

# Hamilton-Brantford-Cambridge Trails

The trails linking Hamilton and Cambridge form Canada's first fully developed, multi-use interurban recreational trail system. Passing through Brantford and Paris, the trails extend 77 km and are a major component in the southern Ontario loop of the Trans Canada Trail.

These recreational trails offer some of the best bicycling and hiking opportunities in southern Ontario. The route is exceptionally scenic and almost entirely off-road. Many convenient parking areas are provided. The trails are accessible by wheelchairs in most sections.

## History

It wasn't originally planned to build a continuous recreational trail from Hamilton to Cambridge. The trail system was developed by linking four separate trail project initiatives:

### 1. City of Brantford Trails

Brantford's trail system began in the early 1990's when pathways were constructed as part of the city's riverside flood control works. In 1993, the trail was named the Gordon Glaves Memorial Pathway. Over time, Brantford's trail network expanded with the help of community volunteers, generous sponsors and new partnerships. Today, the Gordon Glaves Grand River Loop is part of the larger City of Brantford Trails network.



### 2. Cambridge to Paris Rail Trail

The Cambridge to Paris Rail Trail opened in 1994. It follows the abandoned roadbed of the old Lake Erie & Northern Railway, and was one of the first abandoned rail lines to be converted for recreational trail use in southern Ontario. Running through unique Carolinian forest and along the scenic Grand River, the 18 km trail is owned and maintained by the Grand River Conservation Authority through funding by donors to the Grand River Conservation Foundation.



### 3. Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail

The Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail connects its namesake cities over the 32 km route of the abandoned Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway. This third portion of the trail was completed in 1996 and is jointly owned and maintained by the Hamilton and Grand River Conservation Authorities. The Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail is Canada's first fully developed, entirely off-road interurban trail.



A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

### 4. SC Johnson Trail

Closing the 14 km gap between Paris and Brantford began in 1998, and completed the route all the way from Hamilton to Cambridge.

Known as the SC Johnson Trail, this portion was developed with a generous donation from SC Johnson and Son, Limited to the Grand River Conservation Foundation. Respective portions of the trail are owned by the City of Brantford, Grand River Conservation Authority and the County of Brant.



**A FAMILY COMPANY**  
**UNE ENTREPRISE FAMILIALE**

## Trail Contacts

To report vandalism, unauthorized use or trail maintenance concerns contact:

**Cambridge to Paris Rail Trail, SC Johnson Trail, and Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail between Brantford and Jerseyville:**

Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA)  
519-621-2761, [GRCA's website](#)

**City of Brantford Trails:**

City of Brantford  
519-756-1500, [Brantford's website](#)

**Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail between Jerseyville and Hamilton:**

Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA)  
905-525-2181, [HCA's website](#)

# Exploring the Trails

Here are some of the sights and features to enjoy along the way.

Kilometer distances are marked at many locations, and trailhead parking area kiosks contain maps of the trail section you're about to travel.

The map on the next page shows the locations of the following features.

## Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail

**0 km:** Hamilton trailhead & parking area at Ewen Road.

**3.3 km:** Sanctuary Park (rest area & washroom, in season).

**5.5 km:** Dundas Valley Trail Centre trailhead & parking area (washrooms, interpretive hikes and programs in season)

**12.3 km:** Steam engines used to fight the steep grade from Hamilton westbound to Summit. Observation deck overlooking Copetown Bog.

**12.7 km:** Copetown parking area and crossing of former Highway 52. Watch for traffic.

**18.5 km:** Jerseyville – Redland Quarries and TCG Materials trailhead & parking area

**25.5 km:** “Duck under” Highway 403 beside Fairchild Creek. Thanks to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation for permission to use this bridge and scenic trail diversion to cross the highway. Steep grade for wheelchairs.

**26.8:** Bridge crossing Fairchild Creek.

**30 km:** Site of the 1986 Brantford landslide that caused abandonment of this stretch of the

railway line on which the trail runs. Erosion and slipping can occur at any time in this area. Travel with caution.

**32 km:** Brantford Jaycees trailhead & parking area.

## City of Brantford Trails (Gordon Glaves Grand River Loop)

**32 km:** Brantford Jaycees trailhead & parking area. (Nearby restaurants & lodging.)

**33.2 km:** Mohawk Chapel – Six Nations Historic Site.

**38.9 km:** Brant's Crossing and Earl Haig Park (parking, washrooms in season, access to downtown). Access to additional 8 km of trails and Bell Homestead across the Grand River.

**42.5 km:** Waterworks Park parking area.

**44.1 km:** Wilkes Dam - location of the intake for Brantford's Water Treatment Plant (limited parking only).

## SC Johnson Trail (Paris to Brantford)

**44.1 km:** Wilkes Dam - location of the intake for Brantford's Water Treatment Plant (limited parking only).

**44.4 km:** Scenic river vista of Brant Conservation Area and rare prairie grass habitat. Glenhyrst Art Gallery is just up the hill.

**47 km:** Blue Circle Loop (alternate route - bicycle lanes provided on Hardy Road).

**50.1 km:** Masters Lane at Hardy Road.

**52.9 km:** Bridge over Highway 403. Thanks to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation for permission to use this former railway bridge to cross the highway.

**53.9 km:** SC Johnson parking area (Powerline Road).

**56.8 km:** Crossing of former Highway 2 at Curtis Avenue (stop lights).

**57.7 km:** Views of Paris at Hamilton Technical Ceramics Overlook.

**57.8 km:** CN Railway underpass.

## Cambridge to Paris Rail Trail

**58.2 km:** Paris – Jean Rich Foundation trailhead & parking area (nearby lodging, restaurants & supplies).

**61.1 km:** The Murray Overlook (short but steep grade on trail for wheelchairs – steps lead to overlook).

**65 km:** Spectacular river vista.

**67.9 km:** Glen Morris – old railway station site & parking area.

**74.6 km:** Riverside Lookout.

**77 km:** Cambridge - Canadian General-Tower trailhead & parking area (adjacent food, washrooms & canoe launching).

# Hamilton-Brantford-Cambridge Recreational Trails Map

