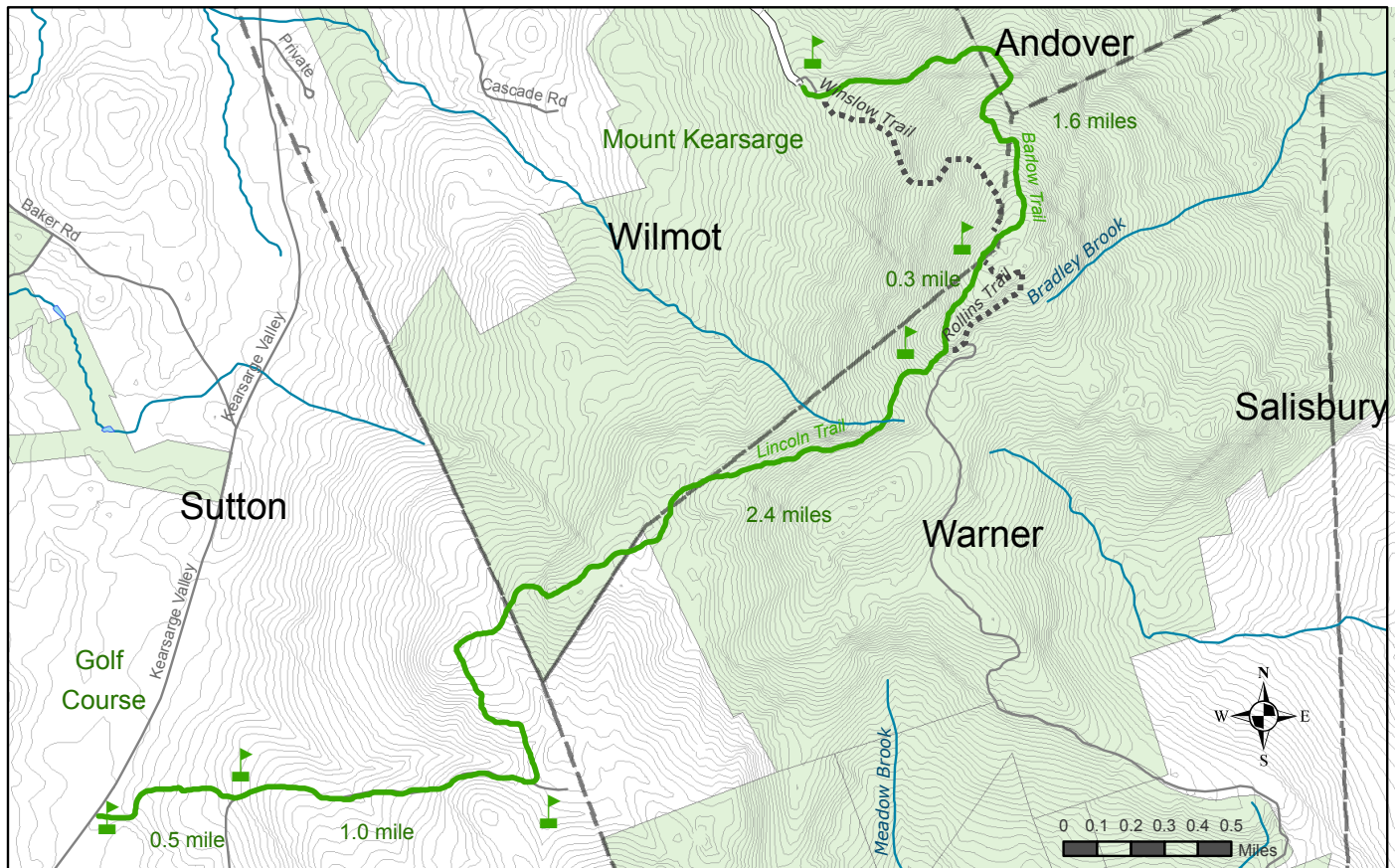


Trail 11 Winslow State Park to Kearsarge Valley Road



Total Distance: 5.8 miles
Total Ascents: 1100 feet

Estimated time: 4 hours
Total Descents: 2100 feet

Overview: This SRKG section traverses the summit of Mount Kearsarge (2937 ft.), the highest point on the SRKG, and then descends to Kearsarge Valley Road in North Sutton. It passes through two New Hampshire state parks, Winslow and Rollins; Mount Kearsarge State Forest; and privately owned forest lands along the lower two miles of the *Lincoln Trail*. The route lies within three towns: Wilmot, Warner and Sutton. The USS Kearsarge, victor over the CSS Alabama in a famous Civil War naval battle, was named after Mount Kearsarge. Its commander, Captain John Winslow, lent his name to a 19th century summer hotel, the Winslow House, and subsequently to the park. The cellar hole of this old resort is still visible in the Winslow State Park picnic area near the trailhead. On the bare summit one discovers a fire tower and a tall communications tower. With a 360-degree view, clear days reveal mountain peaks in Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire. The summit in summer is the most likely place on the SRKG to encounter the song of the white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).

Finding the Trailheads: The northern trailhead is located in Winslow State Park. It is accessed from Kearsarge Valley Road, between NH Route 11 in Wilmot Flat and North Road in Sutton. From Interstate 89 Exit 10, take North Road south 0.5 mi to a left on Kearsarge Valley Road, then right on Kearsarge Mountain Road, where signs point uphill 2.2mi to the park gate. An entrance fee is charged during late spring, summer and early fall. The trailhead is at the upper end of the large parking/picnic area. The park gate is closed in winter, but parking near the gate or lower, at the snowplow turn, is allowed. The southern trailhead on Kearsarge Valley Road is 3.6 mi. south of NH Route 11 on Kearsarge Valley Road and 0.4 mi. north of North Road. Parking is in a sandy open area on the east side of Kearsarge Valley Road. Look for the *Link Trail* at the edge of the woods. The summit and the upper end of the *Lincoln Trail* can also be reached via the *Rollins Trail*, found at the west end of the parking area in Rollins State Park on the south side of Mount Kearsarge. This car park, only 0.5 mi. below the summit, is reached from Warner. From Main Street (NH Route 103) in Warner take Tory Hill and Kearsarge Mountain roads to the park ranger station, where an entrance fee is charged. Car access to Rollins State Park is closed in winter.