

beyond this point.) Go through gate at foundation of former North Kent Bridge (6.3), destroyed by 1936 flood. Shortly, go through remains of a once-stately red pine plantation that was struck by blight in the 1950s. (Some of the wood was recycled by AMC-CT Chapter volunteers who salvaged it to build several log shelters along the trail.) Reach Stewart Hollow Brook lean-to (7.0) (accommodates six). Continue north along trail as it hugs the riverbank. (This stretch is a favorite for birders, who have sighted cerulean warblers and other unusual species here.) Cross bridge over Stony Brook (7.4) (group camping area is north of brook). Proceed northeast through woods to hayfields and cornfields, once part of the old Liner Farm (a stone silo and other remnants of the farm are visible beyond the trees). Follow along edge of fields and enter woods again. Reach unpaved River Road just south of old Swift's Bridge site and soon turn left (9.4) away from Housatonic River. Ascend steeply and cross paved Dawn Hill Road (9.6). Climb steadily, crossing brooks and through stone walls; pass side trail (10.2) on right (leads about 0.1 mile east to Silver Hill Campsite). Slab across east flank of Silver Hill, then turn sharply right and descend over steep rocky terrain with limited views. Reach and cross Route 4 to trailhead (11.1) (no parking).

| | | |
|------|--------------------------------|------|
| 0.0 | Route 341 | 11.1 |
| 0.8 | Fuller Mountain views | 10.3 |
| 2.8 | Skiff Mountain Road | 8.3 |
| 3.5 | Caleb's Peak (elev.: 1,160 ft) | 7.6 |
| 4.1 | St. Johns Ledges | 7.0 |
| 4.7 | St. Johns Ledges parking | 6.4 |
| 5.7 | North Kent Bridge parking | 5.4 |
| 7.0 | Stewart Hollow Brook Lean-to | 4.1 |
| 7.4 | Stony Brook camping area | 3.7 |
| 9.6 | Dawn Hill Road | 1.5 |
| 10.2 | Silver Hill Campsite trail | 0.9 |
| 11.1 | Route 4 | 0.0 |

Route 4 to Iron Bridge

Direction of travel: South to north

Length: 14.1 miles

USGS Quadrangles: Ellsworth,

Maps: AT-8, AT-9, AT-10, AT-11, AT-12

Sharon, South Canaan

This section of the white-blazed Appalachian Trail goes north along the western ridges that flank the Housatonic River Valley, coincides briefly with the Pine Knob Loop Trail, then bears west through Housatonic State Forest to traverse several summits with panoramic vistas. The trail trends eastward again as it descends from Sharon Mountain then meanders along the Housatonic River to Falls Village, a picturesque New England town with interesting historic sites.

There are four designated camping areas in this section.

To reach Route 7 (River Road) parking: From junction of Route 4 and Route 7 on west side of Housatonic River in Sharon, go north about 50 feet on Route 7 to



Hiker parking sign. *Photo courtesy of Ann Colson*

unpaved hiker parking lot on left (west) side of road. Ample parking. Kiosk with bulletin board located at trailhead. Follow blue-blazed Mohawk Trail northwest about 0.7 mile to junction with AT.

To reach Route 7/Route 112 parking: From junction of Route 128 and Route 7 in West Cornwall, travel north on Route 7 about 5.0 miles to junction with Route 112 (Lime Rock Road) in Salisbury. Bear right (north) on Route 7 and immediately turn right into gravel Hiker Parking area on east side of road, 0.1 mile south of bridge over Housatonic River. Parking for about 10 cars.

To reach Water Street parking: From blinking light at junction of Route 126 and Route 7 in Falls Village, travel west 0.5 mile on Route 126 to stop sign and turn left onto Sand Road. Bear right under railroad bridge and immediately bear right again onto Water Street. Continue several hundred yards to Northeast Utilities (NU) hydroelectric station at large sign on left. Ample parking. The trail coincides with Water Street for a short distance alongside the power plant.

To reach Housatonic River Road (Great Falls) parking: From Water Street parking (above) continue north on Water Street and cross Iron Bridge (one lane). Quickly turn right onto Housatonic River Road and go 0.5 mile to unpaved parking area on right for about 20 vehicles. Trail crosses Housatonic River Road about 100 feet south of the parking entrance.

