

Cobble Brook Vista

Kent..... 158 Acres

*The Upper Loop has some steep and rocky places.
The Red Trail Loop is 2-1/2 miles.*

This loop offers instant gratification as well as a longer exercise upon the steep wild flanks of the Cobble Brook Valley. The trailhead is by an old sandpit, which is being reclaimed by nature.

Within 5 minutes, one can be on a knoll with a magnificent pastoral ridge panorama. The soils here are almost pure sand and the vegetation is more like an overgrazed Vermont hill pasture – junipers, British soldier lichen and “poverty grass.” Even with extremely well-drained soil, one crosses two brooks east of the knoll. These brooks flow vigorously even in droughts, a sign of an amazing quirk in this valley. Perhaps a fault line in the bedrock of the plateau to the east conducts water to the base of the slope, where it wells up under tremendous pressure. The four houses between Weantinoge fields (along Cobble Rd.) and the mountainside all have wells that flow roughly 125 gpm without pumping! One well even created a new wetland in the hayfield.

Ticks are abundant at times on the first part of the trail. They wait at the tops of vegetation, especially the taller grasses, for a “client” to brush by.

The recommended route, once reaching the loop junction, is clockwise as it is safer to climb the steeper route and descend the gentler way. Those reaching the top will be rewarded with a perch in the mountain laurel with views west, out across the Housatonic River.

The trail was a monumental work of Nic Osborne and the New Milford Youth Agency (with a crew headed by Mark Mankin).

