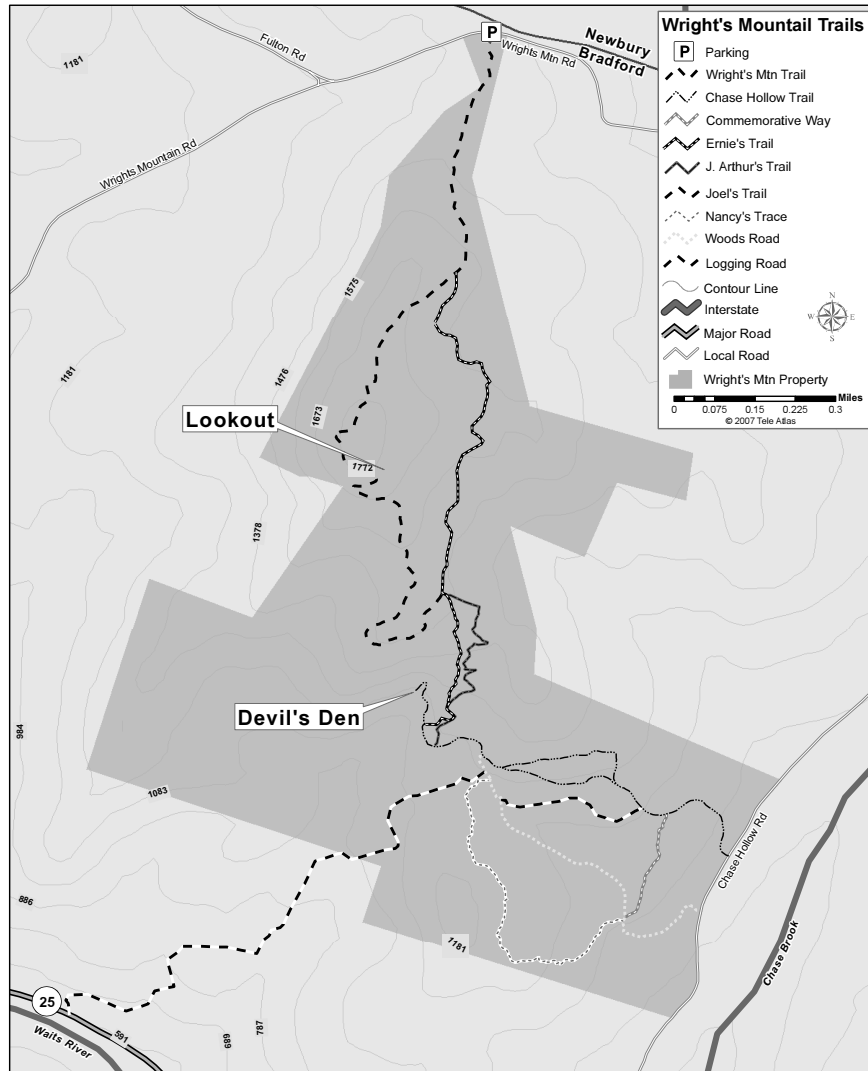


## Wright's Mountain Trails - Bradford, VT



- Uses:* Hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing.
- Ownership:* The land is owned and managed by the Town of Bradford, VT, and is permanently conserved as wildlife habitat and forest land through a conservation management agreement with the Upper Valley Land Trust, open to the public for recreation, education, and enjoyment
- Distance:* 3.5 miles of trail networks

## **Directions:**

During the winter, the Wright's Mountain trailhead can only be approached from the east on Wright's Mountain Rd; beyond the trailhead, Wright's Mountain Rd is not plowed, nor is the Chase Hollow Rd. From the I-91 Bradford exit, go east on Route 25 to Rte 5, and at the traffic light head north through Bradford village (1.6 miles). Turn left on Fairground Rd and continue 2.1 miles. Turn left again onto Goshen Rd East and follow this to Wright's Mountain Rd (2.3 miles). Turn left and follow Wright's Mountain Road west .6 miles to the Wright's Mountain trailhead parking on the left.

**Please Note:** This trailhead may not get plowed immediately after a snowfall. If the parking area is not yet plowed, please do not park along the road, as that space is needed for the snowplow to turn around, and a vehicle left there will block the plow!

## **Description:**

Take a winter tour through the network of paths and old logging roads meandering around Wright's Mountain, Bradford's highest peak at 1,822 feet, and enjoy a wonderful view of the Waits River Valley from the summit.

Wright's Mountain is a forest environment dominated by northern hardwoods, with some softwoods growing on the ridge and steep west slope. These softwood stands are often used as winter "deer yards" – critically important habitat where the trees protect against wind and their evergreen branches intercept snow, limiting its depth and allowing deer to conserve energy and survive the long, cold winter. Moose are also frequent visitors here; watch for their five-to-seven-inch long cloven tracks, which are roughly twice the size of a deer track. You may hear the loud hammering of the pileated woodpecker and the ruffed grouse's explosive wingbeats upon takeoff.

To explore Wright's Mountain Trail, follow an old logging road leading upslope for 0.8 mile to the summit of Wright's Mountain. At about the halfway point, Sylvia's Trail branches off of Wright's Mountain Trail for a slightly longer and gentler approach to the summit. Viewing ledges and a shelter are just beyond and to the southwest of the actual summit. The Wright's Mountain Trail continues from the lookout down the south side of the mountain towards Devil's Den and Chase Hollow, with the option of a loop back along Ernie's Trail. To get to Devil's Den from the Wright's Mountain trailhead, either continue straight on Ernie's Trail, or from the summit, where the cabin is, keep going on that trail, down the other side, cross over Ernie's Trail onto J. Arthur's Trail. At the end of J. Arthur's Trail, proceed down the hill until the entrance to Devil's Den on the right.

Devil's Den lies in an impressive, sheer-walled ravine between a southeastern ridge off of Wright's Mountain and the main summit ridge. The shallow caves there were formed by large blocks of ledge that have tumbled down over time. Bring a flashlight, if you like, to explore the caves. Please watch your step, especially in wet conditions.

Trail descriptions and information used with permission of the Upper Valley Land Trust. For a more complete and fascinating description of Wright's Mountain, please visit the Upper Valley Land Trust web site at [http://www.uvlt.org/html/wrights\\_mountain.html](http://www.uvlt.org/html/wrights_mountain.html).