

Yes, I'd like to support Coastal Mountains Land Trust's land conservation efforts by enrolling as a member.

Our levels of membership support are based on representative coastal mountains located in our service region. Please indicate your level of membership support and provide a check (payable to Coastal Mountains Land Trust) or credit card information below:

- \$ 5000+ Mount Megunticook
- \$ 1000 Ragged Mountain
- \$ 500 Frye Mountain
- \$ 250 Moody Mountain
- \$ 100 Ducktrap Mountain
- \$ 35 Mount Tuck
- \$ 25 Mount Percival

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Credit card #: _____

Expiration date: _____

Please send to:
Coastal Mountains Land Trust
101 Mount Battie Street
Camden, ME 04843

Or Click on "Become a Member" @
www.coastalmountains.org



photo by Ben Magro

BEECH HILL PRESERVE

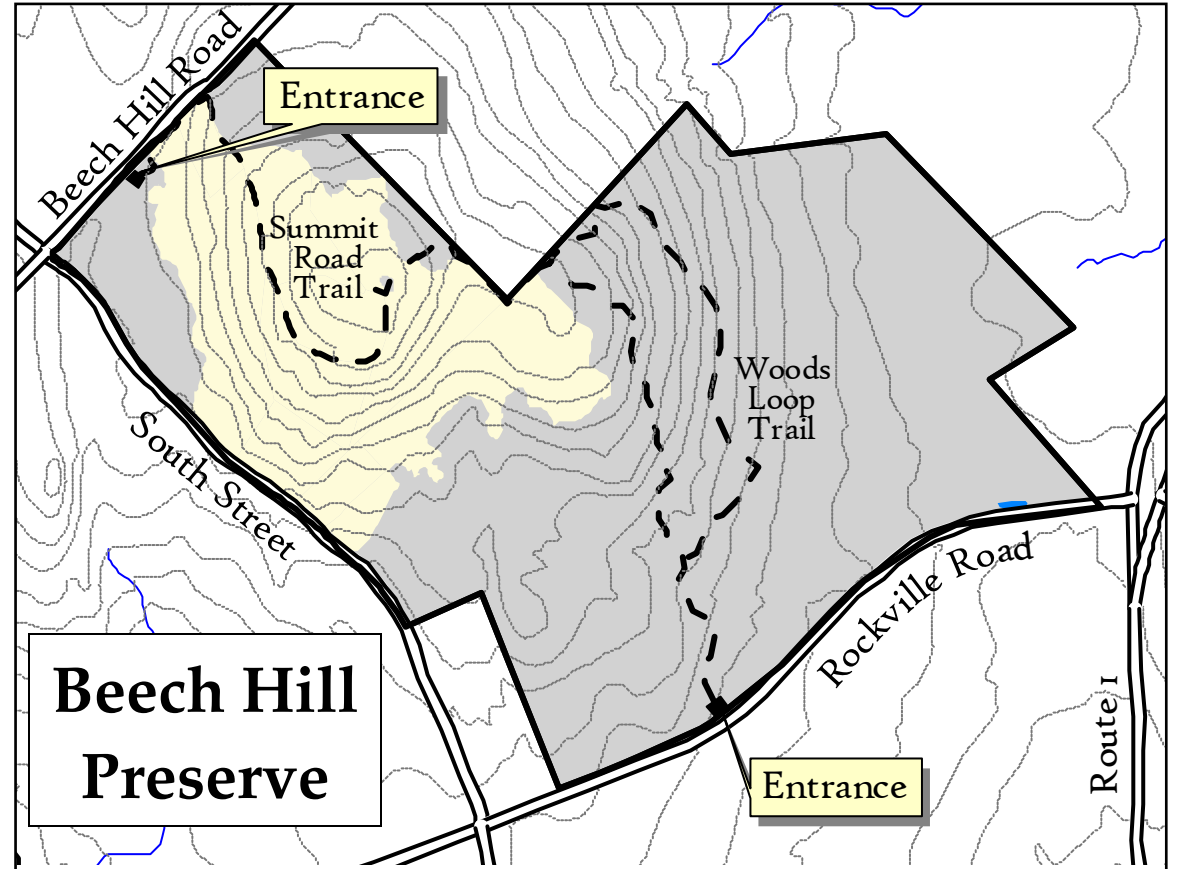
Guide & Trail Map



101 Mount Battie Street
Camden, Maine 04843
207-236-7091

www.coastalmountains.org

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Trail Information

Summit Road Trail: The first (and original) trail begins at the Beech Hill Road trailhead follows a stone wall and an old farm road for an easy, but at times steep, 3/4-mile before reaching the historic stone hut. Given that the Land Trust is managing these fields for organic blueberries and wildlife habitat, it is crucial that walkers **not stray off the path** and keep their dogs on **leash** at all times.

