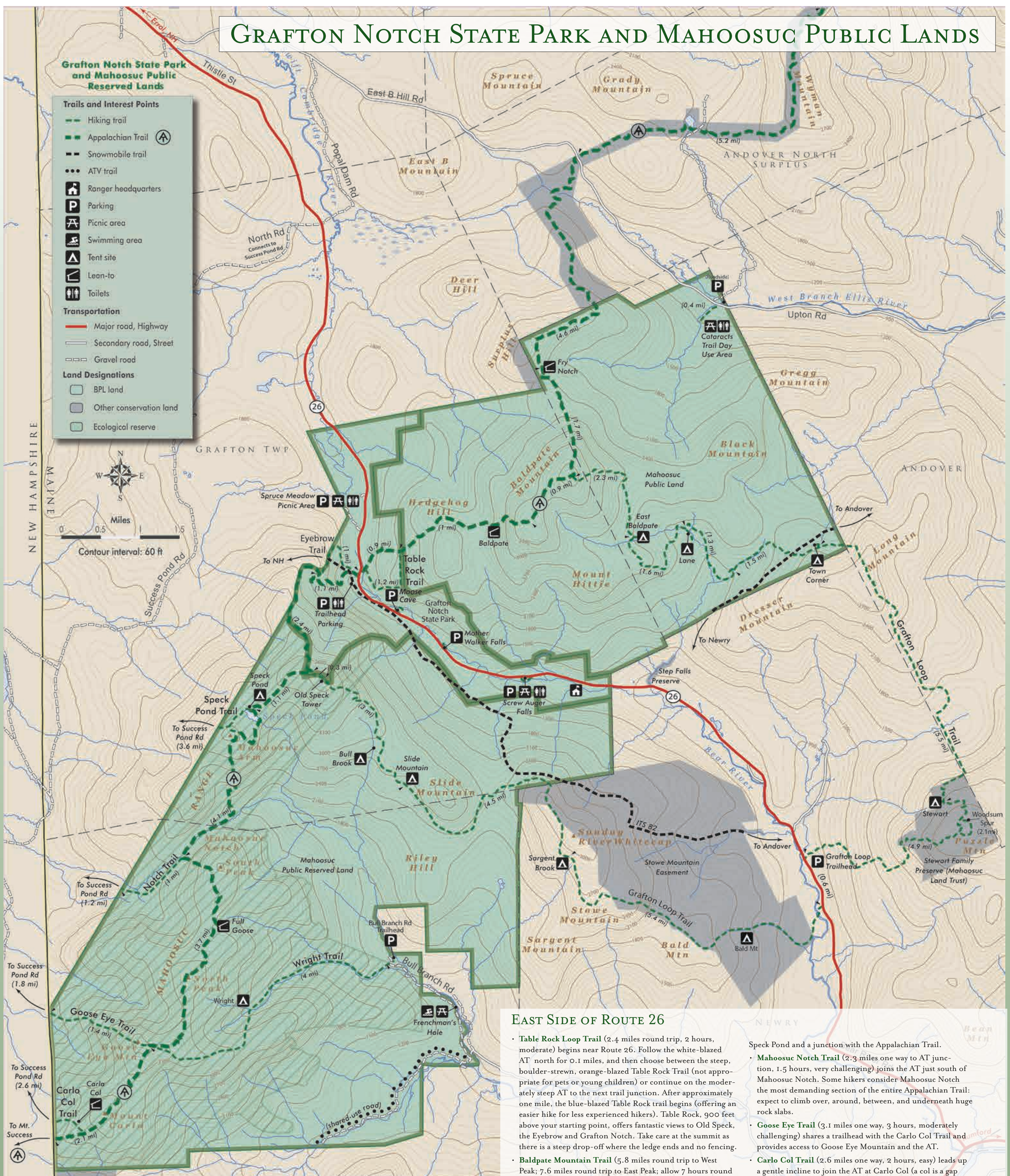


GRAFTON NOTCH STATE PARK AND MAHOOSUC PUBLIC LANDS



TRAILS

ROUTE 26 (APPALACHIAN TRAIL) TRAILHEAD

The parking area along Route 26 (with pit toilet, trail register and brochures) provides access to day hiking and overnight backpacking. Both the Appalachian Trail (AT) and the Grafton Loop Trail (which spurs off the AT both north and south of the Rt. 26 trailhead) provide backpacking opportunities. Popular day hikes include the Table Rock Trail and the AT (to the summit of Old Speck).

- Grafton Loop Trail** (38 miles, 3 or more days, challenging), a high-elevation, backcountry trail with seven primitive campsites, connects a series of nine scenic peaks, including Old Speck, Sunday River Whitecap, Puzzle Mountain, and East and West Baldpate. The route in the northern sections of the loop follows the AT, though the majority of trail is relatively new construction made possible by hundreds of volunteers, numerous partners, and the gracious support of private landowners (significant sections of the trail cross private land). Note: the Grafton Loop Trail also intersects Rt. 26 further south near the Eddy Rd. in North Newry (designated parking lies on the eastern side of Rt. 26 by the trailhead for Puzzle Mountain). You can reach the trailhead for the southwestern portion of the Grafton Loop Trail by walking approximately 0.75 miles south on Rt. 26 from the parking area.

