

Mt. Will Hiking Trail and Mt. Will River Trail

A Hiking and Nature Trail



About the Mt Will Trail

This "carry in - carry out" foot trail was developed by the Bethel Conservation Commission to increase public awareness of the natural resources and beauty of the Androscoggin River Valley. A number of descriptive signs on the North Ledges Section provide a guide for understanding the natural history of the area.

The overall loop is 3 1/4 miles and typically requires about 2 1/2 hours, walking time. A shorter hike to the North Ledges only or to the South Cliffs only would require about 1 1/4 hours walking time.

The **starting point** is a parking area directly opposite the Bethel Recycling and Transfer Station on the N.W. side of Route 2 east of Bethel village, 1.9 miles past the Riverside State Rest

Mt Will Location and Map

Trails are on the East side of Mt. Will



From Bethel Village take Route 2 north toward Newry Corner. Trail head parking area is directly opposite the Tri Town Recycling and Transfer Station. See photo below.

Area,

The trail has been cleared of major obstructions but has uneven terrain and some steep places requiring adequate foot gear and good physical condition.

The trail is marked with blue-green blazes. Except for the North Ledges Section the trail is on private land. Continued landowner permission depends on no abuse.

The **North Ledges Section** is 3/4 miles long and climbs 630 vertical feet to relatively open ledges. There are good views of the valley and surrounding mountains north and east from an elevation of 1350 feet – about 700 feet above river level. The trail goes through the Bethel Town Forest and allows observation of a forest regenerating itself after managed timber harvesting. A typical ascent time is about 45 minutes. A typical descent time is about 30 minutes.

The North Ledges to South Cliffs Section is 1 ½ miles long and winds around to reach a series of higher ledges overlooking the Androscoggin and Bear River valleys north and east. The trail then goes through forested terrain with both ascents and descents to a maximum elevation of 1700 feet. After a descent to 1450 feet, the trail emerges at the South Cliffs with fully open views south and east, including Bethel village. Typical walking time is about 1 hour.

The South Cliffs to Trailhead Section is 1 mile long, descending 730 vertical feet to the Route 2 starting point. If this section is used to go directly to the South Cliffs from the trailhead, ascent time is about 1 hour and descent time is about 40 minutes.

For further information, or to report problems, please call the Bethel Town Office at 824-2669.



Mt. Will Trail parking is located opposite the Recycling and Transfer Station on Route 2 approximately 5.5 miles from Bethel Village.



