

Hoosac Range

A 944-acre reserve with a three-mile long ridge trail along the Berkshires' northeastern wall, the Hoosac Range includes several dramatic vistas, including the one to the west at the trail's Spruce Hill destination. A much shorter hike, 1.6 miles roundtrip, leads to Sunset Rock, which also has spectacular views to the west.

Directions: Take Route 2 east from North Adams. Past the hairpin, on the top of the hill, the parking and trailhead will be on your right.

GPS: 42.6965, -73.0648 (Trailhead parking)

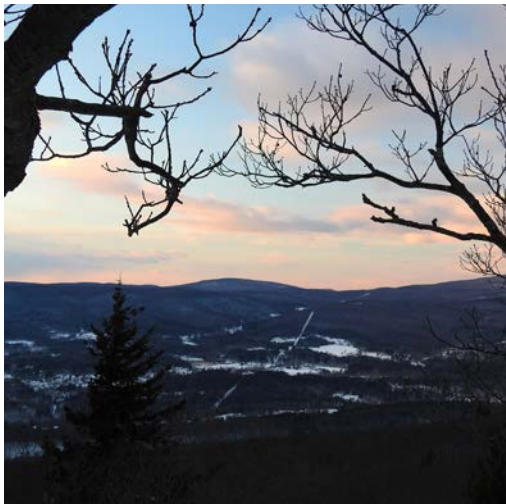


Photo: Gabrielle K. Murphy

WELCOME! WE INVITE YOU TO...

ENJOY this property on foot or snowshoes. Dogs are welcome. They must be under your immediate control and local leash laws apply. Hunting and fishing are permitted, subject to MA state regulations. No motorized vehicles are allowed.

PROTECT the trails, wildlife, and land. Carry out what you bring in, take only photos, and leave everything else just as you found it.

APPRECIATE that this land provides a home, food, and shelter to wildlife and protection for clean drinking water. Respect wildlife and keep your distance.

BE A LANDKEEPER. Please visit BNRC.org or call (413) 499-0596 for more information about this property, to learn about upcoming free guided walks and events here and around the Berkshires, and to support BNRC in preserving this beautiful landscape.

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Hoosac Range

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BERKSHIRE
Natural Resources Council

THE LANDKEEPERS



HOOSAC RANGE TRAIL MAP



Trail Description:

Sunset Rock: 1.6 miles, roundtrip

Difficulty: Easy (gentle grades, smooth footing)

Spruce Hill: 6 miles, roundtrip

Difficulty: Difficult (strenuous due to length and/or terrain)

From the trailhead, hike three miles along the ridge to **Spruce Hill**. Hikers can return or descend to trailheads in Savoy Mountain State Forest by the **Busby** or the **Mahican-Mohawk Trails**. An out and back trip on the **Hoosac Range Trail** is about six miles. Far beneath the trail is the Hoosac Tunnel, a rail connection between northern Berkshire and Boston that opened in 1876. The shorter inner-loop hike to **Sunset Rock** provides views to the west and north, overlooking North Adams. A round trip is 1.6 miles.

Natural History: The trail takes hikers past a tree whose head-level burl recalls the "Star Wars" character Yoda. Another tree's hollowed-out interior lets you look back at hikers following you. All along the ridge, many trees have been bent into twisted shapes by the constant stress of wind, ice and snow. Wildlife include bears, bobcats and, especially at Spruce Hill, raptors in migration. A beech on the trail shows bear claw marks—evidence of climbing the tree for beech nuts. Along the trail are spring ephemerals, including hepatica. Hobblebush lines much of the trail.