

High Mountain Park Preserve Trail Upgrades FAQ

For live updates about trail conditions, closures and reroutes, [CLICK HERE.](#)

What changes are being made to the preserve?

Beginning in early 2026, The Nature Conservancy and its partners will be reorienting the trail network at High Mountain. These updates are intended to protect sensitive habitat for plants and animals and help create a more sustainable, user-friendly trail experience for all visitors. The changes will occur in phases and introduce new terrain for hikers and mountain bikers.

Certain trails that are currently “point to point” routes will be adjusted to “loop” trails that start and end at the same location. This will require that some trail blazes change colors and new trail segments be added. Updated maps and directional signage will be installed to reflect these changes and help visitors navigate the new trail network. See page 2 for the trail changes breakdown.

Who is leading the project?

The trail upgrades are led by [The Nature Conservancy](#), [New York-New Jersey Trail Conference](#) and [Jersey Off Road Bike Association](#).

When will the project start?

Work is expected to begin in February or March of 2026. The preserve will remain open for the duration of the project, but visitors can expect to see changes to trail markers and signage. Temporary signage will be installed to help visitors navigate the new trail system until permanent signs can be installed. You can find live updates about trail closures [here](#).

Why are we making these changes?

High Mountain Park Preserve is home to rare and sensitive ecosystems that provide critical habitat for plants and animals. In recent years, the preserve has seen an increase in the number of unsanctioned “social” trails that damage these ecosystems and present serious challenges for land managers and first responders.



Will mountain bikes be allowed on the trails?

Yes, all High Mountain trails will remain multi-use and open to all visitors. However, any trails marked with a green bike decal have been designed by mountain bikers and are best suited for that specific use. Hikers are welcome to enjoy these trails, but may have a better experience on other preserve routes not marked with a bicycle.



New bike trails will be designated by a green bicycle decal.

We kindly ask that all visitors be aware of their surroundings and share the trails respectfully with other users. Because bikers hold a mechanical advantage, they must yield to all other users and control their speed at all times. We request that guests abide by Leave No Trace's yielding best practices.



Bikers **must** yield to other trail users.

Summary of Trail Changes:

Woodland (Red) Trail: no changes.

Summit (Yellow) Trail: extended south to Sanderling Road in Wayne, otherwise no changes.

Beech Mountain/Clove (Orange) Trail: new segment is being added south of Franklin Clove to form a loop.

Brookside (White) Trail: eliminated due to minimal use and severe erosion.

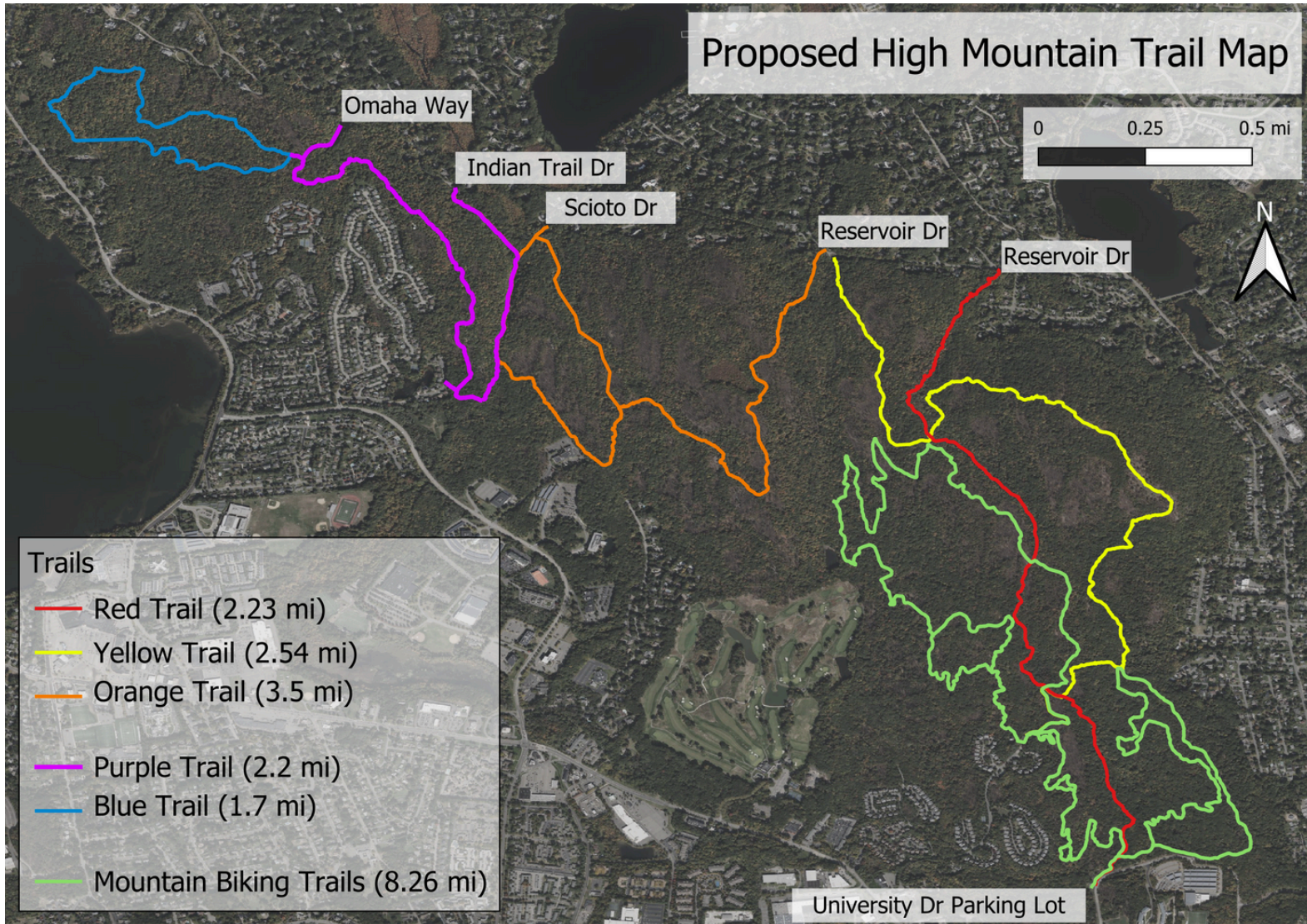
Pancake Hollow (Blue) Trail: will now be accessed via the new Purple Trail, from either Omaha Way in Franklin Lakes or Chicopee Drive in Wayne.

Purple Trail: This new loop trail was formed using segments of the former Orange and Blue Trails. Visitors can access the Purple trail from either Indian Trail Drive in Franklin Lakes or Chicopee Drive in Wayne. When parking at Indian Trail Drive, a short road walk via Omaha Way is required to complete the loop back to your vehicle.

Mountain bike trails: More than 8 miles of new trails intended for mountain bikers are being added to the preserve's east side. Visitors can easily access these trails from Wayne via Sanderling Road or the Red Trailhead (South) at University Drive. Bike routes will be marked with green plastic bike decals rather than painted blazes. They are shown on the draft map in green (see page 3).



Draft Map of New Trails



QUESTIONS?

Contact Gus Parrish at The Nature Conservancy:

henry.parrish@tnc.org

908-955-0340