

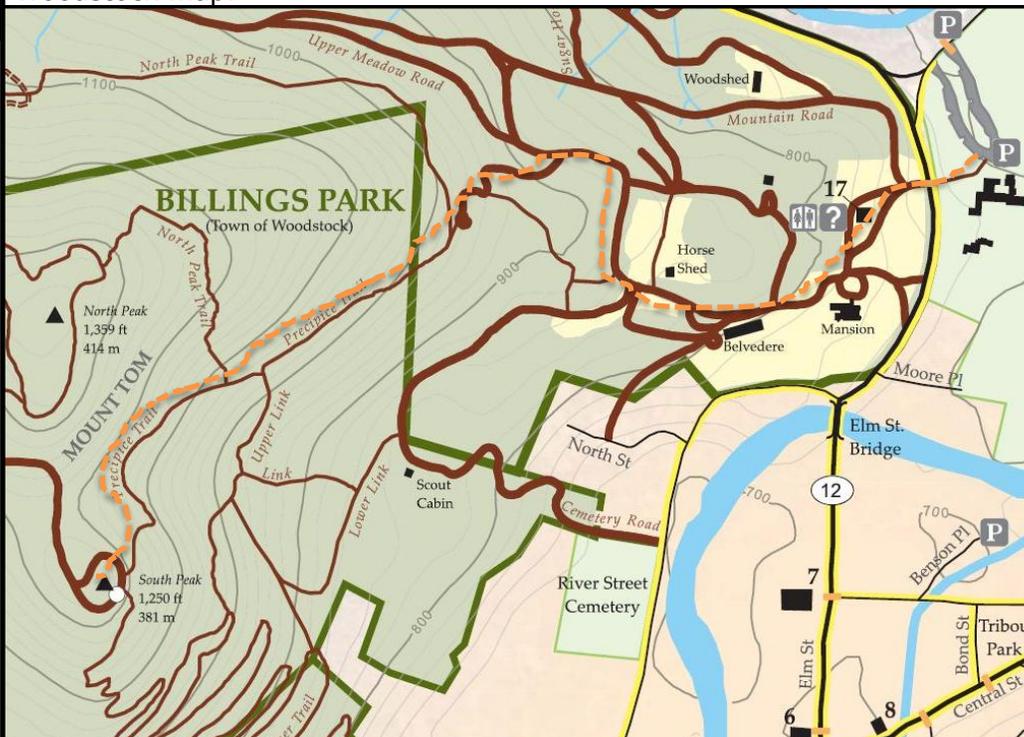
Precipice Trail to South Peak

Description For those seeking a more adventurous outing the Precipice trail is a rugged hike on the rocky southwestern side of Mount Tom. Some of the trail is only a small ledge on the side of a steep rock face. The trail leads you through old hemlock forest, ledges and boulder fields covered with moss, to the South Peak summit with its commanding views of the countryside. Do not attempt this hike in the rain or without sturdy footwear.

Distance 2 miles round trip to South Peak

Trailhead Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park/ Billings Farm and Museum Parking Lot

Directions The Billings Farm and Museum and the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park are off of Vt. 12 in Woodstock. From West U.S. Route 4 in downtown Woodstock, bear right onto Vt. 12 North. Cross the iron bridge over the Ottauquechee River, bear right onto River Road, and take the first right into the parking area at the Billings Farm and Museum. To access the National Park trails, cross Vt. 12 at the crosswalk. Use the map below to navigate to the start of Precipice Trail. Or (After crossing the crosswalk climb a short hill to the visitor's center, walk past the mansion and follow the main carriage road going around a small field, then turning left, and shortly left again. You will reach the intersection of North Peak Trail and Precipice Trail. Precipice trail is to the left North Peak Trail is to the right.) Precipice Trail is 0.5 miles and is the most direct route to South Peak. To take another route back use your Walk Woodstock map.



History Precipice trail was completed in 1956 and was one of the first trails in the Billings Park. The 155 acre Billings Park was gifted to the Town of Woodstock by Mary M. Billings French in 1953.

[Click here for a printable version of the map](#)

Photo: A narrow segment of the precipice trail.
Credit: Julia Lynam



View from Mount Tom Summit: From west to east, in the foreground is the King Farm with Killington above it on the horizon. To the left is Route 4 and the high school as viewed up the Ottauquechee Valley. To the south, Mt. Ascutney is on the horizon. Below and still proceeding eastward, is the north end of Kendron Valley. with the golf course, Vail Field and then the Woodstock Inn. To the left of the Inn is the Windsor County Court House and covered bridge, above which is visible the bald knob of Mt. Peg. Toward the east, the Congregational Church is in the foreground with Billings Farm situated north of the river and then the mountains of New Hampshire are on the horizon above it. The structure on the summit of Mount Tom displays a lighted star and cross with shines over Woodstock during the Christmas and Easter holidays respectively. (Woodstock Inn and Resort Hiking Map 1980)