

Hiking map and trail descriptions

A few of the many special places in the Sawyer Mountain Highlands are described in the next few paragraphs. But there are hundreds more waiting to be discovered, so please do not be afraid to explore on your own. However if you are leaving the trail, it is easy to get turned around in the many ridges and valleys in this wild area. You should plan on bringing a compass and the map on the reverse side. This remote area is one of the few remaining places where a hiker can still get lost yet be so close to civilization. Hiking in these mountains can be quite a different experience than hiking on traditional well-marked trails. The Trust is committed to keeping its lands open for public use while still preserving the wilderness nature of the area.

General location:

The Sawyer Mountain Highlands are part of the single largest block of undeveloped land in York and Cumberland Counties. This block is bounded on the east by Route 117, on the north by Route 25, on the west by Route 5, and on the south by Route 11. While there are many side trails that can be used to reach the mountain, the best access is via the old (discontinued) Sawyer Mountain Road that runs from Route 117 in Limington to Emery's Corner in Limerick, where a portion of the road is still in use. **The Limington trailhead on Route 117** (point 8 on the map) is located at a sharp turn in the highway and has space for parking. This point is located 2.5 miles south of the junction of Routes 25 and 117 or 2.4 miles north of the junction of Routes 11 and 117. A Trust sign marks this spot and also honors Benjamin H. and Earle B. Webster. **Alternatively, from Limerick**, take Emery's Corner Road to the Sawyer Mountain Road. The Trust has a small parking area on the right-hand side of the road. Either hike up the road or preferably follow the marked trail which starts at the rear of the parking lot. The road is only maintained to the last house and rapidly becomes impassable by vehicle.



The main trails are marked with wooden signs with yellow turtles.

Points of interest on the map

- 1 The gorge
- 2 A cascading waterfall
- 3 The old Sawyer homestead (now just foundations)
- 4 Sawyer Mountain summit
- 5 Old beaver pond now regenerating to forest
- 6 Another old homestead with foundations
- 7 Active beaver area
- 8 Trailhead and parking area
- 9 Lloyd's Corner named in honor of Donald S. Lloyd

Sawyer Mountain Trail From Limerick

(allow 2.5 hours)

This is the nicest trail to the summit. Starting at the rear of the Limerick parking area, hike up the trail following the turtle signs. After 0.6 miles, the trail joins the discontinued Sawyer Mountain Road where you should turn right. Look for the remains of the Sawyer Family homestead on the opposite side of the road. Then follow the trail to the summit.

Sawyer Mountain Trail from Limington

(allow 3 hours)

Starting at point 8, take the rightmost trail. Where the Hale road turns to the right (point 7), be sure to check out the beaver activity. Just above the Estes Cemetery, the center Sawyer Mountain Trail continues steeply up the slope. Continue up the mountain through steep, eroded ravines. At the point where the main trail begins to descend, the trail to the summit is on the left and is marked by the sign shown at the right.

Gorge

(allow 1.5 hours)

The gorge consists of unique rock formations with sheer cliffs. Hiking from the Sawyer Mountain Road in Limerick, turn left immediately before the horse farm. You will pass a camp on the left but stay on the trail. This trail is a right-of-way access to the Trust property, so please show respect for the neighbors. When the trail crosses a stream, follow the leftmost branch of the stream to the gorge (point 1). Although the gorge is not visible from the trail, the path does run right next to the chasm and is easy to find for the return trip.



Major trail intersections are marked with carved wooden signs.

Cascading waterfall

(allow 2 hours)

In early spring and other times of heavy run-off, this waterfall (point 2) is well worth the hike. Follow the directions above for the gorge, but when you reach the stream follow its rightmost branch instead. To loop back to the Sawyer Mountain Road, follow the stream at the top of the falls to the right. The brook alternately follows its original bed as well as an old road that eventually leads back to the main trail.

Note: Source data is the USGS quadrangle maps for Cornish, Steep Falls, Limerick, and Limington. Contours are at twenty foot elevations. The map also shows the boundaries for the 1400 acres of Trust property. Please respect the rights of all private landowners.