

Trail Reroute Update & History – Map 11, Ed. 6.0 Snyder's Flats/Bloomingtondale

The following information pertains to a change in the trail at Snyder's Flats as one heads north out of Bloomingtondale. Please refer to your copy of the new GVTA Guidebook, Ed. 6, published in April 2006. If you do not have a copy yet, you could augment your support of GVTA by purchasing a copy. Members may purchase copies through GVTA contacts at a reduced cost and the Guidebook is available at retail outlets at a higher cost – see the website for details.

Background: In the 1980's the main trail was on Snyder's Flats, also known as the Oxbow Tract. The trail was removed from the "flats" for about 20 years as Preston Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd. (PSG) extracted aggregate. About half the "flats" is owned by the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and the other half is owned by PSG. Gravel extraction is officially completed.

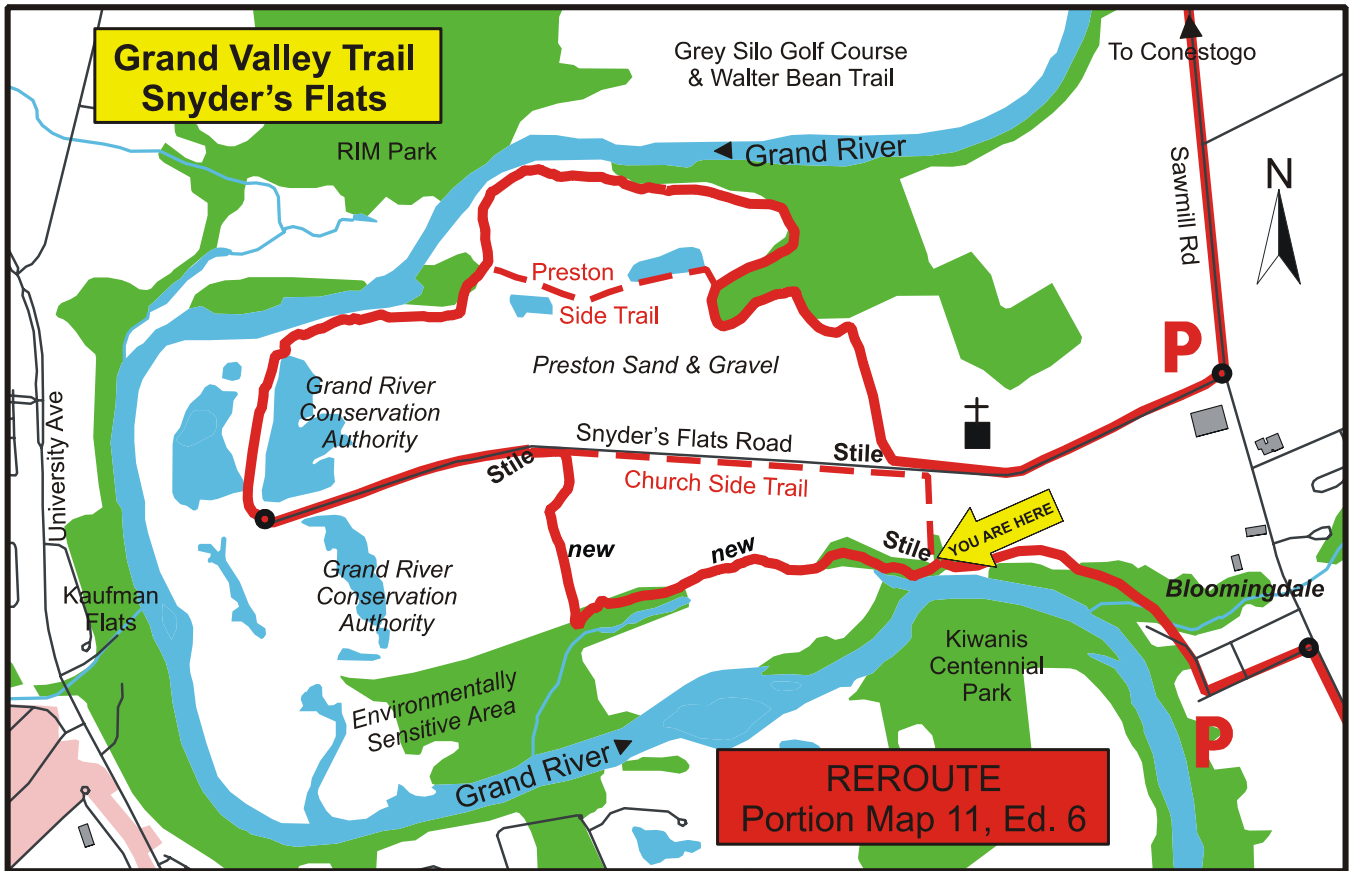
Joyce Cummings, Trail Director (Black Walnut section), obtained permission from GRCA and PSG to replace our trail on these lands. After on-site meetings with GRCA in the winter of 2006, the new main trail route was determined. The "flats" have been under a rehabilitation process for some time now (e.g. ponds) and the south side of the GRCA property (opposite Kiwanis Centennial Park) is considered an environmentally sensitive area. Therefore, our renewed main trail avoids the south side of the GRCA property.

History: If you like reading about the history of the lands and people along the Grand Valley Trail we suggest you check a paper available on the Waterloo Historical Society website entitled **A Place Called Bloomingtondale** by Angela McLean. You will find a link to it on the <http://ist.uwaterloo.ca/~marj/history/whs.html> web page. The actual article (as a PDF file, ~ 152 kB) is available at <http://ist.uwaterloo.ca/~marj/history/bloom.pdf>. The article mentions Jacob Schneider, his development of Schneider's Corner (Bloomingtondale) and much more.

Reroute: A picture is worth a thousands words. So, compare your existing Map 11 (edition 6.0) to the grey scale map image printed here. Better, visit <http://www.gvta.on.ca/trailchanges.html> for a full coloured/printable map showing the trail changes. Three new stiles are in place along this reroute thanks to volunteers, Nick Kuret, Ken Silvester and Jamie Hember.

- **Church Side Trail (new)** – The first portion of this side trail (L-shaped, red dashed line on map) was the main trail for the past few years. It is now blazed in blue thanks to work by Linda Coyne, Joyce Cummings and us. This side trail will act as a seasonal route for those who may find the new segment of main trail a bit wet in spring.
- **Main Trail (new)** – *Note that segments of the next 1.6 km tend to be wet in the spring and fall.* After crossing the stile, you continue on private land owned by *Preston Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd.* The reroute follows the main trail that existed in the 1980's before gravel extraction began. The Grand River may be visible to your left (south) for the next 60 m only. As you proceed along an old fence line the river is about 300 m or more to your left and is not usually visible. Down the embankment is lower, flat land with some pools of water making up the present flood plain. Off to the south, and on the other side of the river, is Kiwanis Park. After about 1.2 km the trail turns right (north) and follows the east side of a chain link fence for about 0.6 km to a stile at Snyder's Flats Road. After crossing the stile the main trail follows Snyder's Flats Road (west) as shown in Edition 6.0, Map 11 whereas the Church Side Trail is to the right (east) and follows the Snyder's Flats Road.

Special Note Re. Preston Side Trail – It is shown in edition 6.0, Map 11. However, as of September 22, 2006 it had not yet been blazed. Our focus for the past six months has been the redevelopment of the trail on Snyder's Flats. A special thanks to member/volunteer, Mike McKean, for his help. The Preston Side Trail may be blue-blazed late this fall or early next spring.



... submitted by Jan and Jamie Hember, Trail Captains, Snyder's Flats