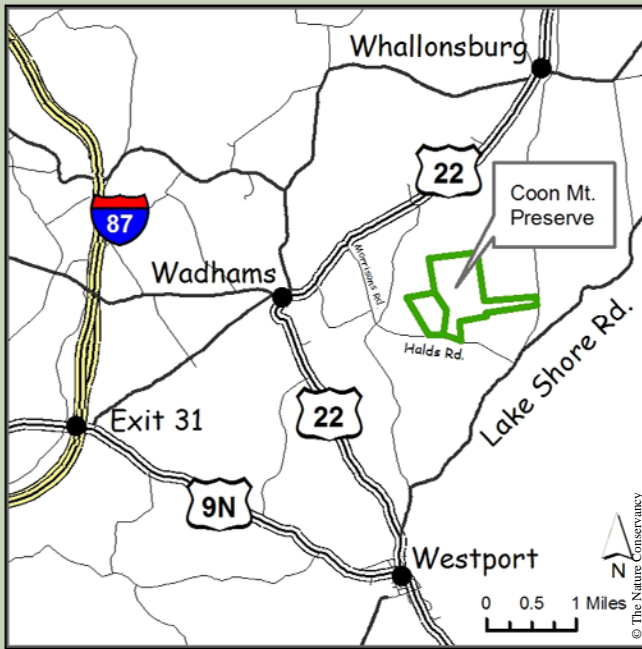


LOCATOR MAP



DIRECTIONS

From the village of Westport (Route 9N) take Route 22N toward Essex. In 0.4 mile turn right onto Lakeshore Road (keep to the right at junction with Sherman Road in 1 mile) and continue about 2.5 miles to Halds Road on the left. Take Halds Road about 0.75 mile to the parking area/trailhead on the right. Enjoy your visit!

"We always love this hike, incredible diversity."

- visitor comment, trail register

PRESERVE GUIDELINES

This natural area is open to the public for recreational, educational, and, with permission, scientific use. To help ensure the continued protection of this preserve, please respect the following guidelines:

- No removal or destruction of plants or animals
- No camping or littering
- No pets or motorized vehicles
- No hunting is allowed

For a full list of visitation guidelines, please visit us at www.nature.org/adirondacks and click on "Places To Visit."

LEAVE NO TRACE

Staying on marked trails is a simple way to protect Coon Mountain's natural areas. Walking off trail causes erosion, tramples plants, and can increase the likelihood of invasive plants becoming established.

PLEASE pack out what you bring in.

YOU CAN HELP TOO!

The Adirondack Land Trust offers plenty of opportunities to get involved! Please contact us for more information or visit www.nature.org/adirondacks to learn more about our conservation efforts and how **you** can be a part of them.

Adirondack Land Trust
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Keene Valley, NY 12943
(518) 576-2082
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COON MOUNTAIN PRESERVE



Coon Mountain is a naturalist's
paradise and a
view-hiker's dream.

A steep hike of one mile to the summit offers great views of Lake Champlain, the scenic farmland in the Champlain Valley, the Adirondack High Peaks, and the Green Mountains of Vermont.

COON MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

Coon Mountain is the premier nature preserve in the central Champlain Valley. It is part of the West Champlain Hills that botanist Jerry Jenkins describes as “more diverse” and “richer in rare and uncommon species than any other [natural] community in the Adirondack Park.” Coon Mountain is famous for its unique, craggy interior with rocky outcrops, lush forests, spring wildflowers, dark hemlock forests, and outstanding views.



Red Trillium
(*Trillium erectum*)

Bloodroot
(*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

LISTEN FOR THE COON MOUNTAIN LEGEND

According to legend, the giant Coon Mountain panther would attack its victims by crying like a damsel in distress, luring men deep into the woods. Many good dogs were lost to the panther while hunting. During one such hunt, however, the panther was shot in mid-leap and crashed down a cliff, sinking into one of the mysterious tarns that dot the summit ridge. The body of the panther was never found, leaving the legend of the Coon Mountain panther intact.

SUMMIT TRAIL

The Summit trail traverses through a stand of hemlock and enters a forest of beech, maple and birch.

On the limestone ledges above the hemlock forest grows the biologically-diverse calcareous oak-hickory forest which is rich in rare and uncommon plants. The widely-spaced trees let in sunlight which promotes a great profusion of grasses, sedges, and wildflowers.

Along the southern slope, the forest composition changes and different tree species— white ash, with its compound leaves (each with 7 leaflets) and basswood, with its large heart-shaped leaves are present.

Some of the old trees may have barbed wire grown into the tree trunks, a sign that the property was once used for pasture. While walking through the large section of beech, look for signs of a different kind: bear claw marks on the smooth gray bark. Beech nuts are an important food source for bear and other wildlife.

HIDDEN VALLEY TRAIL

The Hidden Valley trail was established in 2003 following the Adirondack Land Trust’s purchase of an additional 72 acres. As you start up the Hidden Valley trail you will notice a forest stand of Eastern Hemlock.

After about a half-mile the Hidden Valley trail conjoins with the Summit trail. At the top, you will be rewarded with stunning panoramic views of Lake Champlain and Adirondack Mountains, including Dix, Giant, Hurricane and Saddleback.

WHERE THE WILDFLOWERS

GROW

Wildflowers are particularly abundant in spring before lush tree canopies shade the forest floor. Look for blue cohosh that produce blueberry-like seeds in a cluster. Also look for sharp-lobed hepatica, wild ginger, pink lady’s slipper and red trillium.

Quick Species Identification Box



Canada Mayflower
(*Maianthemum canadense*):

blooms after its first year of growth, producing a berry (inedible) that turns from speckled green to red.



Clintonia
(*Clintonia borealis*):

also known as bluebead lily, has 3 to 6 greenish-yellow flowers atop a long stalk in June, and dark blue berries (inedible) in August.



Trout Lily
(*Erythronium americanum*):

has green and purplish mottled leaves resembling a speckled trout. The single nodding yellow flower blooms in May.

Illustrations by Mike Storey