

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?

Later this year, 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 being led by [The Nature Conservancy](#) and the [New York-New Jersey Trail Conference](#). The [Jersey Off Road Bike Association](#) also provided planning expertise and critical feedback throughout the process.

When will the project start?

Work is expected to begin in May 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. Over the past several years, the preserve has seen an increase in the number of unsanctioned “social” trails that damage 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. The preserve's three new trails (Bear, Turtle, Butterfly) were designed by mountain bikers and are best suited for that user group. These bike-friendly trails are identified on the map using dashed lines rather than solid lines. Hikers are welcome to enjoy these trails but may have a better experience on other routes.

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.

Summary of Trail Changes:

Woodland Trail (Red): no changes.

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

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

Beech Mountain Trail (Pink): using a segment of the former Orange Trail, the new Pink Trail will serve as the main connector between the eastern and western halves of the preserve; it can be accessed from the traffic circle on Reservoir Drive in Franklin Lakes.

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

Brookside Trail (White): the original White Trail has been eliminated due to minimal use and severe erosion. The new White Trail loop was formed using segments of the former Orange and Blue Trails. Visitors can access the White trail from either Indian Trail Drive in Franklin Lakes or Chicopee Drive in Wayne. When parking at Indian Trail Drive, a short road walk along Omaha Way is required to complete the loop back to your vehicle.

Mountain Bike-friendly Trails: Three new trails are being added to the preserve's east side. Visitors can easily access these trails from Wayne via Sanderling Road or the main parking area at University Drive. These mountain bike-friendly routes are shown on the trail map using dashed lines (see page 3).

Turtle Trail (Green): 2.5 mile loop

Bear Trail (Black): 4.3 mile loop

Butterfly Trail (Purple): 1.5 miles



The three new bike-friendly trails will be marked with special decals.

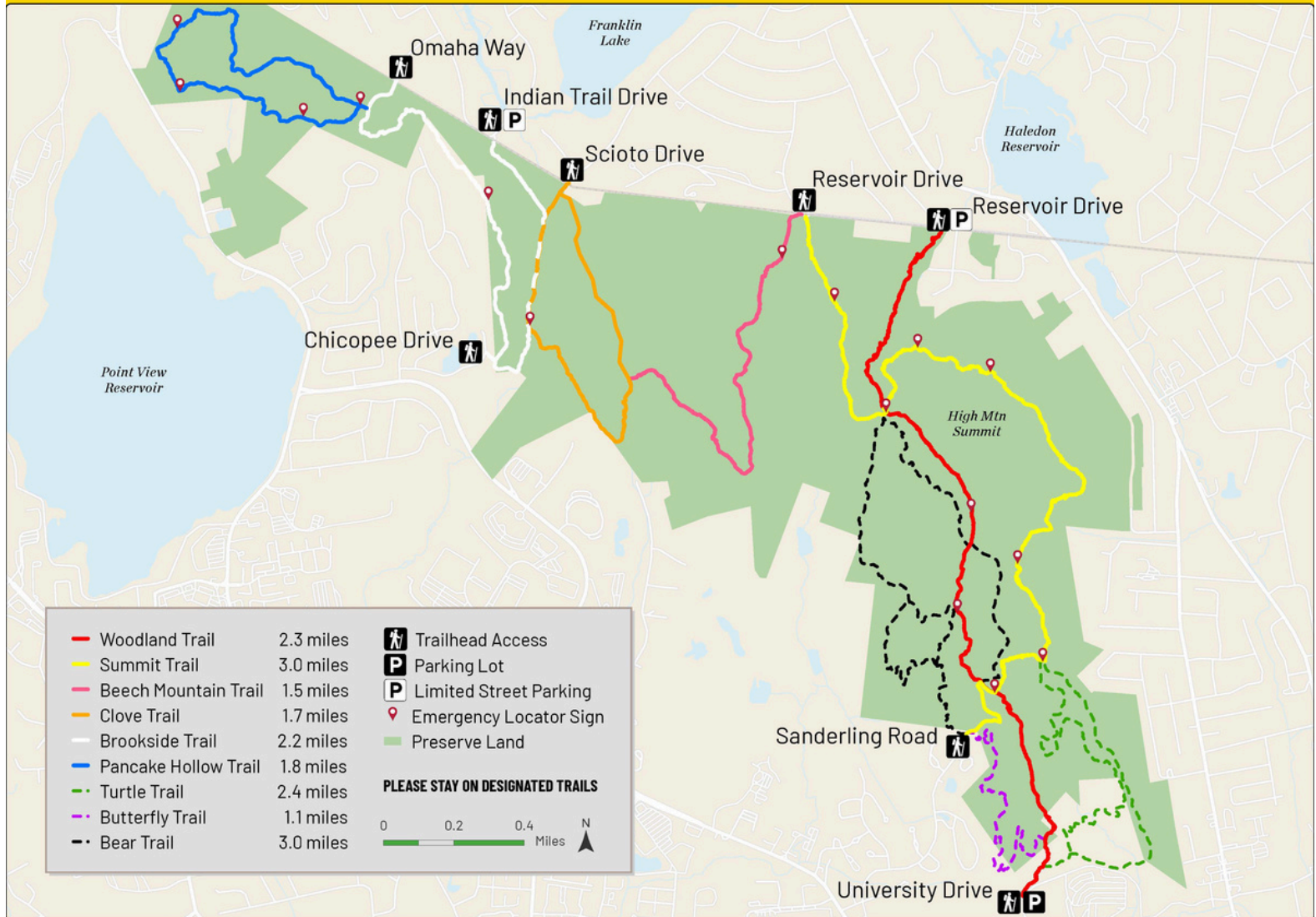


Bikers **must** yield to other trail users.



Map of New Trails

High Mountain Park Preserve Trail Map



QUESTIONS?

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