

HIKING & SHOWSHOEING

Eagle's Nest (2.8-mile round trip, EASY)

This easy walk on a mostly flat, wide trail leads to a view of an eagle's nest on an island in the Connecticut River. Follow the Fort Hill Rail Trail 0.8 miles south then turn right onto a narrower trail. After 0.6 miles, before a bridge, look to the left and walk towards the island to view the nest. There are abundant wildlife signs to observe along the way.

DIRECTIONS: From Hinsdale, head north on NH-119. Turn left on Prospect Street and park at the boat landing.

Kilburn Loop / John Summers Trail (3.5-mile loop, EASY)

One of the premier trails in the region, the Kilburn Loop travels along Kilburn Pond and through diverse forested habitat. The trail starts by following an old road to the Kilburn Loop Trail. At the junction, the loop stays to the right on the Kilburn Loop Trail along the west side of Kilburn Pond. At the southern end of the pond, the loop turns left onto the John Summers Trail and drops downhill to a bridge over the stream below the Kilburn Pond dam. The largely level path beyond the stream runs through hemlock and mixed forests and leads to numerous granite ledge outlooks over the pond. At the northern end of the John Summers Trail, the loop follows the Kilburn Loop Trail left and downhill to a long bridge. At the next junction it turns left again to reach the Kilburn Road junction where it turns right and uphill to return to the parking lot.

DIRECTIONS: From Hinsdale, travel north on NH-63. Park on the right at Pisgah State Park's Kilburn Trailhead.

Wantastiquet Lower Trail (3-mile round trip, EASY)

This easy walk follows an old dirt road that provides many views as it parallels the Connecticut River. It is ideal for families and young children and is accessible to strollers. There are a couple short hills and some gravel areas.

DIRECTIONS: From Hinsdale, head north on NH-119. Turn right onto Mountain Road just before the bridge to Brattleboro, Vermont. Proceed to the Wantastiquet Trail System parking lot and gate.

Wantastiquet Upper Trail (4.5-mile round trip, MODERATE)

The Upper Trail ascends a rocky, wide, switch-backed trail on the western flank of Mt. Wantastiquet to reach an outcrop with great views of Brattleboro and the Connecticut River. This moderately difficult trail comprises the westernmost section of the Wantastiquet to Monadnock Greenway.

DIRECTIONS: See Wantastiquet Lower Trail above.

WANTASTIQUET TO MONADNOCK GREENWAY

This 50-mile greenway begins in Hinsdale on Mt. Wantastiquet and runs to the summit of Mt. Monadnock in Jaffrey and Dublin. Learn more at: chesterfieldoutdoors.com/wantastiquet-m Monadnock-greenway

PADDLING

The Setbacks

The Setbacks provide a great launching spot for all levels of paddlers. A beginner can stay in the protected 'setback' between the mainland and the Fort Hill Rail Trail, while more adventurous paddlers can go under the stone culvert and into the main stem of the Connecticut River.

DIRECTIONS: From Hinsdale, drive north on NH-119 to the parking area on the left at the north end of the causeway.

Norm's Marina

The marina, which rents boats, provides convenient and easy access to the Connecticut River for paddlers going up or downstream. Parking costs \$20 for non-renters.

DIRECTIONS: From Hinsdale, drive north on NH-119. Turn left into the marina just before the bridge to Brattleboro, Vermont.

The Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail offers hundreds of access points and over 50 primitive campsites along the entire length of the river from its source on the Canadian border to its mouth in Long Island Sound. For more information visit: connecticutpaddlerstrail.org

BIKING

Ashuelot Rail Trail (21.2-mile one-way, EASY)

The rail trail follows the historical former route of the Ashuelot Railroad along the Ashuelot River from Hinsdale to Keene. Along the way, there are covered bridges, old boxcars and mills, and some of the original granite markers as well as plentiful wildlife viewing opportunities. The trail surface is packed cinder, ballast, and dirt that can become muddy or flood after rains.

DIRECTIONS: From Hinsdale, drive south on NH-63 for two miles. Pull into the parking area on the right side of the road. The trailhead for the Ashuelot Rail Trail is on the east side of NH-63. The Fort Hill Rail Trail leaves from the western side of this parking area.

