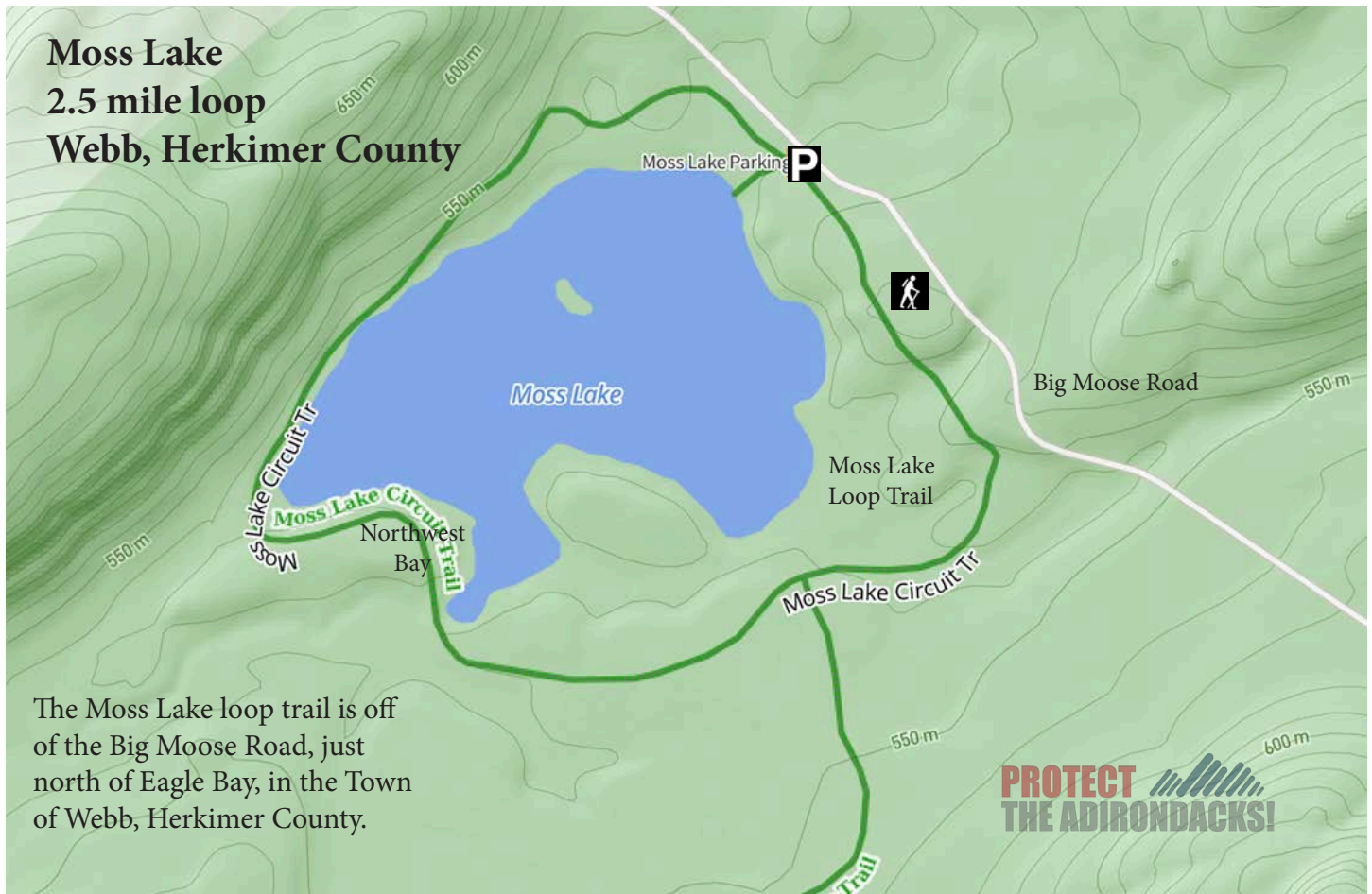


Moss Lake



The Moss Lake Trail is a primarily flat 2.5-mile path that loops around the edge of the beautiful Moss Lake, outside of Old Forge in the Town of Webb in Herkimer County. Moss Lake is in part of the public Forest Preserve in the Fulton Chain Wild Forest Area. The Moss Lake Trail offers an easy hike through beautiful forests. The site is also a historic cultural area.

The parking area and trailhead for this hike is located off of Big Moose Road, which is a north turn off of Route 28 between Old Forge and Eagle Bay. From the parking lot, follow the red trail markers. There is a beach and canoe launch site 0.1 miles on the trail that offers a wide view of the Moss Lake and is a pleasant spot to relax before or after the hike. The loop trail can be started from either direction and follows yellow trail markers.

Hiking counterclockwise, the trail immediately drops down to cross over a small stream. Soon the trail transitions into a gravel path and begins to curl away from Big Moose Road to the left. A side trail leads to a picnic

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table in a grassy field and a wooden dock overlooking the lake. Returning to the main trail, the trail rises up and to the right around another campsite after 0.25 miles. The trail then runs fairly straight for about 0.5 miles before passing a sugar maple growing out of a massive boulder on the right among a sea of boulders. The trail continues to wind to the left around the lake as it passes over a short bridge and a tall white pine forest.

Soon the trail descends onto a longer bridge spanning a wetland creek that leads into a bay in Moss Lake on the left. Off to the right, a small mountain ridge and its rocky slides rise up behind the scenic wetland area. In about 0.5 miles, the trail crosses the intersection with the trail to Bubbs and Sis Lakes. Soon after, the path leads onto another bridge-crossing, this time over a thin, slow-moving forest stream. The trail proceeds through the mixed forest for 0.4 miles until it emerges into an open sunny clearing. The path over this short stretch is very sandy and passes a vast green field of ferns and milkweed. From here, the parking lot and trailhead is another few hundred yards through the woods.

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.**