

Hiking Trails Tucker Mountain Town Forest

Tucker Mountain Road to the Summit: East Side

1.5 miles to the summit, elevation gain: 500 ft., easy

This is a popular, easy route to the summit of Tucker Mountain and a spectacular 360 view of the White Mountains, Wright's Mountain, Woodchuck Mountain and the Waits River Valley.

Trailhead: From the post office in the small village of West Newbury, VT, drive due west on Tucker Mountain Road for 1.6 miles to a parking lot and kiosk on the right.

Route: Walk the road 1.2 miles to its highest point, then turn left (south) onto the High Meadows Trail, an old road that leads through a small patch of forest before opening to the old pastures that surround the top of Tucker. Hike the last .3 mile to the summit (1690 ft.).

Features: The stone walls along the way are remnants of a time when farmers living on the mountain cleared pastures for cows and sheep. The road crosses Vance Brook. You will walk past a deteriorating old house that was built sometime around 1808. **CAUTION: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE HOUSE. EXTREME DANGER!** Across the road and to the east of that is a cellar hole from another house built around that same time.

Erosion: Notice the erosion on the summit meadows caused by years of unrestricted use by ATV's and other off-road vehicles. The Tucker Mountain Town Forest Management Committee is working on restoration of the terrain and control of vehicles to reverse this serious problem.

Tucker Mountain Road to the Summit: West Side

1 mile to the summit, elevation gain 445 ft., easy

To get to the west side parking area, head north from the village of East Corinth, VT, for 1 mile and turn right on Thompson Rd. In 1 mile, Thompson Rd. becomes Bowen Road. Continue .6 miles on Bowen Road to Tucker Mountain Road on the right (look for Town Forest sign). Follow Tucker Mountain Road 1 mile to its intersection with Woodchuck Town Trail. Just beyond that, the parking lot and kiosk are across the road from a small house by and an orange gate.

Follow Tucker Mountain Road .6 miles east to its highest point, then turn right at the upper kiosk onto the High Meadows Trail and hike .3 miles to the summit. Trailheads for the Woodchuck Mtn. Loop Trail are along that section of Tucker Mountain Road.

Features: Meadow Brook, stone walls, ponds, active beaver dam and lodge, hemlock and hardwood forests.

Putnam Trail

1.5 miles to the summit, elevation gain 500 ft., moderate

Route: This trail leads from the east parking lot to the summit of Tucker Mountain. The Lower Putnam Trail can be wet and muddy after rain or during snow melt. The trail parallels Tucker Mountain Road to the north then turns south and crosses the road .5 miles from the parking lot.

Once the trail crosses Tucker Mountain Road, it becomes the Upper Putnam Trail and continues up an old road called the Old Boulevard for .3 miles, then turns west (right) into the woods. Follow the yellow blazes. The trail switches back around some interesting rock ledges and continues to a ridge where it switches back to follow the ridge north. In about .3 mile, trail leaves the ridge and continues west to the summit.

History: The trail is named for West Newbury's Putnam family. Tarrant and Daniel Putnam and their families each built homesteads and cleared land on the east side of Tucker Mountain in the 1790's. Many of their descendants still live in Newbury and presently the seventh generation represents an unbroken chain of Putnam farmers. The old Putnam Cemetery is adjacent to the Town Forest.

Woodchuck Mountain Loop Trail

1.2 Miles, elevation gain 262', moderate

At 1742 ft., Woodchuck Mountain is the highest point in Newbury. This is a loop trail with trailheads leading north off of Tucker Mountain Road. The trailhead nearest the upper kiosk is across from the westernmost pond which is .2 miles west of the kiosk. The second trailhead is .2 miles further west along the road.

Route: Start at either trailhead and follow the yellow blazes. When you reach the top, there is a short spur trail to the summit sign. Follow the yellow blazes down to the other trailhead.

Features: This trail winds its way through lovely hardwood forests and past interesting areas of exposed stratifications of bedrock. Note the beaver activity in the pond at the trailhead.



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