

GREEN HILLS PRESERVE

Trail Map & Guide



The Nature Conservancy
New Hampshire

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Welcome to the White Mountains' Backyard

You are about to enter a vast, 12,000-acre block of unfragmented forest—home to black bear, warblers and other wildlife. The Nature Conservancy, Town of Conway and State of New Hampshire have partnered to protect much of this land for public benefit. It's an extraordinary conservation success story and a place beloved by locals and visitors alike.

History of the Green Hills

Long ago, the Green Hills were town "common land," where settlers had rights to hunt, graze their farm animals and cut firewood. In the 1800s, the town sold the land to private owners, but fortunately for those interested in conservation, most of the Green Hills remained wild, beautiful and full of life.

The idea of conserving the Green Hills began in 1966, when Katherine Billings and Anna B. Stearns, summer residents of New Hampshire, went on a bushwhack up Peaked Mountain. They were delighted to see a variety of forest types, fascinating geological formations and spectacular views. They resolved to protect the Green Hills from development and to enlist others in their campaign.

Anna B. Stearns visited the Green Hills often, even in winter. She and Katherine Billings shared their hopes for protection with many, including The Nature Conservancy. After years of negotiations, The Conservancy purchased 2,822 acres in 1990. Although Anna B. Stearns died before the purchase was finalized, she lived to learn of the Conservancy's agreement to purchase the land, and she provided funding for the acquisition as a memorial for her mother and father. Since then, The Anna B. Stearns Foundation and many others have contributed to support The Nature Conservancy's continuing work in the Green Hills.



Green Hills Preserve from the air © Jeff Lougee/The Nature Conservancy

The Preserve

Now more than 5,500 acres, The Nature Conservancy's Green Hills Preserve protects a string of summits crowned by ledges of 200-million-year-old Conway granite. The open and readily accessible peaks of Black Cap, Peaked and Middle mountains, with their far-reaching views of the Presidential Range, have been a popular White Mountains destination for well over a century.

In the early 1900s, the Green Hills raged with wildfires, kindled by logging slash piles and sparks from timber trains. The fires helped to

sustain a rare natural community known as "red pine rocky ridge," a hardy habitat adapted to fire, drought, wind and winter ice. You'll see some of this 700-acre community (the largest in the state) atop Middle and Peaked mountains. Look for even-aged stands of red pine (seeded during the fires) with a sparse, glade-like understory.

There are more than 50 miles of trails in the Green Hills, making it a favorite destination for hikers, mountain bikers, snowshoers, cross country skiers and snowmobilers. This extensive trail network is spread across conservation lands owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy, the Town of Conway, the State of New Hampshire, Tin Mountain Conservation Center and the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust. Combined, there are nearly 9,000 acres of conserved lands in the Green Hills.



Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future (LEAF) interns take a break from trail work in the Green Hills © Megan Latour/The Nature Conservancy

Local Action, Global Impact

The Green Hills are part of an ambitious initiative to conserve and connect the 80-million-acre Northern Appalachians region, which represents the largest intact example of temperate forest in the Western Hemisphere. The Northern Appalachians support a higher diversity of native mammalian carnivores than anywhere else in the eastern United States. We're working with partners from New York to Maine and Eastern Canada to protect and restore productive forestlands, critical habitats, wildlife corridors and the many benefits they provide to people and nature, including clean water and air.

You Can Be a Citizen Scientist!

These lands serve not only as a unique place to hike and explore, but also as a living laboratory for student education and scientific study. Research adds tremendous value to our work and isn't limited to students and scientists. You can also participate in collecting valuable data to assist with our conservation and management efforts just by using your smartphone or camera! While on your preserve hike, help us learn more about the plants and animals on the preserve by documenting what you see on our iNaturalist page. You can also visit one of our Picture Posts. Each post guides visitors to photograph a location in nine orientations. Photos are dated, geotagged, uploaded and shared online to assist in environmental monitoring. The process is easy, and instructions are located right on the Picture Post. For Picture Post locations, see the map in this guide. For more on all the ways you can engage with our preserves, scan the QR Code (left) or visit <http://naturenh.org/CitSci>.