The hike: Go north from Route 4 and shortly cross Guinea Brook (0.1) on stepping stones provided by AMC CT Chapter trail volunteers. (In seasons of high water go right [east] on Route 4 about 0.2 mile; turn sharp left on Old Sharon Road and go about 0.2 mile west to trail crossing. Area around brook is private

property; no camping or fires.) Cross unpaved Old Sharon Road and ascend steeply north. Pass junction on right with southern terminus of blue-blazed Mohawk Trail (0.3) (leads 0.1 mile east to Breadloaf Mountain [elevation: 1,050 feet], 0.6 mile to Route 7 parking area, 23.4 miles to its northern terminus at junction with AT in Falls Village). Continue north along ridge with easterly views of Housatonic River below. Cross Hatch Brook and reach south junction (1.4) with blue-blazed Pine Knob Loop, which enters from right. (Pine Knob Loop coincides with AT for next 0.7 mile; leads south 0.7 mile to Route 7; see trail description at end of this section.) Ascend on joined trails to south summit of Pine Knob (1.7) (elevation: 1,160 feet) with excellent views of Housatonic River Valley and Mine Mountain to the east. Bear northwest across ridge and turn sharply left (north) (2.1) where Pine Knob Loop diverges right (south). Descend to Caesar Brook (Caesar Brook camping area located on knoll to south of brook). Cross abandoned Caesar Road (2.5). Ascend ridge and proceed northwest over a series of knobs then descend to unimproved Surdan Mountain Road. Cross stream and traverse east flank of ridge, descending to Carse Brook (4.7). Cross brook on log bridge then cross paved West Cornwall Road (4.8) (limited parking). Go southeast and ascend through two giant boulders known as Roger's Ramp (5.4). Reach overlook with seasonal southeast views of Housatonic River Valley; swing north and traverse ledge. Pass side trail (5.9) on right (leads east about 100 yards to Pine Swamp Brook Lean-to). Descend gradually to Sharon Mountain Road (6.8) then ascend southwest shoulder of Mt. Easter (7.1) (elevation: 1,390 feet) with westerly views. Slab northeast along ridge; cross seasonal brook (8.2) and shortly pass side trail on left (8.3) (leads west several hundred feet to Sharon Mountain Campsite). Proceed northeast along west-trending ridge. Reach Hang-Glider View (9.1) with northwest views of Bear Mountain and Mt. Everett. (In the near distance, between the foot of Sharon Mountain and Route 112, is the world-famous 1.53-mile Lime Rock Park Race Track, from which the sounds of roaring engines can be heard during race events. April 2007 marks the 50th anniversary of Lime Rock's first Opening Day.)

Continue east across Sharon Mountain; cross woods road (9.9) and ascend to ridge with views north to Catskill Mountains. Follow ridge northeast, descending gradually. Pass side trail on left (11.1) (goes west to Belter's Campsite). Reach Belter's Bump (11.2) (elevation: 780 feet) then descend steeply to Route 7 (11.5) just south of junction with Route 112. Cross Route 7; follow edge of cornfield along river then bear west away from river and reach Hiker Parking area. Turn right (north) and rejoin Route 7; cross bridge over Housatonic River (11.7). Immediately turn left onto Warren Turnpike and proceed north past Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Reach junction on right with blue-blazed Mohawk Trail (12.3) (goes 23.4 miles to its southern terminus at junction with AT about 0.5 mile west of Cornwall Bridge). (A 2005 eight-car train derailment resulted in a temporary reroute of the AT in this area; follow signs and new blazing along Warren Turnpike to rejoin main trail.) Turn left (west) (13.0) off Warren Turnpike and enter stand of large pine trees close to Housatonic River. Accessible Trail enters from right (13.3)

Overnighters at Sharon Mountain Campsite on 4th of July can hike north to Hang Glider View to watch Lime Rock Park's spectacular fireworks display.

