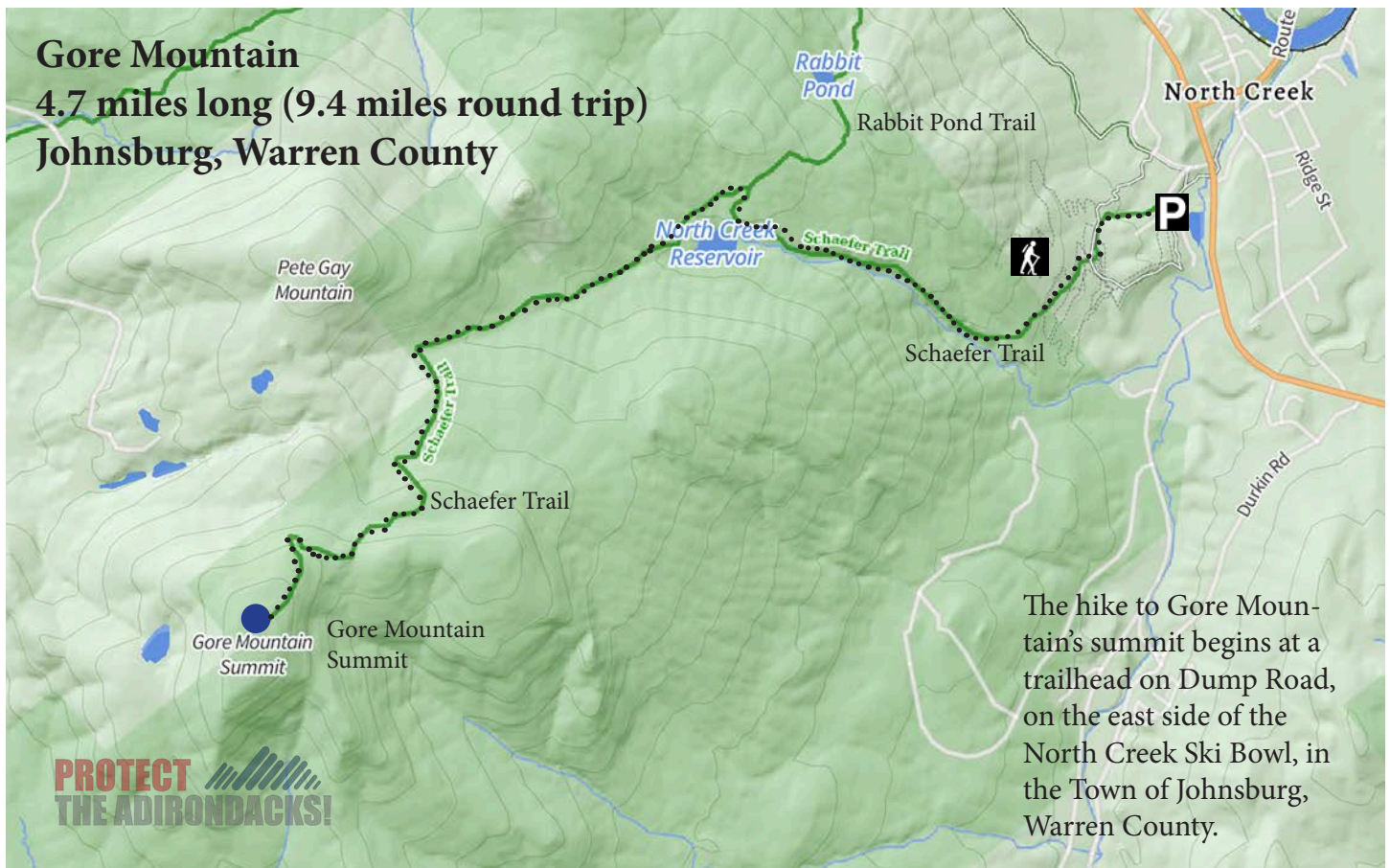


## Gore Mountain



The Schaefer Trail on Gore Mountain is a wonderful 4.7-mile hike that starts at the town park outside of the hamlet of North Creek in the Town of Johnsburg in Warren County. The trail begins on town land in the North Creek Ski Bowl but mostly traverses Forest Preserve lands in the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest Area and Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area. This hike may seem challenging because of its length, but this hike is accessible to all ages and hiking levels.

The hike to Gore Mountain's summit begins at a trailhead on Dump Road, on the east side of the North Creek Ski Bowl. The trail to the summit is known as "The Schaefer Trail." The trail starts off easily just behind the fenced-in parking area and continues a short distance until reaching a blue trail sign that reads "Schaefer Trail."

The Schaefer Trail is well worn, easy to follow, and marked with blue trail markers. The trail leads to the summit. It intersects with mountainbike trails, roads, and downhill ski trails. The first trail junction is 0.4 miles where the Schaefer Trail crosses a mountainbike trail marked with red trail markers. The trail continues and crosses Roaring Brook at 0.9 miles.

**Protect the Adirondacks**

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For the next mile, the trail follows Roaring Brook and passes open cliffs. At times, the trail veers away from the stream and onto vehicle access roads or bridges, but keep following the blue trail markers as the trail consistently finds its way back to the water and runs near or directly alongside the stream.

At the trail's 2.0-mile mark, the trail once again temporarily leaves the brook and this time reaches an overlook of the Gore Mountain reservoir, which provides water for snowmaking. The path wraps around the reservoir and at the 2.1-mile mark, it reaches a trail sign that points ahead to the Gore Mountain summit. It's 2.6 miles away.

From this directional sign, the path follows a relatively smooth stretch of trail for another 1.0 mile before reaching a wetland, once known as the Ives Dam, with a view of the summit to the southwest. Streams, clearings, and beautiful ferns characterize this stretch.

The trail leaves the open wetland meadow and enters a thick spruce and balsam forest. The trail is steep in this stretch and quickly gains elevation with the help of erratics and staircases of roots and rocks. At the 4.0-mile mark, the trail leaves the forest and follows a ski area road.

Marked with signs that point to the summit and laid with gravel, these access roads push upwards and views open up with each step. The summit is an active Alpine ski area with chairlifts and buildings and roads, but it also provides sweeping views.

The firetower on the summit stands tall above the trees and grants a complete 360-degree view from the stairs as the cab is locked. From the uppermost level there are terrific views of Second Pond and rolling hills and ridges in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. Views to the north include many of the High Peaks.

The hike down is the same as the hike up.

**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.**