

Mt. Will Trail

A 3.25 mile hiking and nature trail close to town – short, but steep.

This “carry in – carry out” foot trail was developed by the Bethel Conservation Commission to increase public awareness of the natural resources and beauty of the Androscoggin River Valley. A number of descriptive signs on the North Ledges Section provide a guide for understanding the natural history of the area. The overall loop is 3¼ miles and typically requires about 2½ hours walking time. A shorter hike to the North Ledges only, or to the South Cliffs only, would require about 1½ hours walking time.

The **starting point** is a parking area directly opposite the **Bethel Recycling & Transfer Station**. Taking Route 2 east from Bethel village; it is 1.9 miles past the Riverside State Rest Area or Sunday River Brewing Company.

The trail has been cleared of major obstructions, but has **uneven terrain and some steep places** requiring adequate foot gear and good physical condition.

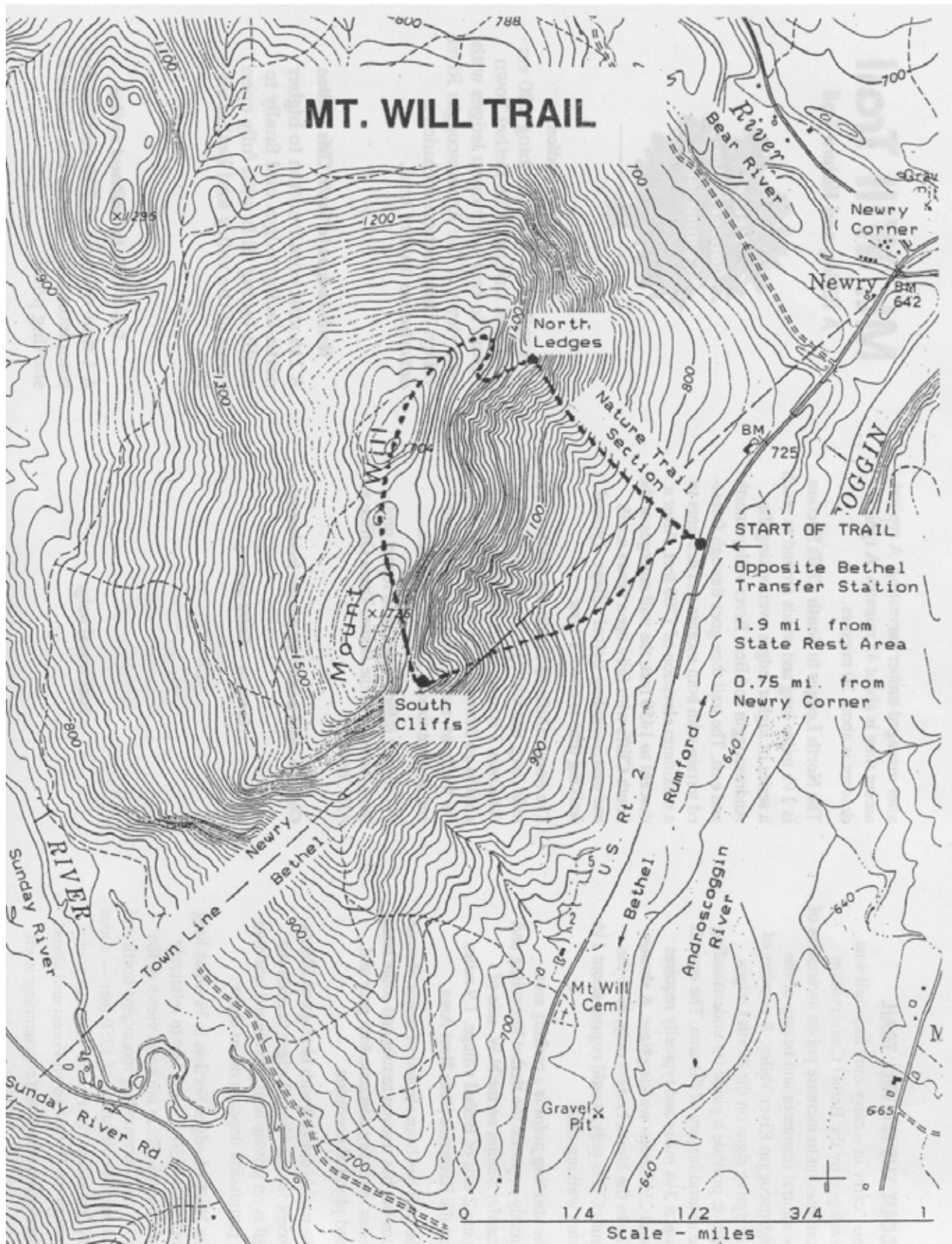
The trail is marked with blue-green blazes. Except for the North Ledges Section, the trail is on private land. Continued landowner permission depends on no abuse.

The **North Ledges Section** is ¾ of a mile long and climbs 630 vertical feet to relatively open ledges. There are good views of the valley and surrounding mountains north and east from an elevation of 1350 feet – about 700 feet above river level. The trail goes through the Bethel Town Forest and allows observation of a forest regenerating itself after managed timber harvesting. A typical ascent time is about 45 minutes. A typical descent is about 30 minutes.

The **North Ledges to South Cliffs Section** is 1½ miles long and winds around to reach a series of higher ledges overlooking the Androscoggin and Bear River valleys north and east. The trail then goes through forested terrain with both ascents and descents to a maximum elevation of 1700 feet. After a descent to 1450 feet, the trail emerges at the South Cliffs with fully open views south and east, including Bethel village. Typical walking time is about 1 hour.

The **South Cliffs to Trailhead Section** is one mile long, descending 730 vertical feet to the Route 2 starting point. If this section is used to go directly to the South Cliffs from the trailhead, ascent time is about 1 hour and descent time is about 40 minutes.

For further information, or to report problems, please call the Bethel Town Office at 824-2669.



Observe signs posted by private landowners.
 Carry in – carry out.
 Foot travel only.