



Area 49 BEAR MOUNTAIN



View from Bear Mountain

Size: 17 acres

ACCESS/PARKING: Near the end of Bear Mountain Rd. Access Hemlock Hills trails from here and connect to the trail in Bear Mountain. [GPS Address: 50 Bear Mountain Rd]

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate with some steep ascents.

FEATURES: The trail ascends quickly to the top of the northern peak of Bear Mountain and runs along a ridgeline for 700 feet. The new trail provides an enhancing link to an already existing trail system. The property is mostly wooded, with a few outlooks toward the eastern portion of northern Fairfield County. Mountain Pond and a large wetland lie along the border at the lower elevation of the property.

The untouched acreage and woodland edges of the property are home to diverse wildlife, including fox, turkey, bobcat, deer and coyotes. To have so large a wooded property that contains a wide variety of native species and no invasive species is unique and very unusual. Various species of birds can also be found in the peaceful habitat, including the barred owl, downy woodpecker and goldfinch; this is no doubt due to the pristine nature afforded by the parcel.

The densely wooded parcel has many native trees including white oak, chestnut oak, chinkapin oak, American beech, black birch, red cedar and hickory while several species of moss and lichen thrive on the rock outcroppings. There is also a wide variety of native shrubs including blueberry and mountain laurel on the property

HISTORY: The bulk of this property (14 acres) was acquired in 2020 from Matthew and Colleen Lake. It is adjacent to a 3-acre town owned parcel; thus establishing a 17-acre open space parcel.

