



One mile past the end of the road, and the start of the second section of the trail, the trail grows steep to the summit of Black Mountain itself. After crossing a stream, the trail leads up what seems to be a stream bed, with water running down a rocky trail. The trail winds back and forth, sometimes following along the side of the stream and sometimes through the water, for some distance, before reaching a drier route close to the summit. Soon hikers will reach the summit.

There is one major viewpoint at the summit of Black Mountain. The trail branches to the right past a memorial seating area and out to an overlook, with views over Lake George and the Tongue Mountain Range. The trail continues ahead to the true summit, which has an old firetower, emergency radio facility inaccessible to the public, and a number of solar panels and a small wind turbine to power the complex. The trail also continues to the other side of the summit, towards a lean-to and a pond, before eventually looping back to the same trail that hikers came up.

The return trip to the parking area is relatively easy, although the wet rocks on the steeper sections can be hazardous especially going downhill. Overall, this trail is appropriate for all ability levels and ages, although hikers should be aware of slippery sections and bring good gear to deal with water and mud.

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.**