(east) and coincides with the AT several hundred feet then goes right (east) to complete a double loop on former harness-racing track (see page 25). Stay north on AT along east bank of river then bear right and cross field to parking area. Turn left (north) (13.9) on Water Street as trail follows road between Northeast Utilities hydroelectric station and 1851 canal. Reach end of section (14.1) at east end of Iron Bridge over Housatonic River.

| | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 0.0 | Route 4 | 14.1 |
| 0.3 | Mohawk Trail south jct. | 13.8 |
| 1.4 | Pine Knob Loop converges | 12.7 |
| 2.5 | Caesar Road | 11.6 |
| 5.4 | Roger's Ramp | 8.7 |
| 5.9 | trail to Pine Swamp Brook Lean-to | 8.2 |
| 7.1 | Mt. Easter (elev.: 1,390 ft.) | 7.0 |
| 8.3 | trail to Sharon Mountain Campsite | 5.8 |
| 9.1 | Hang Glider View | 5.0 |
| 11.1 | trail to Belter's Campsite | 3.0 |
| 11.2 | Belter's Bump | 2.9 |
| 12.3 | Mohawk Trail north jct. | 1.8 |
| 13.3 | Accessible Trail | 0.8 |
| 13.9 | Water Street | 0.2 |
| 14.1 | Iron Bridge | 0.0 |

Pine Knob Loop Trail

Direction of Travel: Counterclockwise

Length: 2.5 miles

USGS Quadrangle: Ellsworth

Map: AT-8

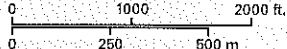
The blue-blazed Pine Knob Loop Trail is located in Housatonic Meadows State Park and Housatonic State Forest on the west side of the Housatonic River, north of Cornwall Bridge. A short but still challenging trail, it coincides with the Appalachian Trail for 0.7 mile of the loop's 2.5-mile length and features beautiful vistas over the river valley. (The Pine Knob Loop Trail is accessible from the state park's nearby campgrounds and group camping area via unmarked trails.)

To reach Route 7 parking: From junction of Route 4 and Route 7 in Cornwall Bridge, travel 1.1 miles north on Route 7 to parking area on left at blue oval trail sign.

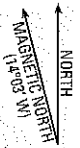
To reach Housatonic Meadows State Park camping area: From the junction of Route 4 and Route 7 in Cornwall Bridge, go north 1.7 miles on Route 7; campground entrance is on right.

The hike: From parking area at blue oval trail sign on Route 7, follow blue-blazed trail north and cross stepping stones over Hatch Brook. Continue straight (north) at fork (0.2), which is beginning of loop. Proceed northeasterly through pine woods and cross several small brooks, often dry in summer. Turn left (north) (0.4) and start ascent of Pine Knob. (Unmarked side trail on right leads short distance east to meadow bordering U.S. 7; campground is across highway. Second side trail straight ahead leads to group camping area, with spur to north end of meadow across highway from campground.) Ascend steeply (0.5) and soon reach scenic overview (0.7) of campground and river below. Descend into saddle before

