



2023 GRAND HIKE 14-MILE HIKE ROUTE DESCRIPTION

Start of Hike to Oasis #1: McAuliffe Road Trail- North Trailhead to Oasis #1
Distance: 1.8 miles

This trail follows a former town road through forests paralleling the Bouquet River. It is wide and easy with mostly flat terrain and some comfortable ups and downs.

Oasis #1 to Oasis #2
Distance: 3+ miles
Two Options Below

Option 1 (3.5 miles) is on CATS Trails – you’ll take Rocky Ledges, Boquet Mountain, Homestead, and Beaver Flow Trails. This is the most challenging part of the Grand Hike. The path is mostly narrow with some hills and rocky areas as it goes through intact forest featuring wildflowers and views through the trees. The footing can be tricky in some spots with a fair amount of some steeper hills. There may be a few muddy sections, especially on the Homestead Trail. *All-in-all, it’s a great hike!*

Option 2 (3.2 miles) is on Leaning Road for about 2 miles and then Beaver Flow Trail for 1.2 miles. Leaning Road is a pleasant walk by attractive farms and historic houses below North and South Bouquet Mountains. It goes up a moderate hill and has nice views looking east across the Champlain Valley. At Cook Road, the location of Lakeside School, it goes right and up a hill for about 100 yards to the Beaver Flow Trailhead. This trail winds through forest, across a creek or two, and by a small ledge to Oases #2 at Bobcat Trail’s Walker Road trailhead.

Oasis #2 to Oasis #3: Bobcat Trail, Ferris Lane and Merriam Forge Rd.
Distance: 3 miles

Bobcat trail is mostly flat with a few moderate ups and downs. It begins with a choice of going through a pine forest along a rock wall or through a grassy meadow. These trails join in the forest, where you’ll see a few beaver ponds on your right. Some of this trail is on an old wood’s road, so the trail is wide and easy. As it exits the forest, it comes out into a nice meadow with a subtle view looking south as you walk to, and on Ferris Lane. This takes you across Rt 22 to Merriam Forge Road which is a flat walk next to the Boquet River.



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Oasis #3 to Westport: Sherman Road, Wood & Swale Trail, Lake Shore Road, and NYS Rte. 22

Distance: 3.5 miles

Two Options Below

From Oasis #3, Sherman Road is relatively flat with spectacular views across farmland to the High Peaks, Coon Mountain, and Kronk's Hill. After walking 1.2 miles, you get to the Woods & Swale Trail (option #1 below) and have the choice of walking on a CATS trail or staying on Sherman Road (option #2 below).

Option #1 – Take Woods and Swale Trail which has a nice width before becoming a narrow path that skirts the west side of Kronk's Hill. It has some short moderate climbs and descents before getting into a lower swale, or stream valley that leads through an old-growth hemlock forest to Lake Shore Road where you'll turn right and connect with the Option #2 route.

Option #2 – Continue on Sherman Road for an easy hike by the Viall's Crossing and Hemlock Hill Trailheads before meeting Lake Shore Road and joining hikers who took the Woods & Swale Trail.

Last : From the junction of Woods & Swale Trail, Sherman Road, and Lake Shore Road, you go downhill to Route 22, which leads into Westport, by the DEC boat launch, and up to the village of Westport. Just after turning left onto Rte. 9, you go on a bridge over Hoisington Brook (check out the waterfall below) and up a short hill to "downtown" Westport and one more block to Mountain Dog Restaurant and the après hike party.