WEST SIDE OF ROUTE 26

- Old Speck Trail** (7.6 miles, 7 hours, challenging) affords spectacular views from an open observation tower at the summit. Follow the white-blazed Appalachian Trail south along Cascade Brook. The trail crosses many streams then ascends the north shoulder, rising out of the woods and offering frequent views of the Notch. The summit and tower are reached via a 0.3-mile spur reached approximately 3.5 miles from the trailhead. The Grafton Loop Trail continues on from the summit, descending southeastward.
- Eyebrow Loop Trail** (2.2 miles round trip, 2-3 hours, challenging) rises steeply to an "eyebrow" shelf/overlook on Old Speck Mountain at 2,900 feet. Follow the white-blazed Appalachian Trail south for 0.1 miles to the start of the orange-blazed Eyebrow Trail. Passing through magnificent hardwoods, the trail rises gently until it reaches the steeper precipice section. Portions of the orange-blazed ascent involve ladders/steel rungs; the descent following the Appalachian Trail is steep but involves no climbing. Those wishing to avoid rungs and ladders can go up and back the AT portion for a 2.6-mile roundtrip. The Eyebrow may not be suited for small children, especially in wet conditions.

EAST SIDE OF ROUTE 26

- Table Rock Loop Trail** (2.4 miles round trip, 2 hours, moderate) begins near Route 26. Follow the white-blazed AT north for 0.1 miles, and then choose between the steep, boulder-strewn, orange-blazed Table Rock Trail (not appropriate for pets or young children) or continue on the moderately steep AT to the next trail junction. After approximately one mile, the blue-blazed Table Rock trail begins (offering an easier hike for less experienced hikers). Table Rock, 900 feet above your starting point, offers fantastic views to Old Speck, the Eyebrow and Grafton Notch. Take care at the summit as there is a steep drop-off where the ledge ends and no fencing.
- Baldpate Mountain Trail** (5.8 miles round trip to West Peak; 7.6 miles round trip to East Peak; allow 7 hours round trip; challenging) is reached by following the white-blazed Appalachian Trail north from Route 26. Entering the Mahoosuc Public Lands, the trail ascends steadily across the north slope to the open summit of West Baldpate (elevation 3,680 feet). Turning north, the trail loses only 240 feet in altitude before climbing nearly a mile to East Peak (elevation 3,812 feet), which offers outstanding views in all directions.
- Appalachian Trail** (20+ miles, 4 days, challenging) tends to be steep and boulder-strewn as it follows ridgelines through the Mahoosuc Range, providing some of its most challenging sections within Grafton Notch State Park and the Mahoosuc Public Lands. The most difficult stretch lies between Full Goose Lean-to and Speck Pond Lean-to. Hikers who attempt this stretch should be well conditioned and equipped. Refer to the AMC Maine Mountain Guide and/or the Maine Appalachian Trail Club's Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine for more details on hiking routes and the five lean-tos along the AT (Carlo Col, Full Goose, Speck Pond, Baldpate, and Frye Notch).

SUCCESS POND ROAD TRAILHEADS

Success Pond Road, which can be reached from Berlin, New Hampshire, has three trailheads with a total of four trails leading into the Grafton Notch State Park—Mahoosuc Public Lands area (see trail notes below). Access to these trailheads is by unmarked logging roads. For more information, consider resources such as the AMC Maine Mountain Guide.

Speck Pond Trail (3.2 miles one way, 3 hours, joins the AT near Speck Pond, challenging) follows a small stream and then winds its way east up and across Mahoosuc Arm enroute to

- Speck Pond and a junction with the Appalachian Trail.
- Mahoosuc Notch Trail** (2.3 miles one way to AT junction, 1.5 hours, very challenging) joins the AT just south of Mahoosuc Notch. Some hikers consider Mahoosuc Notch the most demanding section of the entire Appalachian Trail: expect to climb over, around, between, and underneath huge rock slabs.
- Goose Eye Trail** (3.1 miles one way, 3 hours, moderately challenging) shares a trailhead with the Carlo Col Trail and provides access to Goose Eye Mountain and the AT.
- Carlo Col Trail** (2.6 miles one way, 2 hours, easy) leads up a gentle incline to join the AT at Carlo Col (a col is a gap between two mountain peaks).

BULL BRANCH ROAD TRAILHEAD

- Wright Trail** (8.5 miles round trip, 8 hours, challenging) leads hikers through mature forests to the bald east peak of Goose Eye Mountain, where stunning views unfold in all directions. Expect a rigorous hike on this rugged trail leading first along Goose Eye Brook then up to the AT and open summit area.

EAST B HILL ROAD TRAILHEADS

- Cataracts Trail** (0.4 miles, 0.5 hours, easy) leads up to where the waters of Frye Brook cascade over several falls in the gorge between Baldpate and Surplus mountains. A day-use area adjoining the falls makes for a pleasant lunch stop. Note: the Cataracts Trail does not provide official, maintained access to the AT/Baldpate Mt. The AT does intersect the East B Hill Rd., approximately 2.5 miles north of the Cataracts trailhead.

MOTORIZED TRAILS

The ITS 82 snowmobile trail runs through the western half of the property. ATV riders can use a section of shared-use road off the Sunday River Road in the Riley TWP portion of the Mahoosuc Unit. For more information:

Parks and Lands Off Road Vehicle Office, 287-4957
Local clubs and www.mesnow.com