Difficulty: Easy with a gradual climb.

Woods Loop Trail: The second trail is a loop trail that begins at the Rockville Street Trailhead/parking lot. The trail passes through a two-acre sugar maple stand and begins to wind through a young forest that has colonized an old field before dividing into a loop trail that offers two routes to the summit. The left and more direct route continues through a young forest before running along the edge of the lower fields that approach the summit and Beech Nut. The right path on the loop swings more gradually through a majestic hardwood forest dominated by numerous towering oaks.

Difficulty: Moderate, gradual climb.

The Preserve

The Beech Hill Preserve offers ready access to one of the most scenic and multi-faceted conservation properties in the western Penobscot Bay region. As the only bald hilltop in the area, Beech Hill is an extraordinary hiking, picnicking and birding destination that offers panoramic views of Penobscot Bay, the Camden hills and the St. George peninsula. The conservation program of this Preserve protects nearly 300 acres of land managed for grassland bird habitat, organic blueberry production, and scenic and historic preservation values.

Located approximately 1.5 miles from Rockport village, between Routes 1, 17 and 90, Beech Hill is a large hill dominated by open grassland habitat and a commercial organic blueberry operation. The open fields of the summit, capped by Beech Nut, a sod-roofed stone hut listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are visible from miles around. The lower portion of the Preserve is dominated by a mixed hardwood forest.

Originally protected by a conservation easement in 1986, the summit of Beech Hill was purchased in 2003 by Coastal Mountains Land Trust with support from the Land for Maine's Future program, the MBNA Foundation, and individuals who have long appreciated this dramatic and beautiful property.



Preserve Guidelines

Please help us keep this Preserve and trail a pleasure for all who visit this natural area.

- The Preserve is open to the public for low-impact recreation during daylight hours.
- Removal of native vegetation is strictly prohibited.
- Fires and camping are not allowed.
- Vehicles, motorized or non-motorized including bicycles and horses, are not allowed on the Preserve. Bikes are to remain in parking areas only.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times.
- Hunting is permitted in the forested areas of the Preserve only.
- Groups larger than 12 should obtain permission before using the Preserve.

Please note that hunting is permitted in the forested areas of the Preserve. Please wear appropriate colored clothing during hunting season.



photo by Brian Willson

During your visit, look for...

American kestrels, *Falco sparverius* and **Northern harriers**, *Circus cyaneus*, hunting the fields

Wood lily, *Lilium philadelphicum*, in the fields in late July

Wolf oak trees, stone walls and cairns on the lower woods trail that tell the history of this property's agricultural past

Directions

Delorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer
Map 14, E-3

Beech Hill Summit Road trailhead -- from Route 1, Rockport, heading south, take a right onto Beech Hill Rd. across from Hoboken Gardens. Go about a mile, parking lot is on the left just past the old gate to Beech Hill and a stone wall.

Woods Loop Trailhead -- from Route 1, Rockport, heading south, take the first right immediately after 'Fresh Off the Farm' onto Rockville St. The parking lot is about .7 miles on the right-hand side of the road.



Coastal Mountains Land Trust is a membership-based non-profit working to permanently conserve land to benefit the natural and human communities of western Penobscot Bay. Since 1986, the organization has protected or facilitated the protection of more than 8,000 acres of land as preserves or conservation easements.

All of the Land Trust's preserves are open to the public.

The Land Trust works cooperatively with landowners in the western Penobscot Bay region to permanently protect biological diversity, scenic landscapes, and agricultural, forest and water resources, to promote awareness of the value of land conservation, and to provide opportunities for the public to enjoy and experience natural lands.

Join Us!

The Land Trust is an accredited community-based organization that relies upon the generous support of its members and volunteers. Please consider becoming a member and/or volunteer with the Land Trust.