ENJOY THE PRESERVE RESPONSIBLY

This area is open to the public for recreation and education. Please, for the protection of this area and its inhabitants:

- Leave No Trace—please keep the preserve clean by carrying out your trash.
- Snowmobiles are allowed on designated multi-use trails only. All other motorized use is prohibited.
- Mountain biking is allowed on designated trails, but is prohibited anywhere on "foot travel only" sections of the trail system. Off-trail mountain biking is strictly prohibited.
- Help us protect wildlife on the preserve and be respectful of other hikers by keeping dogs leashed and under verbal control.
- Respect the natural world around you! Do not remove or destroy plants, wildlife, minerals or cultural items.
- No camping or open fires allowed.
- * Hunting is allowed. Be aware of hunting seasons.

DIRECTIONS TO THE GREEN HILLS PRESERVE

Thompson Road—From NH Route 16, turn left 0.5 miles south of the North Conway village onto Artist Falls Road. Turn right onto Thompson Road in 0.3 miles, and reach the parking area for Pudding Pond and the Green Hills in 0.4 miles (just before the power lines). PLEASE DO NOT PARK AT THE END OF THOMPSON ROAD!

Hurricane Mountain Road—From NH Route 16 and 2 miles north of North Conway Village, turn right onto Hurricane Mountain Road just north of the scenic vista at the North Conway/Bartlett town line (this is a steep winding road that's closed in winter). At the height of land, a parking area is on the right.

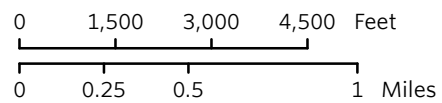
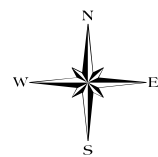
The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. For more information on the Green Hills Preserve, our work or our preserves, please contact us:

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ABOUT THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire has been safeguarding our state's most precious natural resources since 1961, conserving 290,000 acres of forests and fields and 680 miles of river and estuary shoreline. Our 29 preserves are open for hiking, fishing, skiing, hunting and wildlife viewing. We are committed to finding solutions to some of the most formidable challenges facing our natural world.

- Green Hills Preserve
- Town of Conway Conservation Land
- Other Conservation Lands
- P Public Parking
- ? Kiosk
- H Scenic Lookout
- P Picture Post
- Summit
- Highway
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Contour (200')
- Municipal Boundary
- Water

