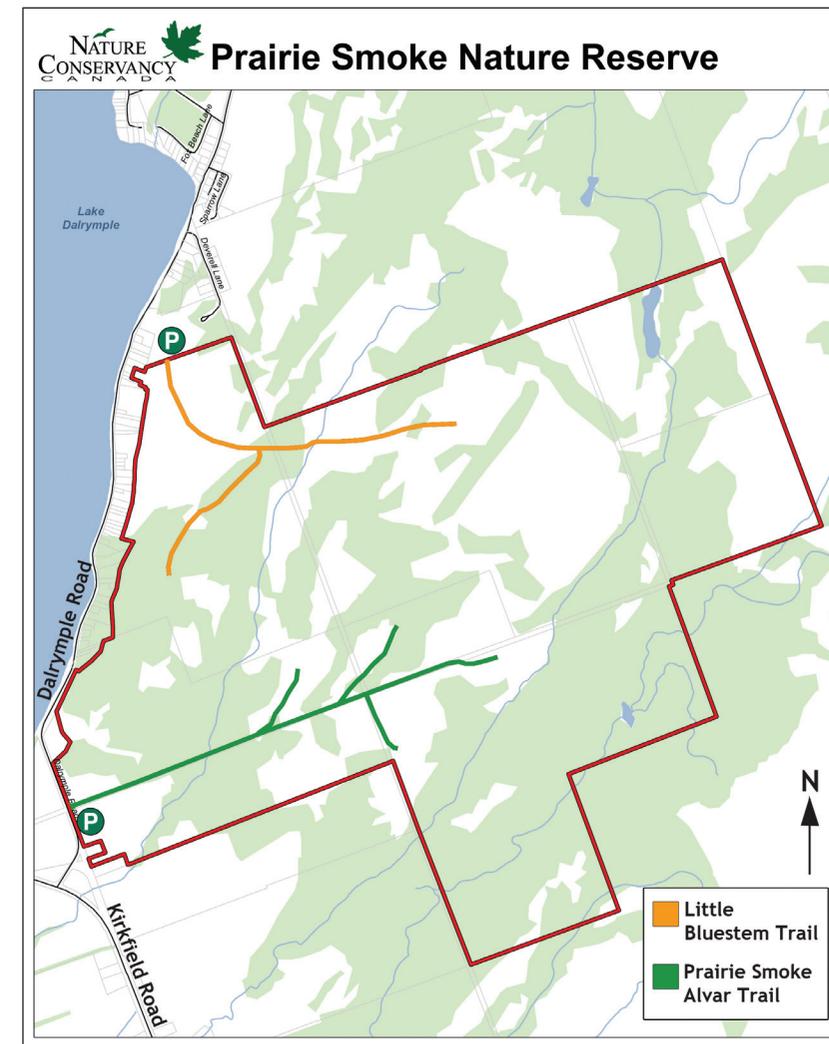
Difficulty: Mostly easy walking, but can be wet in several sections

Points of interest:

- Overgrown fields with sparrows, Catbirds, and Goldfinches.

- A limestone escarpment with several springs and conifer forests on shallow bedrock.
- Extensive areas of Little Bluestem grassland alvar, with Tufted Hairgrass alvar in wetter areas.

Cautions: **Poison Ivy abundant in places; may be wet underfoot except in summer; easy to lose your way if off the trail.**



Prairie Smoke Alvar Trail

Access: From parking area on Dalrymple Road, 200 m north of CKL Road 6; cross hayfield to start

Trail length: + 2.5 km **Difficulty:** Easy walking; main trail is on unopened road allowance

Points of interest:

- Deciduous forest with Butternut.
- Low mossy escarpment with many ferns.
- Very diverse alvar communities with Indian Paintbrush, Prairie Smoke, Rock Sandwort, Hairy Beardtongue.
- Osprey nest on old windmill.
- Alvar interpretive panels.

Cautions: **Poison Ivy in places; snowmobile use on main trail in winter; deer hunting in fall; easy to lose your way if off the trail.**