Fort Hill Rail Trail (7-mile one-way, EASY)

Leaving from the same trailhead as the Ashuelot Rail Trail, the Fort Hill Rail Trail parallels the east bank of the Connecticut River ending at the railroad bridge across from Brattleboro. The trail is primarily level, but the surface varies from ballast to cinder and dirt. The route crosses through the Setbacks, which provide prime bird and wildlife viewing.

DIRECTIONS: See Ashuelot Rail Trail above.

BIRD WATCHING

Pisgah State Park

A 2004 survey found over 80 species of birds from hawks, owls, whip-poor-wills to warblers, and many more in the largely unfragmented 13,000-acre park. There is a wide diversity of habitats for nature study and birdwatching along with multiple access points in the park.

DIRECTIONS: Parking is available at access points off NH-63 on the western edge of the park and off Old Chesterfield Road in the park's interior.

Wantastiquet Mountain Natural Area

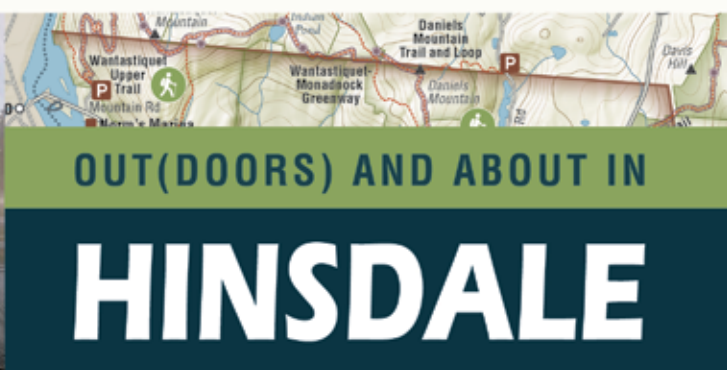
This 1,010-acre natural area encompasses a wide range of habitats along the elevation gradient from the Connecticut River to the 1,310-foot summit including oak and pine forest, hemlock groves, rocky juniper shrubland, and brushy powerline corridor. Most of the resident birds are typical of the forested regions of southwestern New Hampshire, but there is potential for Cerulean and Worm-eating Warbler sightings during migration and Prairie Warblers and Eastern Towhees in brushy areas.

DIRECTIONS: See Wantastiquet Lower Trail above.

The Setbacks

Also called Lake Wantastiquet, the Setbacks offer excellent birding by foot and boat. They are best known for the shallow impoundments that host large concentrations of waterfowl during spring and fall migration. The area also hosts woodlands, vernal pools, wetlands, and extensive cattail beds that are productive for both songbirds and marsh birds. Great birding can be found along the Fort Hill Rail Trail, which forms a causeway through the Setbacks.

DIRECTIONS: From Hinsdale, drive north on NH-119 to the parking area on the left at the north end of the causeway.



OUT(DOORS) AND ABOUT IN HINSDALE

ABOUT OUTDOOR HINSDALE

Outdoor Hinsdale is a collaborative effort between Hinsdale, New Hampshire and the National Park Service to promote the town's natural outdoor recreation areas. Guided events happen annually on the third weekend in September.

Learn more at: outdoorhinsdale.org
Facebook: [Outdoor Hinsdale](https://www.facebook.com/OutdoorHinsdale)



TRAIL MANAGERS & OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

New Hampshire State Parks | nhstateparks.org
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests | forestsociety.org

Trail Finder | trailfinder.info

Whether you want to hike, bike, paddle, or go birding, Hinsdale has an adventure waiting for you!

