

## **Bald Mountain**

The summit of Bald Mountain is 1,121 feet above sea level, which makes it the highest point in Somers. Many different kinds of wildlife pass through, or make Bald Mountain their home including turkey vultures, black bear, deer, red fox, and many more! A Forest Bird Habitat Assessment conducted for the Northern Ct Land Trust by the Connecticut Audubon Society In August, 2014 identified over twenty species of songbirds on Bald Mountain. The mountain represents a large 633 acre area of contiguous protected open space with portions protected by the town of Somers, The State of Connecticut, and the Northern Connecticut Land Trust. Protection was completed when The NCLT partnered with the Town of Somers to acquire the final parcel consisting of 138 acres which was purchased from Hugo and Selma Trappe in 2009. Once the project was completed, the town conveyed its interest in this parcel to the NCLT for management and preservation.

The Bald Mountain Trail Loop is 1.25 miles long including sections of challenging, steep terrain, and is marked with white medallions. This is a non-motorized trail open to everyone during daylight hours for passive recreation. Where the trail splits approximately 1/8 mile from the parking area, take the left fork for a more gradual climb or the right fork for a steeper, more direct route to the summit. The summit is wooded with limited viewpoints facing to the east and south. The trail is maintained by the Somers Open Space and Trails Committee.

To reach the trailhead, follow Rte. 190 east 2 miles from the center of Somers to Randell Road. Turn left on Randell, then Left on Lance and right on County Road. The small parking area is located on the left just past 159 County Road.

Although this is the only maintained and marked trail on the mountain, many unmarked trails exist along the ridge to the north and on the west side of the mountain offering the possibility of a longer hike. (see Bald Mtn. Area Map). A portion of the Loop Trail follows a discontinued section of The Shenipsit Trail which is part of the Connecticut Forest and Park blue trail system which passed over Bald Mountain and continued north over the Pinnacle. These unmarked trails can also be accessed from the end of Upper Scully Road at the intersection of Upper Scully and Bald Mountain Drive. Park at the side of the road or at the gate where the old road enters the forest.

NOTE: Hunting is allowed on adjacent state land so please wear bright clothing and use caution during hunting season. Please help maintain this areal by carrying out any trash and cleaning up after your pet.