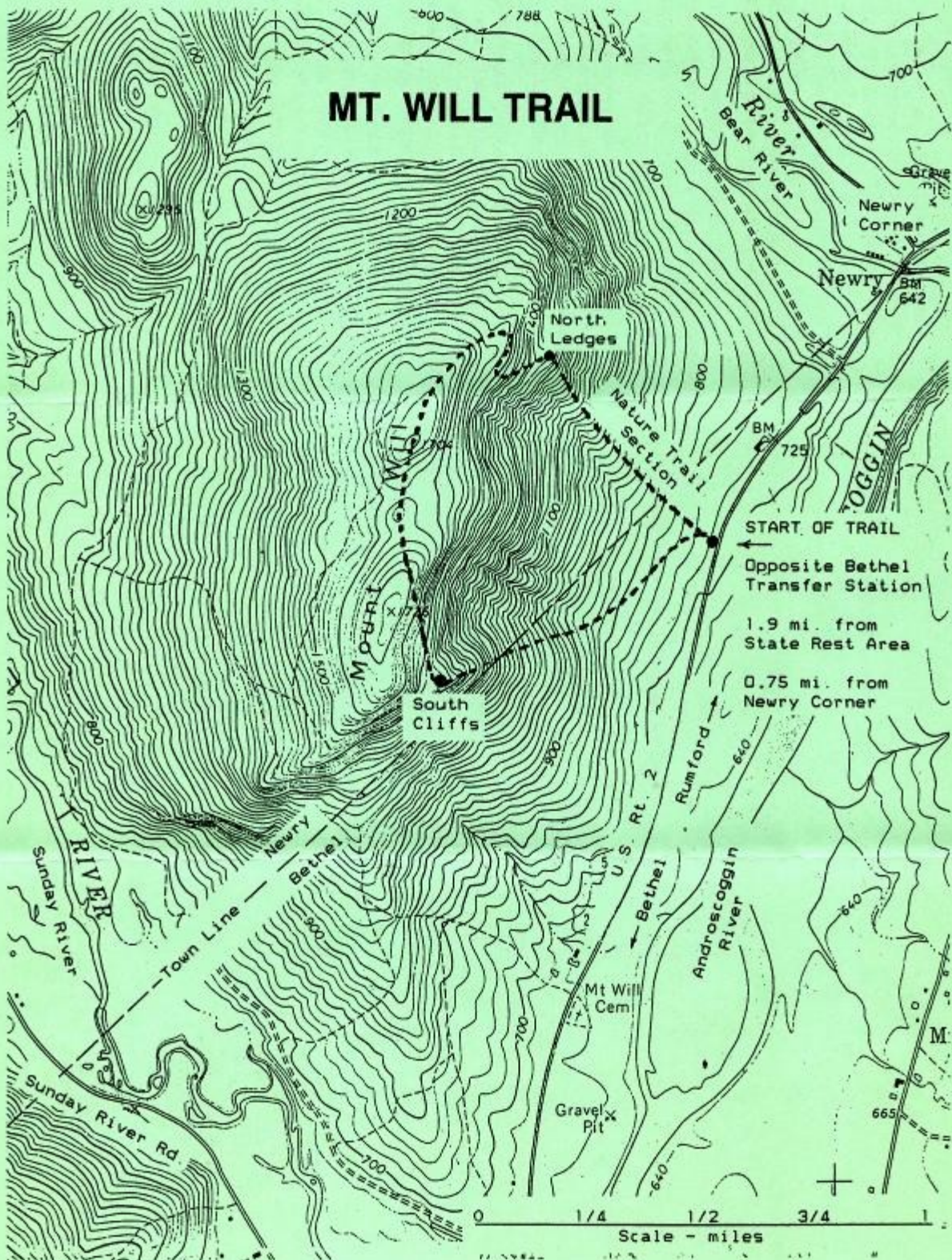
Once in the Mt Will Trail parking area you can easily see the trail starting point and map box.

**Respect signs posted by private
landowners**

Carry in ~ Carry out

Foot travel only

MT. WILL TRAIL



Initial stake out of the Mt Will trail was done in 1990. The trail was completed in 1991. In 1996 descriptive signs were installed along the trail in 22 locations. These signs describe the tree growth and terrain features of the area surrounding the signs. In 2004, work was started on the Mt Will River Trail.



Mt. Will RIVER TRAIL

This quarter-mile foot trail begins just north of the Tri-Town Transfer Station entrance, across Route 2 from the Mt. Will Trail parking lot.

The trail is over uneven terrain and requires adequate foot gear, but does not involve any significant climbing.

Along the way it passes the remains of a small stone dam on an unnamed brook - a relic, perhaps of a time long ago when the area was farmed and livestock watered there. The trail leads to the Androscoggin River, where -- with patience -- one may sight various waterfowl, raptors, or other bird species that are attracted to water. A short walk to the left leads to an interesting convolution of turns made by the brook just before entering the river. Return to the trail's starting point on Rt. 2 is by the same route.

The trail is maintained by the Town of Bethel's Conservation Committee

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or to report problems, please call the
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Carry In - Carry Out



Entrance to the Mt. Will River trail lies directly across Route 2 from the parking area.



Other Scenes Along the Mt. Will River Trail



From the old stone dam to the Androscoggin River the brook cuts an increasingly deeper valley. As the stream nears its mouth at the river, it zigzags through a picturesque letter S curve.

This trail requires annual maintenance to clear blow-downs and brush. When in good condition, walking one way takes only 15 minutes.