



Faulkner Trail

The Faulkner Trail is a popular hike featuring gentle switchbacks that build up to an incredible panoramic view of Woodstock from the South Peak of Mount Tom. Most of the hike gradually gains elevation, leading to a scenic overlook with a bench. The last 100 yards to the summit is strenuous. At this section of the trail, a handrail assists walkers with the uneven footing up the steep terrain to the peak. Give the rail a wiggle to ensure firmness before use. Please remain on the trail, and don't cut the switchbacks.

History

The Faulkner trail was carefully constructed in 1937 by Marianne Faulkner in memory of her husband Edward Daniels Faulkner. She designed it to mirror gentle "cardiac health" trails in the spa town of Baden Baden, Germany. It connects the town of Woodstock with the trails of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park.

The Faulkner Trail has been continually maintained and repaired by groups including: the National Park Service Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program; the Billings Park Commission; Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and the Student Conservation Association.

One Option, Pogue and South Peak Loop: This route to the Pogue and South Peak offers a gradual hike, and a chance to explore the western side of the National Park. From the Prosper Road Parking Area pass the trailhead kiosk, and take the McKenzie Farm Trail to McKenzie Road. Turn left and follow McKenzie Road until it ends, then turn right on North Ridge Loop. Downhill, turn right at an intersection with two large trees. Walk the Pogue Loop until you reach a short section of fence. Take Mountain Road and shortly turn right onto Mount Tom Road. Follow Mount Tom Road to South Peak with its captivating view of Woodstock. If you would like an alternate route to the parking area, turn right off McKenzie Road and follow the steep Prosper Trail to the boardwalk.

History: Remnants of farm buildings may be seen at the junction of the McKenzie farm trail and McKenzie Road. The Prosper Trail passes through red pine plantations planted by Frederick Billings' heirs in 1917.

