

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Walks and Hikes starting from the Visitor Center



Grounds and Gardens

Distance: .25 miles

Estimated Time: 15 minutes

Difficulty: easy

The gardens are located behind the Rockefeller mansion and include an azalea and rhododendron garden, rock garden, cutting garden, a hemlock hedgerow, and many other plantings, all expressing the many-layered design and development of the gardens and grounds through four generations of dedicated stewardship.

Junior Ranger Loop

Distance: .7 miles

Estimated Time: 30 minutes

Difficulty: easy

Walk along the Junior Ranger Loop and complete as many activities as you can along the way. Learn about the different trees and animals in the forest on a short walk on the carriage roads. Ask at the Visitor Center for the Junior Ranger booklet.

Sustainability Quest

Distance: 1 mile

Estimated Time: 30 minutes

Difficulty: easy

Explore the trails and carriage roads that are close to the Visitor Center and learn about the park's commitment to conservation and sustainability. Buildings certified as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), a solar powered artist studio and a state of the art composting system are just a few examples of the Park's sustainable practices. Ask at the Visitor Center for the sustainability quest.

To the Pogue On Mountain Road

Distance: 1.2 miles one way

Estimated Time: 1-1/2 hours

Difficulty: moderate

The Pogue is a man-made 14-acre pond tucked into the hills of the Park's Mount Tom Forest. You can reach the Pogue by way of Mountain Road, one of the park's historic carriage roads. Near the start of the hike you will encounter two unique structures, the Woodshed and the Forest Center. The Woodshed loft opens directly onto the Mountain Road and houses an exhibition of old carriages. To return from the Pogue on an alternative route use your Walk Woodstock map. (Inquire at Visitor desk)

Mount Tom's South Peak**Distance:** 2.2 miles one way**Estimated Time:** 2 hours**Difficulty:** moderate

Head up Mountain Road, and after 1.1 miles take a left on Mount Tom Road. Follow the carriage road past several open pastures and over a beautiful stonework bridge to the South Peak summit. At the top take in a panoramic view of Woodstock, and rest a bit. You can retrace your steps to return to the Visitor Center, or take the One Less Traveled Trail, or North Peak Trail back to Mountain Road in order to see more of the forest.

One Less Traveled Trail**Distance:** .8 miles one way**Estimated Time:** 20 minutes**Difficulty:** moderate

This trail can be taken as an alternate route to or from South Peak or the Pogue. This wide dirt trail sweeps through a forest of towering red oaks, maples, and small Eastern hemlocks, and beech trees.

North Peak Trail**Distance:** 1 mile one way**Estimated Time:** 30 minutes**Difficulty:** difficult

This trail can be taken as an alternate route to or from Mount Tom or the Pogue. It is a narrower woods trail that is parallel with Mountain Road until it takes a sharp turn to the southeast and leads to North Peak. The grade is not steep, but the footing is difficult at times.

Precipice Trail**Distance:** .5 miles one way**Estimated Time:** 30 minutes**Difficulty:** difficult

For those seeking a more adventurous outing the Precipice trail is a rugged hike on the rocky southwestern side of Mount Tom. Much of the trail is only a small ledge on the side of a steep rock face. Do not attempt this hike in the rain or without sturdy footwear.

Hiking Safety

- Bring plenty of water
- Wear comfortable shoes with adequate support
- Park at designated trailheads and lock your car
- Pack out whatever you pack in
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times
- Choose a route that is within your ability, stay on the trails, and take the trail map with you.
- Let someone know your plans and stick to them
- Take your cell phone, most of which work in Woodstock, in case of emergency

Woodstock Police 802-457-1420

Emergency Dial 911