APPALACHIAN TRAIL AT-10

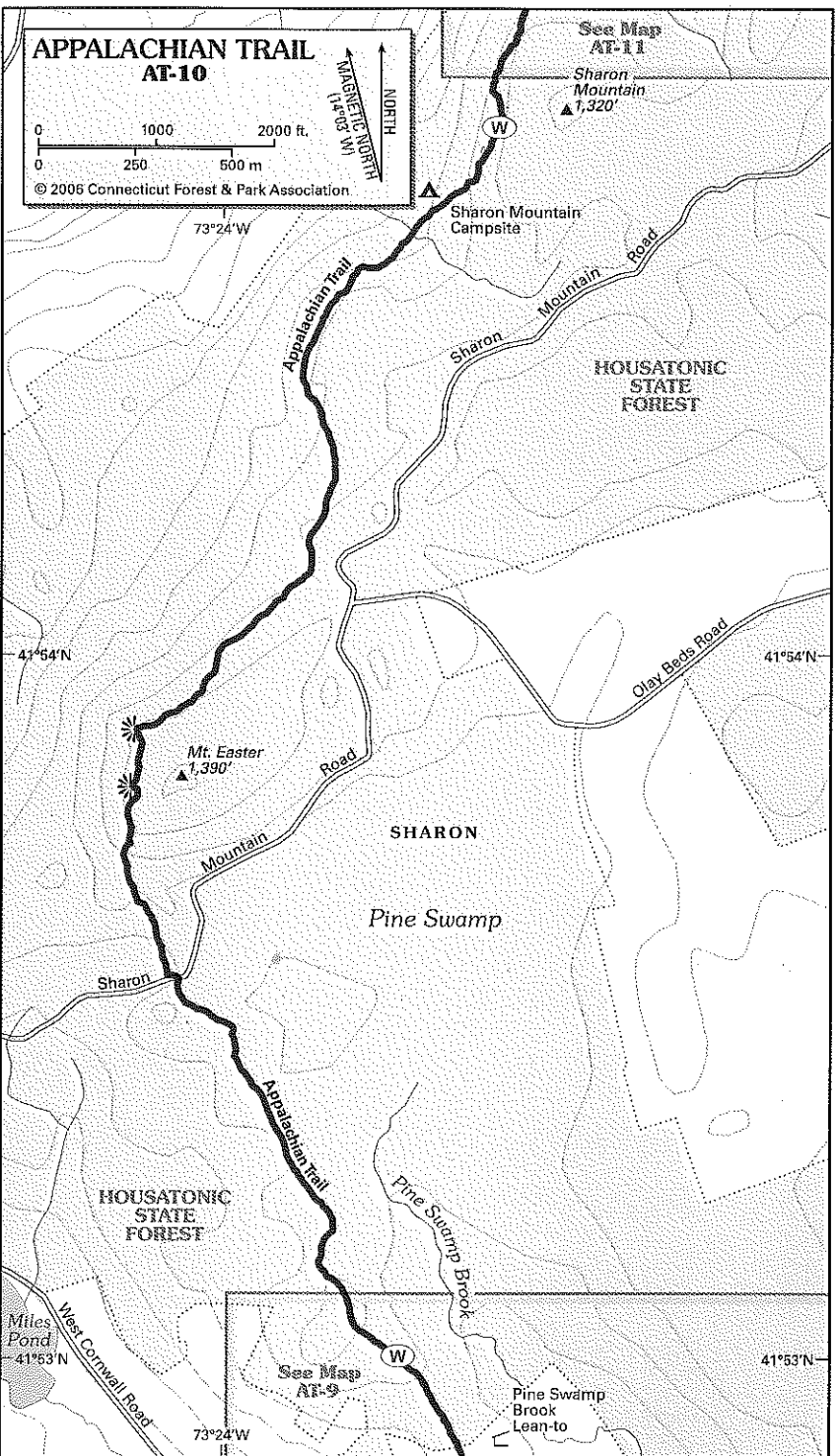


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See Map
AT-11

Sharon
Mountain
▲ 1,320'

