

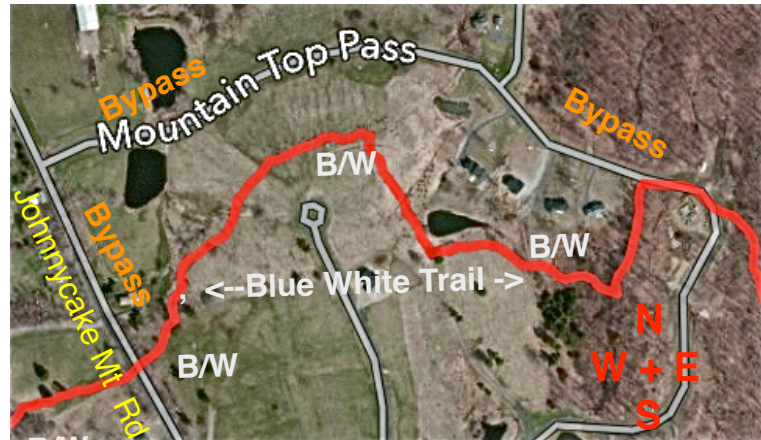
The Big Loop:

Class 1

10.4 miles

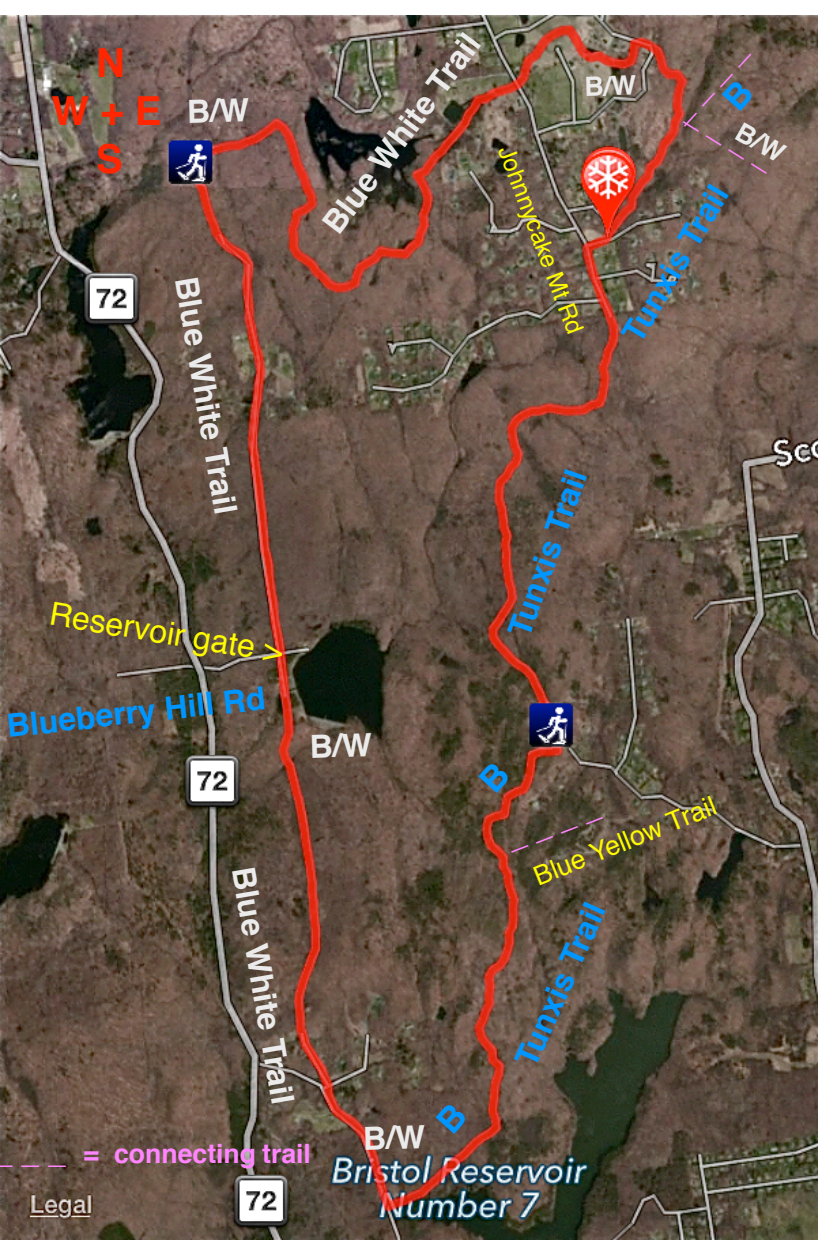
2,050' vertical

5.2 hours



Mountain Top Pass bypass mini map

The hike begins on Old Field Road, parking west of the first driveway (41.749722 -72.991694). The trailhead could have lots of weeds, but it is short term. Look for the solid blue blaze rectangle for the Tunxis Trail (B). At 0.6 miles be very alert for the junction with the Blue / White trail (B/W). As you ascend toward this left turn, the trail levels off twice. At the second flat spot, houses appears on your left. Turning left and at 0.8 miles you emerge onto Mountain Top Pass Road. Turn right heading west. (note the mini map on The Grand Loop hike web page). This next section of the B/W turns left off this road in 150 yards and follows mostly open meadows that can become very overgrown from May to October.



The alternative is on the bypass mini map (above) following Mountain Top Pass road. The Trail and road are the same hiking distance (0.6 miles). If you take the bypass, turn left on Johnnycake Mt Rd (1.3 miles), reaching the right turn junction with the B/W trail at 1.4 miles (it is at the end of a large open field on your right, past mailbox #157). Crossing the large open field, head due west and downhill, aiming for the path along the north side of a brook. Cross to the brook's south side and the B/W trail now becomes easy to follow. At 3.3 miles it turns south on a dirt road for about a mile, then makes a sharp left to pick up another dirt road that connects with the paved Blueberry Hill Road at 4.0 miles. At 5.0 miles continue south past the reservoir gate. At 5.3 miles an old bridge was washed out. A crossing in early spring, may be a problem, but the stepping stone crossing is easy to find by taking a short bypass on your left. (It may be worth scouting before hiking in early spring, since it is a short walk from the gate on Blueberry Hill Road for Reservoir #5). At 6.1 miles the trail merges straight onto a paved road that connects with East Church Road at 6.3 miles. Take a quick right then left to continue south on the paved road which merges with East Plymouth Road. At 6.7 miles take a sharp left passing another Reservoir gate. The B/W soon ends as it merges with the Tunxis Trail (B). At 7.5 miles continue straight past the junction with the Blue / Yellow Trail and at 7.7 miles hike by Tory's Den. At 8.5 miles continue straight past the Connector Trail to Greer Road and at 10.2 miles the Tunxis Trail connects with the paved Johnnycake Mountain Road. The second street on the right is Old Field Road. Return to your car at 10.4 miles.

Alan M. Perrie 11- 1- 21

Mileage summary using the bypass

Hike Tunxis Trail (B) north to 0.6 and make a 90° left turn onto the B/W >
at 0.8 turn right onto Mt Top Pass Rd and turn left onto Johnnycake Rd at 1.3 >
turn right onto B/W at 1.4 > at 5.0 pass Reservoir Gate >
at 6.7 turn 90° left merging with the B > pass the Yellow Dot Trail at 7.5 >
follow B north, merging with Johnnycake Mt Rd at 10.2 >
turn right onto Old Field Rd at 10.3 and your car at 10.4