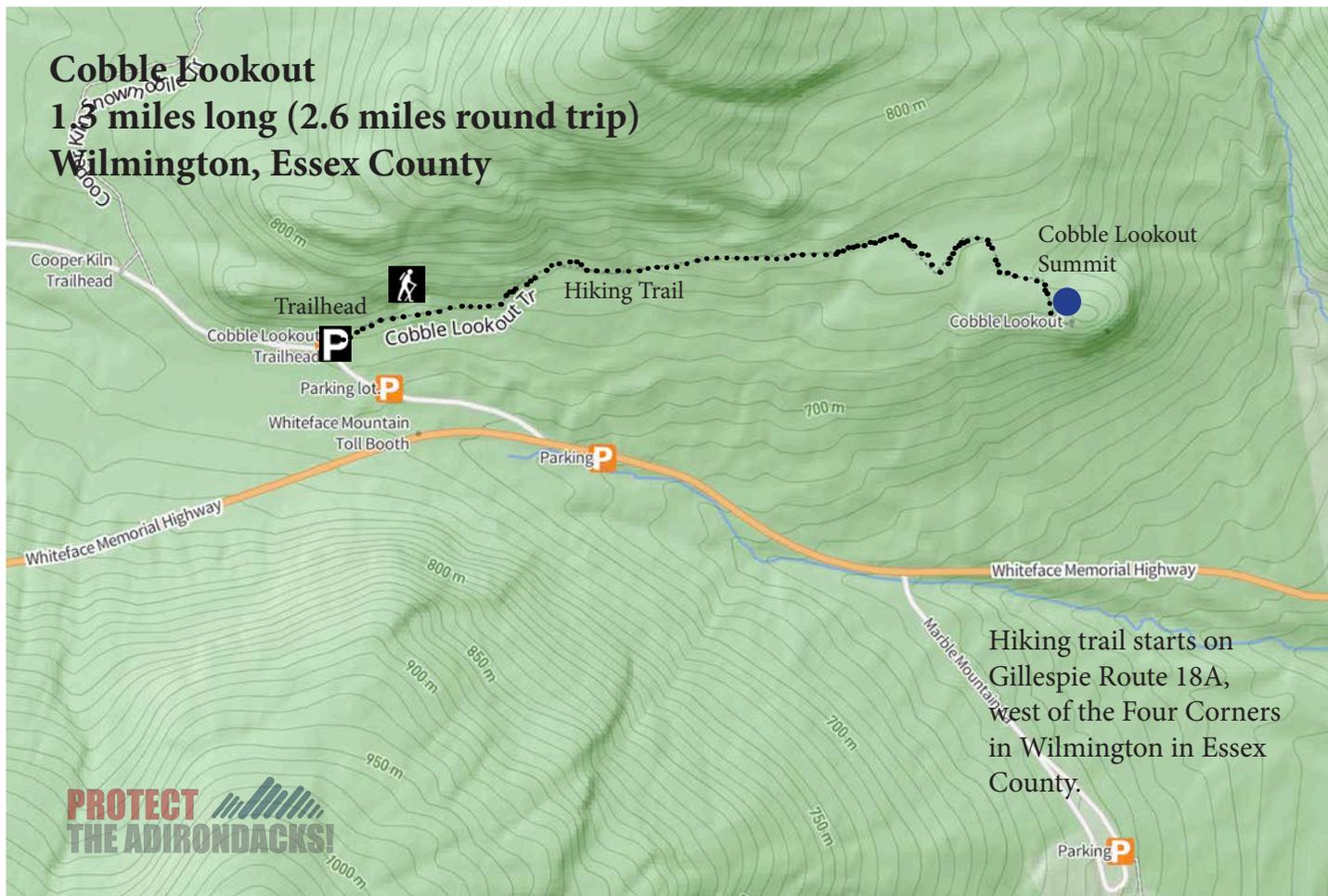


## Cobble Lookout



Cobble Lookout is an easy 1.3-mile hike outside of Wilmington, in Essex County. Cobble Lookout is an easy 1.3-mile hike outside of Wilmington, in Essex County. The trail is on public Forest Preserve in the Wilmington Wild Forest. The trailhead parking lot is on Gillespie Drive/Route 18A, a few miles from the Four Corners in Wilmington and just west of Santa's Workshop and the Whiteface Memorial Highway entrance.

The hike up Cobble Lookout winds through beautiful forests to sweeping views on rocky outcrops of the High Peaks and surrounding mountains. The trail is easy because it only gains 250 feet in elevation. This is a popular trail so it is likely that other people will be using this trail at the same time.

The hike begins at the rear of a trailhead parking area, which on busy vehicles days line the roadside. The initial stage of the trail is wide, well-worn, and easy to follow. The surrounding forest is a young northern hardwoods,

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heavy with paper birch. The trail begins with a flat, gravelly stretch that quickly reaches the base of a beautiful cliff face.

At the 0.3-mile-mark, the trail ascends a short stone staircase. Then, immediately after, the trail becomes littered with stones and bedrock. In this section, the trail passes many large glacial erratics and crosses one stream.

The final stretch to the summit traverses a heavy beech forest. The trail is stable, though there is loose stone. The trail passes through a series of short climbs before reaching the open cliffs. The summit offers a large seating area and terrific views of Esther Mountain and Whiteface Mountain to the southwest, Hamlin and Winch Mountains to the southeast, and High Peaks in the distance. Various scenes from Wilmington are visible in the valley below. The summit isn't the only place to enjoy the view. There is another lookout to the east.

The final stretch to the Cobble Lookout summit traverses a heavy beech forest. The trail is stable, though there is loose stone. The trail passes through a series of short climbs before reaching the open cliffs. The summit offers a large seating area and terrific views of Esther Mountain and Whiteface Mountain to the southwest, Hamlin and Winch Mountains to the southeast, and High Peaks in the distance. Various scenes from Wilmington are visible in the valley below. The summit isn't the only place to enjoy the view, there is another lookout to the east.

Cobble Lookout is an easy hike that is accessible and enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities. The trail out is the same route as the trail hiked in.

**Help Protect the Forest Preserve and Be Prepared When You Hike:** Please follow “**carry in, carry out**” rules for all trash and follow other **Leave No Trace** principles when hiking in the public Forest Preserve and other wild areas. The seven Leave No Trace principles are: 1) Plan ahead and prepare; 2) Stay on hiking trails and camp at designated areas; 3) Dispose of human waste and trash properly; 4) Leave what you find; 5) Minimize campfires; 6) Respect wildlife; 7) Respect other hikers. **Educated and prepared hikers do not damage the environment or need search and rescue unless injured.**