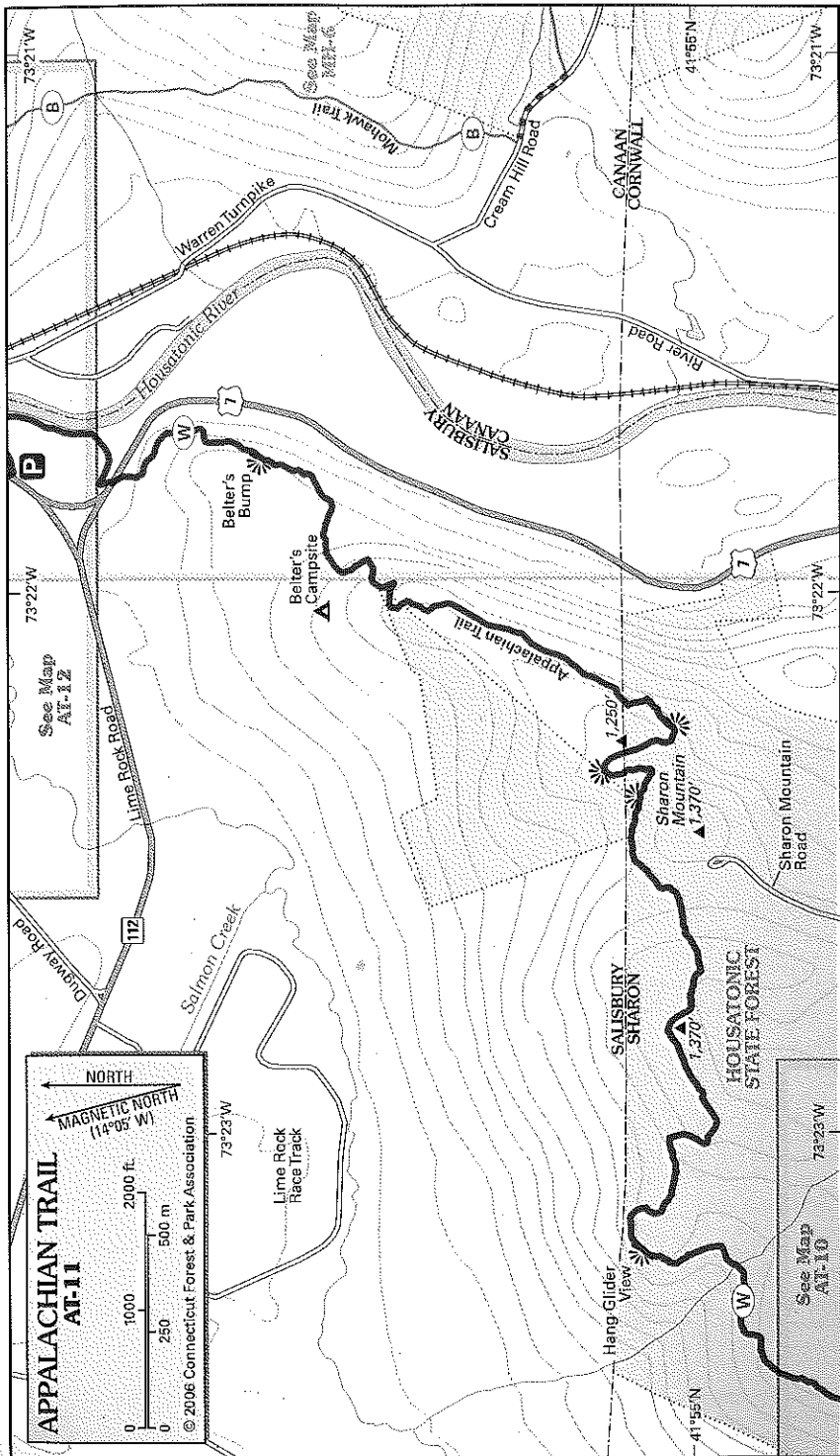


Miles
Pond
41°53'N

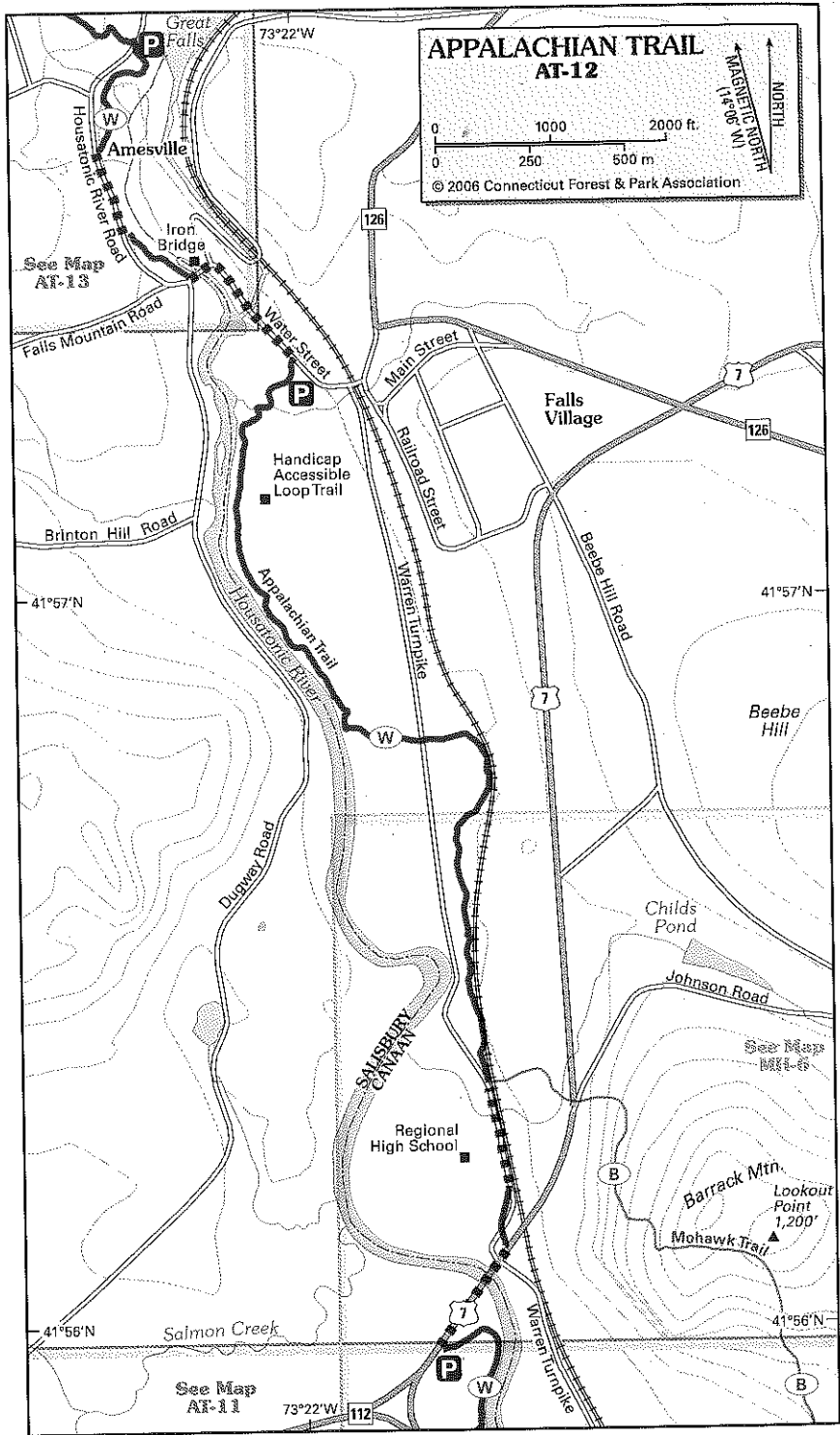
West Cornwall Road

See Map
AT-9

Pine Swamp
Brook
Lean-to



APPALACHIAN TRAIL
AT-11
 NORTH
 MAGNETIC NORTH
 (14°05' W)
 0 1000 2000 ft.
 0 250 500 m
 © 2006 Connecticut Forest & Park Association
 See Map AT-12
 See Map AT-10



Dean Ravine to Appalachian Trail (Falls Village)

Direction of travel: South to north

Length: 2.7 miles

USGS quadrangle: South Canaan

Map: MH-6

The northernmost section of the Mohawk Trail begins in the cool recesses of Dean Ravine and quickly ascends more than 600 feet over challenging terrain to Barrack Mountain. It ends in less than three miles at the junction with the Appalachian Trail, just shy of the Housatonic River below Falls Village. This is a difficult hike that is best undertaken when the treadway is dry and free of ice and snow; the route is not recommended for inexperienced hikers, children, dogs, or those who are not physically fit.

To reach Music Mountain Road parking: From junction of Routes 63 and 126 in Canaan, go south 3.5 miles on Music Mountain Road to trail crossing at Dean Ravine picnic area. Ample parking.

To reach Falls Village (Appalachian Trail junction) trailhead: From junction of Route 7 and Route 112 in Salisbury, go northeast on Route 7 over the Housatonic River and immediately turn left onto Warren Turnpike, which here coincides a short distance with the Appalachian Trail. Continue about 0.2 mile to northern terminus of Mohawk Trail on right and ample roadside parking.

The hike: Head northwest from Dean Ravine picnic area and follow brook steeply downstream to bottom of narrow hemlock ravine with waterfalls and cascades. (No camping.) Turn left (0.5) away from brook and then right on Music Mountain Road (0.6). Turn sharp right (north) (0.7) off road and climb embankment into woods, ascending steeply over rocky terrain (mountain slopes and ledges are precipitous for next two miles; proceed with caution). Reach open ledges of Lookout Point (2.0) with rewarding views west across Housatonic River Valley. Continue steep ascent to wooded summit of Barrack Mountain (2.3) (North Rock, elevation: 1,230 feet) with views. Descend steeply over rocky terrain to foot of mountain. Cross Route 7 (2.6) and enter grounds of Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Join cross-country course briefly and pass Vo-Ag Christmas tree stand. Cross rail-road tracks and go about 50 feet (2.7) to paved Warren Turnpike and junction with white-blazed Appalachian Trail. (The AT north is to the right and the AT south is to the left. Falls Village center is 0.3 mile north.)

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| 0.0 | Dean Ravine picnic area | 2.7 |
| 0.7 | Music Mountain Road | 2.0 |
| 2.0 | Lookout Point view | 0.7 |
| 2.7 | AT junction | 0.0 |