

## 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 Beekman Road in 1 mile) and continue 3 miles to Halds Road on the left. Take Halds Road about 0.75 mile to the parking area/trailhead on the right.

Trail Notes:

### PRESERVE GUIDELINES

This natural area is open to the public for recreational, educational and 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](http://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 area. Walking off the 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 your community involved! Please contact us for more information or visit [nature.org/adirondacks](http://nature.org/adirondacks) to learn more about our conservation efforts and how **you** can be part of them.

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# COON MOUNTAIN NATURE 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 patchwork of farmland in the Champlain Valley, the Adirondack High Peaks and the Green Mountains of Vermont.



## COON MOUNTAIN NATURE

### 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.” The preserve is famous for its unique, craggy interior with rocky outcrops, lush forests, spring wildflowers and dark hemlock forests.



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## 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 bears and other wildlife.

## HIDDEN VALLEY TRAIL

The Hidden Valley trail was established in 2003 following the 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



© Mike Storey

#### **Canada Mayflower** *(Maianthemum canadense)*

...blooms after its first year of growth producing an inedible berry that turns from speckled green to red.



© Mike Storey

#### **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.



© Mike Storey

#### **Trout Lily** *(Erythronium americanum)*

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