



GMF POINTS OF INTEREST RECREATIONAL TRAIL MAP DESCRIPTIONS

The numbers listed here correspond to numbered boxes on the GMF Points of Interest Recreational Trail Map downloadable from the GMF website.

1 Canaan Mountain School Foundation: the one-room Canaan Mountain School site, which ran on the mountain through the 19th century. Local legend has it that Grover Chatteleton (see **6**) was the last student there, somewhere around the 20th century. Nothing is left except the stone wall foundation and the underpinnings of the hearth.

2 The Mountain Office (200 Canaan Mountain Road): 1840s-era Greek Revival house, built by Kneeland J. Munson. Munson was the president of the Norfolk Bank and representative to the state legislature, and a partial owner in a blast furnace in Millerton, NY. The Munson Family cemetery is next to the building. Joshua Munson, Kneeland's father, and his first and second wives, Sarah and Eunice, are buried there. Joshua Munson was an early mill owner on the mountain. The buildings on site now house GMF administrative offices, as well as educational and outreach programs.

3 Cellar Hole: a small foundation for a cabin, set back from the road, most noticeable because of several old apple trees near it. It was probably a one or two-room log cabin. The 1853 map of Canaan shows it belonging to Holibird, though it is unclear if he built the cabin. The land was later the property of Kneeland Munson (see **2**).

4 Forestry Activity (2006): This cut was even-aged management for oak regeneration, and here too there is advanced regeneration of oak. Here the forest manager tried two kinds of cuts, one that opened up a larger area and one that was more of a thinning, to see which would regenerate better. It is a suitable early successional habitat for birds and mammals, and this too was also part of the forest management plan.

5 Potter's Corners: Potter's cellar hole is on the northeast corner, dating from the early 19th century, and it's not hard to picture a time when there was open pasture land all around. There are several big, old black locust trees and stone walls, which hint of earlier occupation. Potter ran his mill at the outlet of McMullen Pond.

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6 Yale Camp: the 1938 hurricane devastated Yale University's research forest in the eastern part of the state. Ted Childs donated eight acres at the site of the old Chattleton Farm within GMF so that the School of Forestry (now called Yale School of the Environment) could continue its work. Yale built a camp, and from the 1940s to the 1960s, used it extensively for training forestry students. Today, it's used for programming by Yale and GMF.

7 Cellar Hole: dating from the 19th century and listed as belonging to Dorman on the 1853 map of Canaan. It was likely a one or two-room cabin.

8 Cellar Hole: dating from the 19th century and listed as belonging to Mansfield on the 1853 map of Canaan. It was likely a one or two-room cabin.

9 Mill site: located just upstream of the intersection of the Chattleton and Meekertown Roads. This mill site is another good place to see the remains of an old sawmill. The 1853 map of Canaan shows it belonging to Mansfield, but again, this area was the site of some of the earliest mills in south Norfolk and Canaan. There are several places along Brown Brook that likely had mills. There are also the remains of the old bridge over Brown Brook, where the Chattleton Road crossed.

10 Forestry Activity (2013): Several areas of the Wapato Lookout Trail were logged, predominantly for Red oak. The 120 to 140-year-old trees in the area were mature and ready for harvest. Logging contractors opened up some fairly large areas known as patches with the hope of regenerating more Red oak within the harvest area. Creating large open patches during a time of high acorn production is key to regenerating Red oak. In the years to come, this area will grow up into suitable habitat for birds, rabbits, and deer. In the future, this area could further benefit from another timber harvest.

11 Townhouse Rock: a large glacial erratic boulder used by the early residents of Meekertown as a meeting place to discuss their business. Meekertown was the residence of several hundred people during the charcoaling era. They were mainly unconnected to the Norfolk or Canaan communities, though they officially lived within the borders and primarily governed themselves.

12 Wapato Lookout: a short trail goes off the Number Four Trail to a ledge that overlooks Wapato Pond and the southern portion of the Forest. It's a beautiful place to observe wildlife in the pond and view the Forest's breathtaking fall colors. Wapato, Wampee, and Bear Swamp Ponds are human-made, created in the late 1930s for wetland habitat and fire control.

13 Collier's Fireplace: Charcoal burners (colliers) (see **20**) lived and worked all over GMF in the 19th century. Their crude huts had stone fireplaces for heat and cooking. Colliers lived by their charcoal hearths to watch them since they tended the hearths continuously to avoid ruining the product by letting it burn rather than smolder.

14 Forestry Activity (2007): This cut was even-aged management for oak regeneration, and you will see a high density of oak saplings in the area. It added early successional habitat to an area dominated by mature forest.

15 Collier's fireplace: (see **13** and **20**).

16 McMullen Rock: this giant boulder, jutting out from the shore of McMullen Pond, is a picturesque spot to sit and observe the pond. Like many other places in GMF, it is reminiscent of northern New England or the Adirondacks.

17 Lookout: a path off the Crossover Trail leads to this lovely overlook of Crissey Pond and the forest to the south.

18 Glacial Erratic: this is one of the most giant and most spectacular boulders on the GMF property, with an overhang that creates a kind of grotto.

19 Lookout: this view, just to the south of the notch on Camp Road, looks north over the hills surrounding Camps Pond.

20 Charcoal Hearth: GMF is strewn with locations where colliers made charcoal. These circular sites are usually 20-30 feet in diameter, often with a single tree growing in the center. Colliers flattened them and carefully removed the rocks. They then stacked wood in a specific way, and the whole structure was sealed carefully with earth. Colliers used vents, so the wood would not burn but slowly smolder until they reduced it to pure carbon. Creating these sites was a great deal of work, so colliers used the hearths repeatedly throughout the 19th century.

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21 Lookout: this view is close to the intersection of the Overlook Trail and the Charcoal Pit Trail and is an excellent prospect out over Tobey Pond and the center of Norfolk.

22 Lookout: this view is over Norfolk and Haystack Mountain, with Tobey Pond just to the right.

23 North Forty: this is one of the several areas of old-growth forest in GMF. There are the 400-year-old Hemlocks mixed with 200-year-old northern hardwoods.

24 Tobey Bog: is black spruce quaking bog, with pitcher plants and other plants adapted to the acidic and water-logged condition. Like many places in GMF, this area looks more like part of a northern New England forest rather than one in Connecticut. There is a boardwalk that leads you out into the bog. Please stay on the boardwalk to protect the fragile ecosystem.

Great Mountain Forest
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