

Scoville Point Trail: "Tracking the Fire and Ice"

(Round trip from the Wilderness area starting point: 2.46 miles)

At the edge of the designated Wilderness Area ("Stoll's Wilderness" sign) turn on your GPS to help you to find the evidence of fire and ice as you travel to the tip of Scoville Point. Your journey should keep you on the trail except for the two tracks that take you to the lakeshore.

* Distance to next track (__ miles)

Track 1: TR1 N 48.15287° W 088.47102° *(0.29 m)

Welcome to the discovery zone of geologic time leaving the present behind. You are entering the billion year old record of volcanic and glacial activity of the Scoville Point Lava Flow. This is one of the 100 flows that formed the base of Isle Royale. Keep your eyes on the lookout for the geologic evidence of fire and ice. Are they volcanic tracks or glacial tracks?

Track 2: TR2 N 48.15476° W 088.46539° *(0.08 m)

Do you see an area that is a bit lower and wetter? Glacial ice bulldozed the sedimentary rock which once filled the lowlands, but did not take this hard lava ledge you are standing on! Check out the steep 90° drop down to the wetland then turn around and stroll down the gentle slope to get on track.

Track 3: TR3 N 48.15567° W 088.46406° *(0.04 m)

What do you see below the uprooted tree? Why has the tree tumbled? Examine the length of the roots. Could they have grown any deeper? How much soil is beneath them? The glacier made a quick exit from the east side of the island leaving only a very thin layer of soils. In thin soils the trees are unable to send down deep root systems and are easily blown over in strong winds. Notice the length of the tree as you find your next track.

Track 4: TR4 N 48.15590° W 088.46346° *(0.09 m)

Feel the rock. Imagine, a billion years ago this was hot liquid rock- lava - flowing from a crack in the Earth's surface. This 200 foot thick lava flow cooled to become this hard, dense surface of basalt.

Track 5: TR5 N 48.15719° W 088.46177° *(0.02 m)

Look to your right for a glimpse of the largest fresh water lake in the world - by surface area. Where did all of this water come from? As the last glacier melted it left this legacy behind. Carefully find your way down to the shoreline and track 6.

Track 6: TR6 N 48.15712° W 088.46118° *(0.06 m)

Look at the different rock shapes. Find a rock with holes and one with colored spots. The rocks on this beach were mainly found at the tops of lava flows where escaping gas left the holes called vesicles. Later water moved through the basalt, bringing minerals that filled the holes

causing spots of color. These minerals are known as amygdaloids. How many different minerals can you find? Remember to leave what you find here at the beach. To look for more tracks retrace your steps to the trail to continue your geologic journey.

Colors	Mineral possibilities
Pistachio Green	Epidote
Dark Green	Chlorite
Green	Pumpellyite (Greenstone)
White	Quartz, Calcite
Pink	Potassium Feldspar

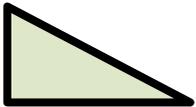
Track 7: TR7 N 48.15819° W 088.46057° *(0.01 m)

Look down at your feet. What are you standing on? Why are these rocks rounded? Rounding is evidence of wave action. You are now standing on the beach, or you would have been about 5,000 years ago. This ancient shoreline is evidence of the island rising after the weight of two mile thick glaciers was removed. This beach continues to rise about an inch a century. Turn off the trail to the current shoreline to find more glacial tracks.

Track 8: TR8 N 48.15809° W 088.46026° *(0.04 m)

What color are most of the rocks? Do you see rocks that do not seem to belong? The white and pink rocks, called erratics, were left behind by the glaciers. So where do these erratics come from? If you guessed that they are Canadian immigrants you are correct. Head back to the trail to follow the evidence of fire and ice.

Track 9: TR9 N 48.15863° W 088.45972° *(0.52 m)



Look to your left down the Scoville Flow, can you see the triangular shape of the lava flow? On your right you can see the shape repeated. Look across the water at the bigger island in front of you. This is the back side of a different lava flow. The 100 lava flows that make up Isle Royale are tilted. This tilt gives the island its series of gradual southern slopes and steep northern cliffs.

Track 10: TR10 N 48.16286° W 088.45052° *(0.06 m)

The Scoville Flow has endured a billion years of change from its volcanic birth, through the grinding and carving of glaciers, to today. In front of you are some of Isle Royale's pioneers. Yellow-green map lichen may only grow .09 mm per year. Imagine how long this lichen may have been here! Isle Royale has over 600 varieties of lichen. Look for colors, textures and shapes of lichen as you move to the point.

Track 11: TR11 N 48.16337° W 088.44936° (2.1 miles back to the visitor center)

Our walk ends but the Scoville Flow continues to the island in front of you. These lava flows, isolated in this sweet water sea, will continue to change. What will the future bring? More fire? More ice? More life? One thing for sure, there will be more tracks.