

NATURAL AND HUMAN HISTORY OF MT. PISGAH

The Mt. Pisgah Conservation Area includes over 1,000 acres of permanently conserved forest and wetlands surrounding the historic fire tower. These properties are protected both through fee ownership and conservation easements, and contain a variety of habitat types for wildlife.



Geology

When you hike the Mount Pisgah trails you are walking on 400 million year old rocks that were once sediment at the bottom of the ancestral Atlantic ocean! Over the millennia, the heat and pressure of geologic processes has metamorphosed the sand and mud into the hard rock exposed today and tilted the originally horizontal layering on end. Most recently, the landscape has been scraped over by continental glaciers, leaving distinct grooves in the rock surfaces. In some areas on the mountain where limy formations are present, the soil is enriched providing ideal soil conditions for sugar maple, basswood, white ash, and eastern hophornbeam trees.

For thousands of years, long before Winthrop was settled by 18th century farmers, the lands around Mt. Pisgah were valued by Native Americans. Nearby, Wilson Pond and Androscoggin Lake were important pre-historic passageways for Abenakis crossing between the Androscoggin and Kennebec Rivers.

Become a part of Pisgah! Explore the mountain, travel back in time, pick blueberries, climb the fire tower.

We hope you enjoy your visit!
Mount Pisgah Conservation Area



Guidelines:

- **Day use only ~ Camping is not allowed.**
- **Hunting is allowed according to Maine law. Please be aware of hikers.**
- **ATVs/ four wheelers are not allowed.**

THE KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

Founded in 1988, The **Kennebec Land Trust** (KLT) works cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve the forests, lakes, streams, wetlands, fields, and wildlife that help define central Maine. KLT protects and stewards land permanently, offers access to conserved properties, provides opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy the natural world, and works with partners to support sustainable forestry and farming.



We have conserved over 7,500 acres of land, with 55 miles of trails for everyone.

Please join us-your membership makes conservation possible!

A full listing of Kennebec Land Trust properties and an interactive map with directions can be found at our website:

www.tkl.org.

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MOUNT PISGAH CONSERVATION AREA

Wayne and Winthrop, Maine



**1,100 acres of conserved forest
with access to the historic
Maine Forest Service fire tower.**

Kennebec Land Trust

Conservation Across Generations

AGRICULTURAL HISTORY

In Hebrew, 'Pisgah' means a lookout or place with a view, and refers to the place on Mt. Nebo from which Moses looked out over the promised lands. In the 19th



century, before the fire tower was constructed, the summit of Pisgah was an open pasture that provided panoramic views. Mt. Pisgah has a rich agricultural history. Old stone walls, second growth pine and hardwood forests, and gnarly sugar maples with tap holes tell the story of

intensive land clearing, pasturing, cultivation, and farm abandonment.

Mt. Airy Farm, the historic farmstead owned by the father of Maine agriculture, Dr. Ezekiel Holmes, was also on Mt. Pisgah. Holmes brought innovative farming practices to Maine in the mid 1800s, including the introduction of Jersey cows and other livestock. He is best known for his role in securing the Maine College of Agriculture (now the University of Maine at Orono) as an independent institution.



Dr. Ezekiel Holmes*

*from: Bailey, L.H. 1909. Cyclopedia of American Agriculture: Volume IV. The McMillan Company, London.

THE FIRE TOWER PARCEL

This 94-acre property is owned by the Town of Winthrop and is protected with an easement held by the Kennebec Land Trust. This well-known and cherished landmark is part of the Kennebec Land Trust's larger 1,000-acre Mt. Pisgah Conservation Area.

