

**Mile of Ledges:
Class 2 (5 pitches)
3.1 miles, 750' vertical, 2.0 hours**



Bear's Den approach

Bear's Den 8 foot descent

The hike begins at the parking lot next to the pond on Greer Road (41°43'30.3"N 72°59'05.5"W). Follow the Yellow Dot Trail south. At 0.6 miles you climb the first major ledge, which is an easy class 2 ascent. At 0.8 the next major ledge includes the Bear's Den and a Class 2 descent (note photos). As you boulder hop the major rocks to this very narrow ravine, you will observe this descent. If you have concerns, I recommend an alternative approach. Backtrack down the trail for about 100 feet. An unmarked bypass trail on the right that is almost level, goes for another 100 feet around the south side of this rock feature. After completing 180°, you will see the Yellow Dot blazes on the right marking the entrance to the Bear's Den, but from the opposite direction. Hike into the Den until you reach the very tall tree stump you can see in the photo. To your right you will see a faded blaze marking the ascent up from the Bear's Den. The footing is fairly easy to figure out, so if it looks doable, try it. If not, return to your car. There are lots of great Class 1 trails in town. If you liked it, try a Class 2 descent, which is often harder. I recommend sitting on the edge, looking for footholds, and easing down using your hands. It is good to be with friends that can help you from below. When you can go up and down the Bears Den solo, you should be able to handle all the other Class 2 sections in Burlington. After crossing an old dam site, the trail traverses to the right, climbing to the 4th Class 2 ascent and the longest. The 5th pitch is much easier. At 1.4 miles the Ledges end. Continue west on the Yellow Dot Trail, turning right at the "T" junction with the Main Tunxis Trail at 1.5 miles. At 1.7, pass Tory's Den, which you may choose to explore (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOGLyLX-KSM>). The trail continues through a section that had a forest fire in 2008. At 2.6 miles turn right at the junction with the Connector Trail to Greer Road. Turn right at Greer Road. Return to your car at 3.1 miles. If you enjoyed the Class 2 experience on this hike, try it again, but in the opposite direction because it has Class 2 descents, which are harder than ascents. It will improve your hiking skills and provide a great workout in a short amount of time.

Alan M. Perrie 6-12-16

Mileage summary

- hike the B/Y southeast across 5 Class 2 pitches >
- turn right onto Tunxis Trail at 1.5 and right onto the Greer Road connector at 2.6 >
- turn right on Greer Rd and return to your car at 3.1