



The Great Wall Loops
Class 2
 5.6 or 4.3 miles
 1,100 ' or 900' vert.
 2.9 or 2.1 hours



Great Wall's Class 2 section

These two hikes are the same, except for their hiking time and initial directions. They both provide the best introduction to Class 2 hiking in Burlington.

The longer GREAT WALL hike begins at the kiosk (41°43'57.8"N 72°57'19.4"W) at the parking lot for Sessions Woods. Cross the parking lot, heading NW through the closed gate that marks the start of the Beaver Pond Trail (BPT). At 0.6 miles, you pass the Yellow Dot Trail turning right, marked by a Blue blaze with a Yellow dot (B/Y). This is the trail you will be returning on. At 1.9 miles you will see a sign "To Tunxis Trail" with an arrow pointing to the right (1st camera icon on above satellite map). The 2nd camera icon represents the bridge that connects you to the Tunxis Black Dot Trail (B/B) at 2.1 miles. The 0.2 mile path between the two is tricky to follow because it is through an open area used for Youth Camping.

From the "To Tunxis Trail" sign bear slightly right following a wide trail to a lean-to at 2.0. Turn southwest following a wide path 170 feet to the campfire pit with 8 picnic tables. From the southern most picnic table, hike 30 feet south to find the narrow path heading downhill. Go down this path for 75 feet, then make a sharp turn left, following the trail to the solid wooden bridge. After crossing the bridge, take a right onto the Black Dot Trail, marked by a Blue blaze with a Black dot (B/B), next to an information kiosk.

At 2.5 miles the trail goes over some rocky ledges (3rd camera icon on map). At 2.7 it reaches the Great Wall, with its 70 foot face. Going over the Wall is a short and a good introduction to Class 2 hiking, since you may want to use your hands. (If this is beyond your comfort zone, backtrack to the Beaver Pond Trail and take a right back to your car) The B/B trail ends at 3.5 miles with a "T" junction with the B/Y trail. Make a right turn onto this trail which will take you around Beaver Marsh. At 4.5 miles, you pass by the junction with the Orange Dot Trail (B/O), on your left. At 5.0 miles turn left on the Beaver Pond Trail and return to your car at 5.6 miles, plus 1,100 vertical feet.

The shorter Great Wall hike starts at the same kiosk, but you hike southeast on the Beaver Pond Trail (BPT), which starts past the SE gate. Follow this trail past the short path to the Summer House at 0.4 miles. The trail descends and at 0.6 turn left at the "To Tunxis Trail" sign. Follow the above second and third paragraph back to your car, but use the following distances: bridge at 0.8; Great Wall at 1.4; B/Y at 2.2; Orange Dot Trail at 3.2; Beaver Pond Trail at 3.7; your car at 4.3. The total elevation change is 900'.

Alan M. Perrie 6-12-16

5.6 Mileage summary

hike past the NW gate on the BPT, turn right at 0.9 >
 hike SW, crossing a bridge, & turning right at 2.1 onto B/B >
 hike west on B/B, turning right onto B/Y at 3.5 >
 turn left onto BPT at 5.0 & return to your car at 5.6

4.3 Mileage summary

hike past the SE gate on the BPT, turn left at 0.6 >
 hike SW, crossing a bridge, & turning right at 0.8 onto B/B >
 hike west on B/B, turning right onto B/Y at 2.2 >
 turn left onto BPT at 3.7 & return to your car at 4.3