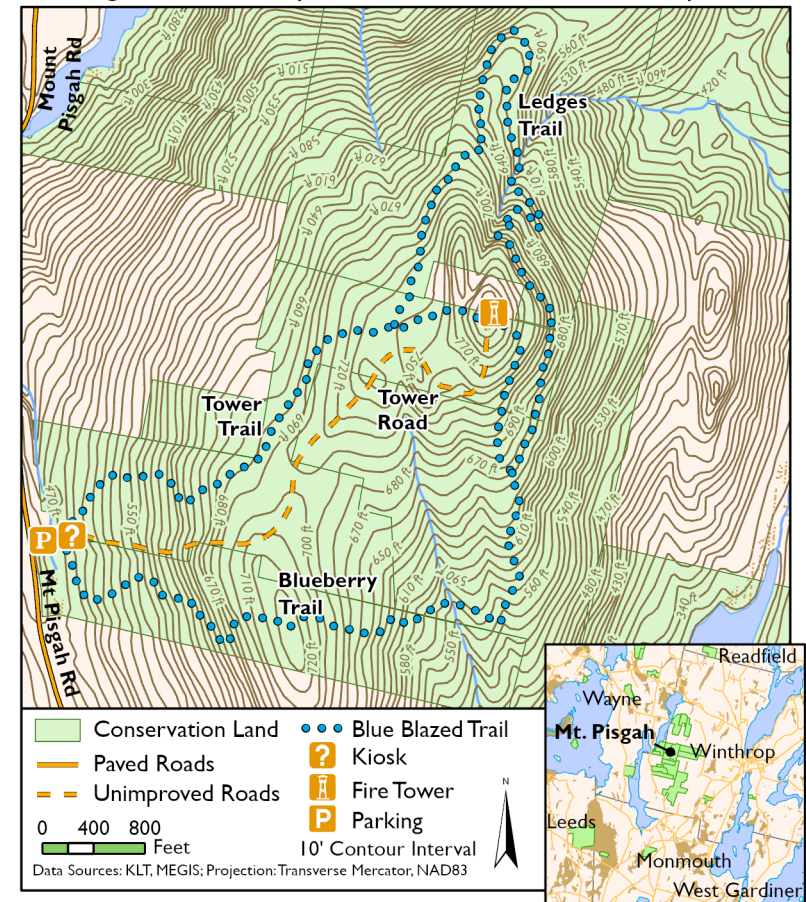


Stewardship responsibilities for the Fire Tower parcel are shared by the Town of Winthrop and the Kennebec Land Trust.

The tower was initially constructed in 1949 on leased land, which was purchased by the State of Maine in 1958 to secure its continued use as a forest fire lookout. In 1991, the Maine Forest Service turned to aircraft patrols to detect forest fires, discontinuing use of many southern Maine fire towers, including the tower on Mt. Pisgah. Visitors should use caution when climbing the fire tower.



Mt. Pisgah Community Conservation Area, Winthrop



Public uses: This KLT property is open to the public for hiking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, and hunting. Snowmobiles are permitted seasonally on designated trails only. **No ATVs are permitted.**

Directions: *From the North:* From Rt 133 in Wayne turn south onto Fairbanks Rd. for 1.1 miles. At the end of the Fairbanks Rd. turn left onto the Mt. Pisgah Rd. Travel south for 1.7 miles on the Mt. Pisgah Rd – the parking lot is on the left. *From the South:* From Rt. 202, turn on to North Main Street toward North Monmouth. In approximately 0.9 miles, turn right on the Wilson Pond Rd. Take the next left on the Mt. Pisgah Rd. Continue for approximately 1.6 miles. The parking lot will be on your right. **Trail access:** The parking lot on the Mt. Pisgah Rd provides access to the trailhead for the blue-blazed **Tower Trail** to the left and **Blueberry Trail** to the right. The Tower Trail is a one mile easy/moderate trail climb to the 60-ft Mt. Pisgah fire tower, which is open to the public. The Blueberry Trail is a more rugged 1.3 mile alternative to scale Mt. Pisgah. On a clear day, the views are outstanding. The **Ledges Trail** intersects with both the Tower and Blueberry Trails and is an additional 1.4 mile loop along the northern ridgeline. **Dogs:** Out of respect for hikers, children, and the elderly, dogs should be leashed or in sight and under strict voice command at all times. Please pick up after your pets.