

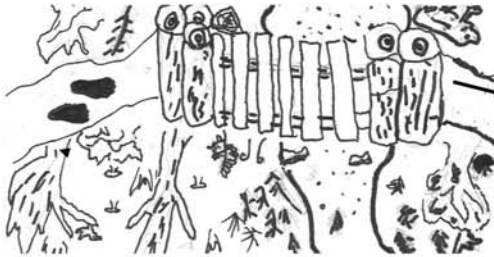
Stop 1

"After you walk over a field, then you will cross over a wooden bridge and see a pine tree with a sign that says 'Prospect Hill Trail.' You can hear lots of birds. There are lots of ferns near the bridge."



"If the frog were a human, it would be a loud-mouth!"

"A wetland is any place where water is near or just above the surface. Lots of plants like ferns, moss, and small trees are near a wetland. Animals like newts and mosquitoes and other bugs are near a marsh, so the birds like it, too."



The Dummerston School
5th Grade Class
presents the
PROSPECT HILL
TRAIL GUIDE

Stop 2

"Hemlock bark is thin and cinnamon-red. The Eastern Hemlock is rich in Vitamin C. Hemlocks grow under trees where there is little light."

"Trees are back scratchers."

"Prospect Hill is a beautiful place....steep at times. If you come at the right time, the blueberries could be in season."



"Yellow-bellied sapsuckers drill rows of holes in hemlocks and suck the sap. Porcupines climb into the crowns of hemlocks and stay there."

Stop 5

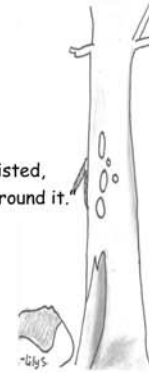


"The birch tree is a 3-fingered hand reaching up to the sky."

When you smell the black birch, you will smell a very strong wintergreen smell, if you break a twig (be gentle).

Stop 3

"A sad tree, creaking in despair
Sits there, with its bark old and twisted,
Wishing it was young as the trees around it."



"The calling of the trees,
The moon turned off the lights,
The leaves dancing for the branches,
The rocks warming up the dirt,
The dirt takes a shower.
And guess what...
Your shoe is the towel."

Stop 5 (continued)

"The maple tree's trunk is so wide that you need 2 fifth graders to fully encircle the width of the tree."



"If a maple tree were a person, it would be very tall, lots of little kids would like him/her, and he/she would be a forester who loves the forest."

Stop 4

"If you look around you see stone walls. Now a days there are so many stone walls people barely notice them! Most of the stone walls were built between 1750 and 1850. They were used for boundary lines and for animal fencing."

"There is a split tree that's roots look like a monster."

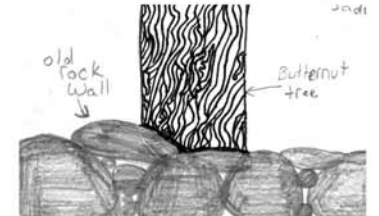


Birds say "Teacher, teacher, teacher"

(sings the ovenbird)

Stop 6

"This spot has a big butternut, which is kind of rare because butternuts don't usually get that big. It's also kind of rare to see it so big because a fungus is killing the tree. If you look on the back side of the tree, next to the stone wall, you can see the fungi."



(The dead sugar maple at the corner of the stone wall.)

"Tree, looks like a goose,
Eyeball, beak, long, long neck, moss.
Rocks, go down in history."

Stop 7

"About 10,000 years ago a glacier of ice, a mile high, came down from Canada to Vermont. The glacier brought lots of rocks. Then the ice melted and the rocks stopped and settled into the ground on Prospect Hill."

"On the trail, there are 2 big rocks and the color is brownish-black. And there is a big tree with a lot of branches that go to the top."



"Trees bend because ice landed on the tree, so it will bend, or maybe it will grow under a rock."



"The trees are dressed with leaves."



"The wind runs through the woods making the trees dance."

"Energized green leaves
Sprout from every
varied tree
Beauty at its finest"



"There are so many trees it's like they're eating me alive."

Stop 8

"There is a tree that has a branch on the outside of it that tells you which way to go and where the path is. There is a big hole in the ground that looks like there was a pond."

"The grapevines are hairy
And sorta very scary
The vine's name is Larry."



"Grape vines kill trees by smothering their foliage. Their saving grace is that mammals enjoy feeding on wild grapes."

Directions

Park at the Dummerston Town Hall parking lot at 1523 Middle Road, which is in Dummerston Center. Walk north on Bunker Road and take left fork to Park Laughton Road. Walk 4/10 mile just past the house at 33 Park Laughton Road.

There is a post that says "TRAIL."

"Prospect Hill is a great mountain to hike. It's very enjoyable to hike up. It is awesome on top and beautiful from all sides."

To fold this guide
#1 Fold the long way.
#2 Fold like an accordion.



Stop 9

"Trees among trees, stumps linger.
Fluffy clouds up above, wind blowing over.
Bumpy ground, rocks rolled over."



"Wind is light and soft
The sky is the color of violet flowers."

"In the 1800's, 80 percent of the trees were cut down and now 80 percent of Vermont is a forest."

History of Prospect Hill aka: "Blueberry Hill"

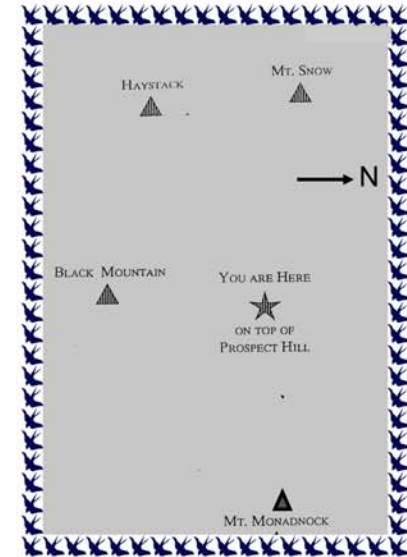
This land was originally owned by the Bradley family. In the early 1900's they pastured their heifers on the mountain. In 1974, one of the daughters in the Bradley family deeded the land to the town. This included an endowment fund for upkeep and maintenance of the site. Currently the Dummerston Conservation Commission and the trustees of PHP (5 community members and 5 Selectboard members) oversee care of the property. The 37 acre property is open to the public.

It is a costly project to keep the summit clear of invasive plants and the trail open. Donations are very much appreciated and may be dropped off at the town offices or mailed to: Office of the Town Clerk, 1523 Middle Road, East Dummerston, VT 05346.

The trail to the summit is 6/10 mile long and is marked in white. At the western corner of the summit a post marks the entrance to the loop trail. The loop trail is a short trail and joins the summit trail at its half way point.



Top of Prospect Hill Views



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