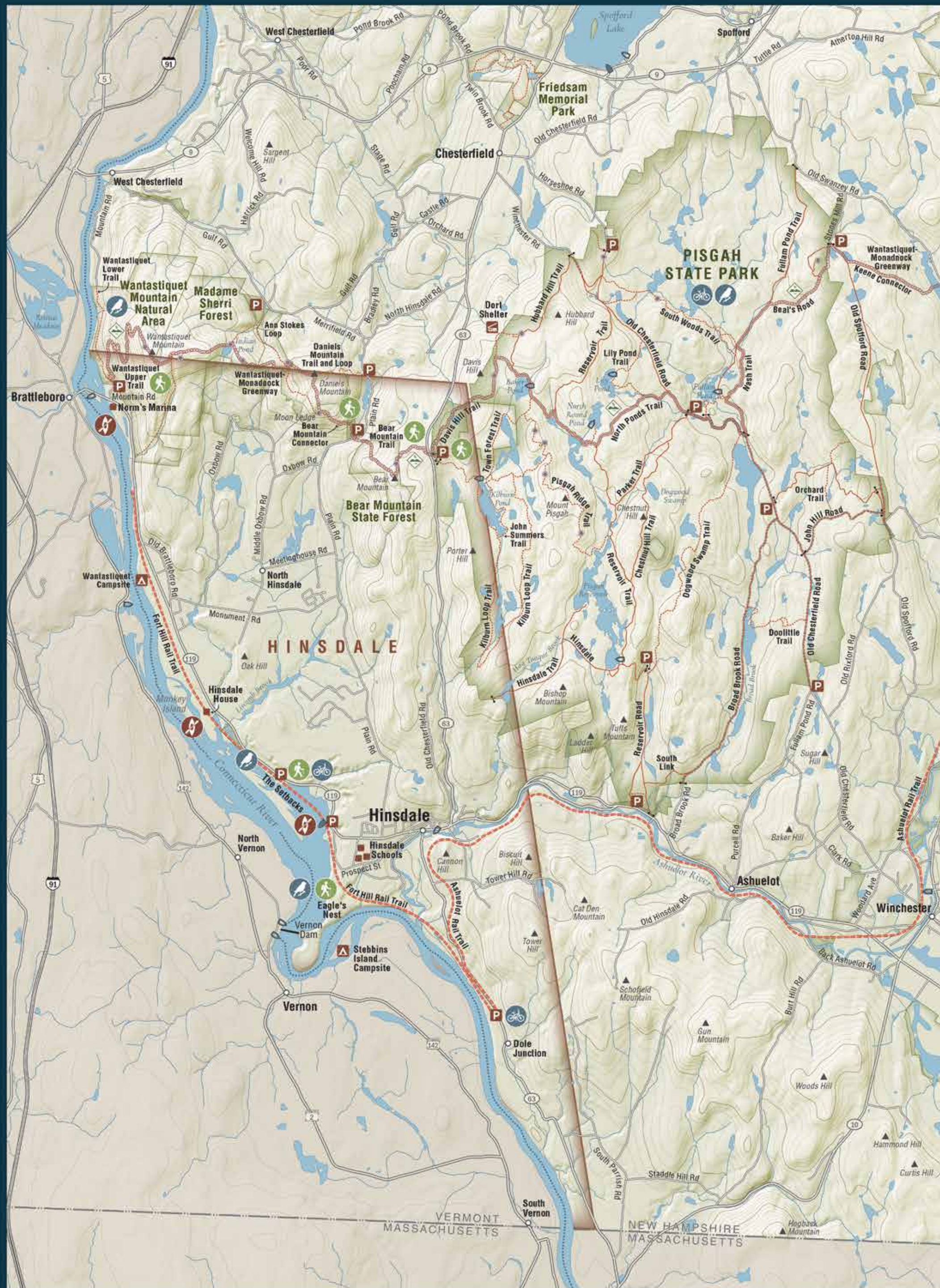
This map and guide can help you explore our many outdoor opportunities any season of the year.



GO EXPLORE! GET OUTSIDE!



OUTDOORHINSDALE.ORG



KEY TO FEATURES

- Wantastiquet to Monadnock Greenway
- Rail Trail
- Trail: Pedestrian Only
- Trail: Pedestrian & Bike
- Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail
- Park Road
- Trailhead & Parking
- Camping
- Shelter
- Scenic View
- Boat Access: Ramp
- Boat Access: Hand-carry
- Gate



Cartography & Design: Center for Community GIS