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Please indicate your level of membership support and provide a check (payable to Coastal Mountains Land Trust) or credit card information below:

- \$ 5000 Megunticook Society
- \$ 1000 Conservation Partner
- \$ 500 Guardian
- \$ 100 Supporter
- \$ 30 Friend
- \$ ____ Any donation is greatly appreciated!
- I am interested in volunteering!
- Please contact me about conservation options

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Expiration date: _____ 3 Digit #: _____

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

Or Click on “Become a Member” @
www.coastalmountains.org



Beech Nut - photo by Ben Magro

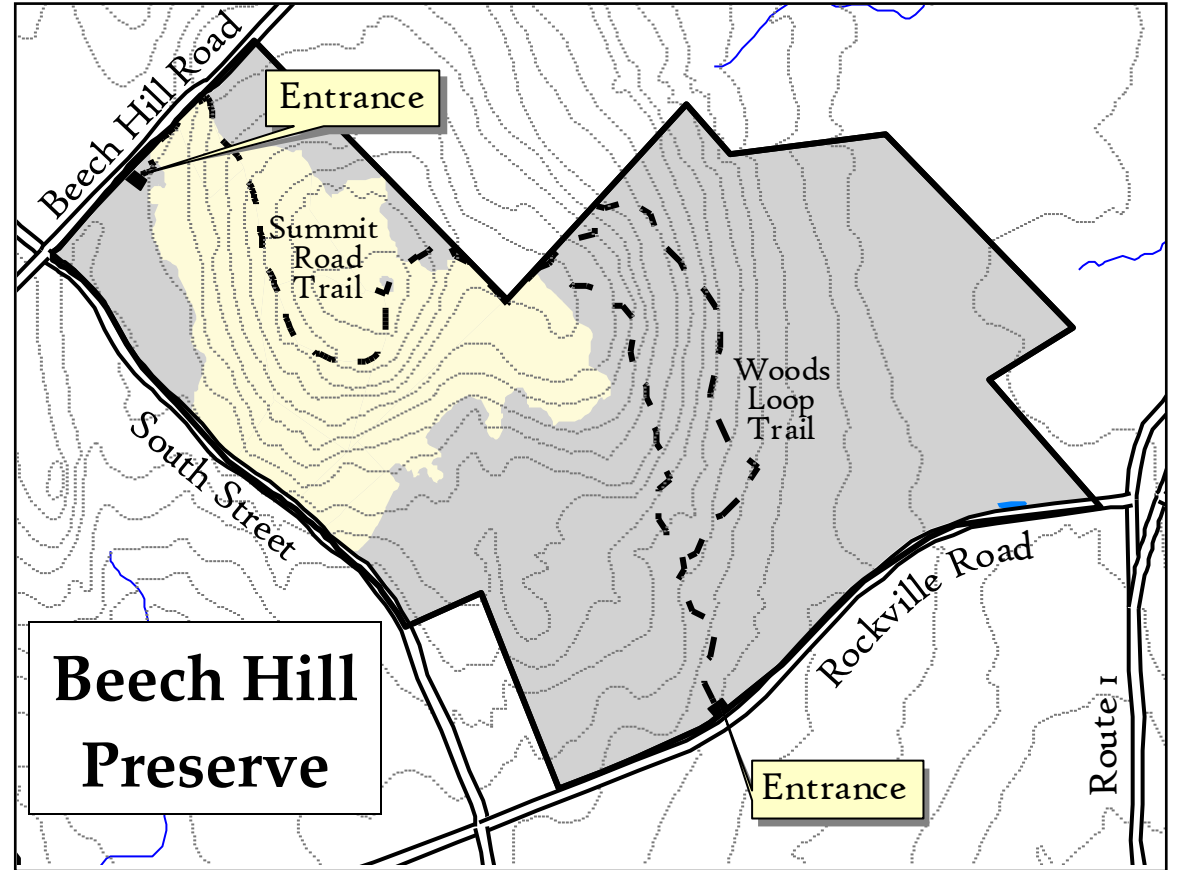
BEECH HILL PRESERVE

Guide & Trail Map

Rockport, Maine



This property was protected with assistance from:



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 that is known as Beech Nut. Given that the Land Trust is managing these fields for organic blueberries and wildlife habitat, it is crucial that walkers **stay on 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.

Beech Hill 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 Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Land for Maine's Future program, the MBNA Foundation, and individuals who have long appreciated this dramatic and beautiful property.



View of Penobscot Bay from Beech Hill

Preserve Guidelines

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

- The Preserve is open during daylight hours.
- Hunting is permitted in the forested areas of the Preserve. Contact the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for detailed information.
- Please wear blaze orange during rifle season.
- Groups larger than 12, please contact the Land Trust before visiting the Preserve.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times.
- Most importantly, have fun and enjoy!

The following activities are prohibited:

- Removal of native vegetation
- Fires and camping
- Vehicles, motorized or non-motorized, including bicycles and horses.

If you have any questions, please call the Land Trust office at 236-7091 or send us an email at info@coastalmountains.org



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 1.6 miles, parking lot is on the left just past the old gate to Beech Hill and a stone wall.

GPS Coordinates: 44.170165, -69.107539

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.

GPS Coordinates: 44.161641, -69.094527



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 10,000 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.



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