



LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

WAYFINDING



HAZELWOOD LAKE CONSERVATION AREA



Let's **NOT** get lost in the woods! There are 3 great tools to keep you headed in the right direction, and 2 fun ways to practice your orienteering skills.

To find where you are and where you want to go, a map is the place to start. Great maps include some key information to help get you oriented. Use a map that has:

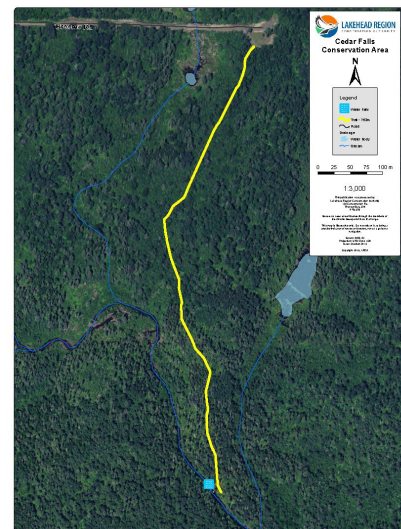
- a title so that you know where and what you are looking at,
- a compass rose or at least a North Arrow to orient yourself in the right direction,
- a scale so you can measure distance, and
- a legend so that you can interpret features on the map.

Start by figuring out where you are. If you are following a trail, you can next find where you want to go by checking on the map and what you see around you to figure out where to go.

Maps for all of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority properties are found on our website and can be printed off.

Still not sure of which direction to go? This is where a compass and a GPS become helpful.

Compasses can tell you the direction you are going or came from. Because they are delicately made with magnets, care must be taken to not drop them or use them while close to metal objects. A compass will show you the 4 cardinal directions: North, South, East and West, as well as 360 degrees around. When held flat the red arrow will always point North, where the Earth's magnetic forces come together. Take time to get to know your compass. The directional arrow is used for sighting lines and is on the base plate. The dial has the degrees and directions. The orienting lines on the compass are to line up with grid lines on a map. Practice using your compass by picking an object, turning your body and compass to face it, then turn the dial until the North Arrow is in line with the orienting arrow, then read the bearing you will to take to get there.





GPS stands for Global Positioning System and uses satellites to record and track your location. GPS Units or devices such as smartphones that have enabled GPS on them can do all your wayfinding for you, including tracking a route, setting a route, measuring distance, showing direction and providing information about where you are and where you are going. The only downfall, which is a big one, is they have to work to be useful. So always keep them safe and dry and bring extra batteries or a charger.

Now for the fun! Get out and practice your compass, map and GPS skills by trying out orienteering and geocaching.



Orienteering is an outdoor sport using a compass and a map to find pre-placed flags or markings. Get out and set up an orienteering course for your friends or family and have them set up one for you.

Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices which can be a GPS unit or smartphone. Don't forget to bring some small items to trade and visit geocaching.com to get started.



GEOCACHING.COM