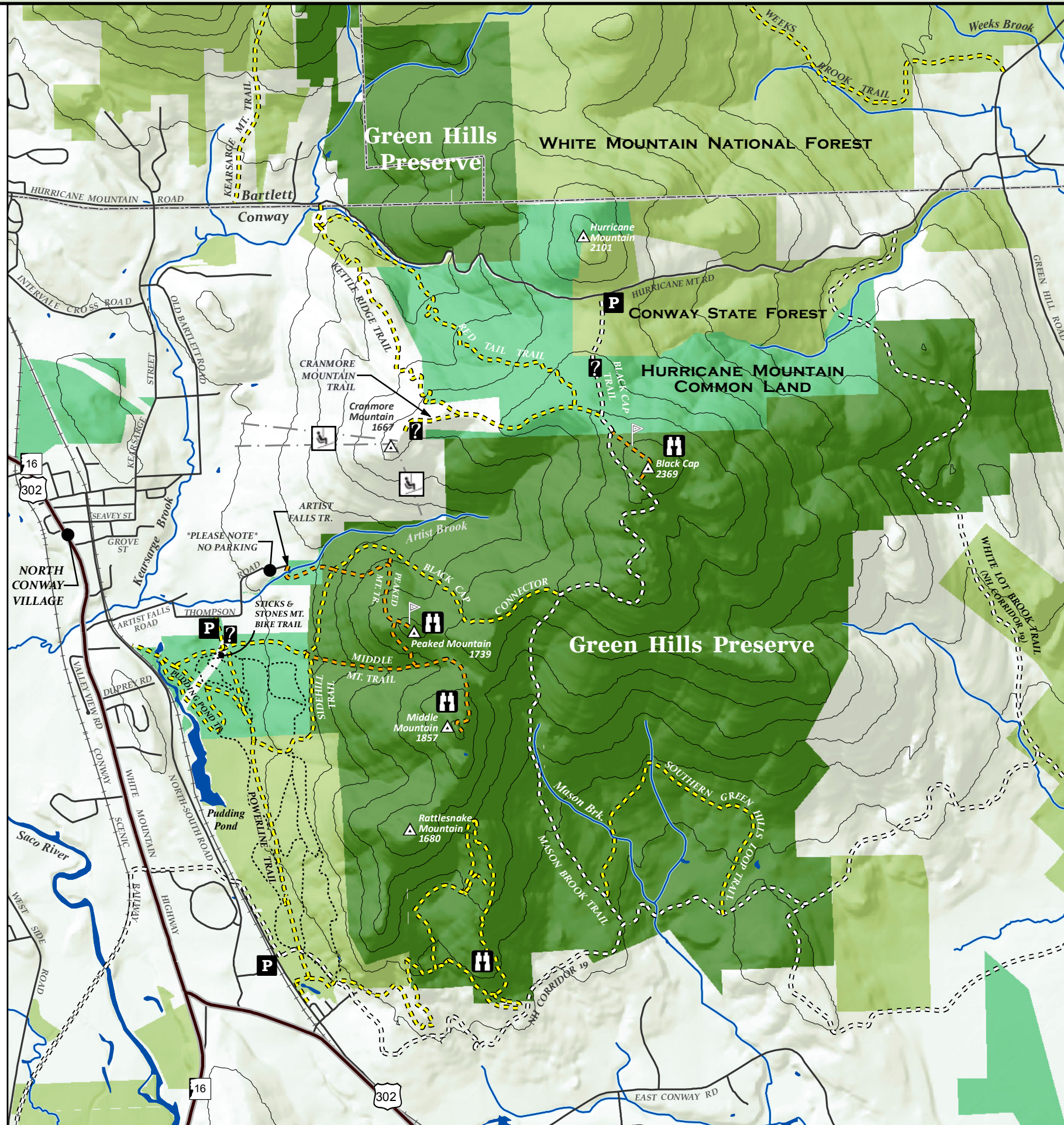


Scale 1:36,000

Permitted Trail Use

- H H H
- H H H H
- H H H H H
- Other Trails

Notes:
Map Produced March 2018 by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Trails mapped by AMC and TNC. All other data from NH GRANIT. Contour lines are at 200-foot intervals, extracted from a 10-meter digital elevation model.



Trails of the Green Hills Preserve

Thompson Road Trailhead

Distances are **one way** from trailhead unless otherwise noted.

Peaked Mountain Trail—2.1 miles. Follow yellow and blue blazes up exposed granite slabs with intermittent stands of red pine and pitch pine to the summit of Peaked Mountain to take in excellent views of Middle Mountain, Black Cap, Mount Chocorua and Moat Mountain Range.

Middle Mountain Trail—2 miles. This trail climbs 1,200 feet following red blazes to the summit of Middle Mountain.

Pudding Pond Trail—1.6 miles round trip. A hike through spruce, fir and hemlock stands yields to a pleasant view of Pudding Pond.

Hurricane Mountain Road Trailhead

Distances are **one way** from trailhead unless otherwise noted.

Black Cap Trail—1.1 miles. Blazed in red, this is a relatively easy hike that offers excellent views of the Presidential Range and is one of the most popular short hikes in the White Mountains.

Black Cap Connector Trail—4 miles. Connects the trails of Black Cap, Peaked and Middle mountains. Blazed in yellow, the trail connects the Black Cap Trail with both the Middle Mountain Trail and Peaked Mountain Trail.

Other Trails on the Green Hills Preserve

Cranmore Mountain Trail—1.5 miles. This leisurely hike forms the link between the Black Cap Trail and the summit of Cranmore Mountain.

Peaked Mountain Connector Trail—0.1 miles. This short trail connects the Peaked Mountain Trail to the Black Cap Connector Trail on the north side of Peaked Mountain. It climbs moderately uphill to reach the open ledges of the Peaked Mountain Trail.

Peaked Mountain/Middle Mountain Connector—0.3 miles. This trail begins near the summit of Peaked Mountain and connects to the Middle Mountain trail. It follows orange blazes and switchbacks to the junction with the Middle Mountain Trail.

Mason Brook Trail—2 miles. This trail departs midway along the Black Cap Connector Trail at 2.5 miles from either the Thompson Road or Hurricane Mountain Road Parking Areas.

Southern Green Hills Loop Trail—2.8 miles. This trail leaves Mason Brook Trail and passes through the reclaimed "Old Pit" area where there is a pleasant view to the south. The loop continues through mixed forest and along old roadway, eventually circling back to its beginning.

Note: Mountain bike trails often cross these trails. Please remain on designated hiking trails and maintain awareness of your surroundings. Bikers should remain vigilant of foot traffic.