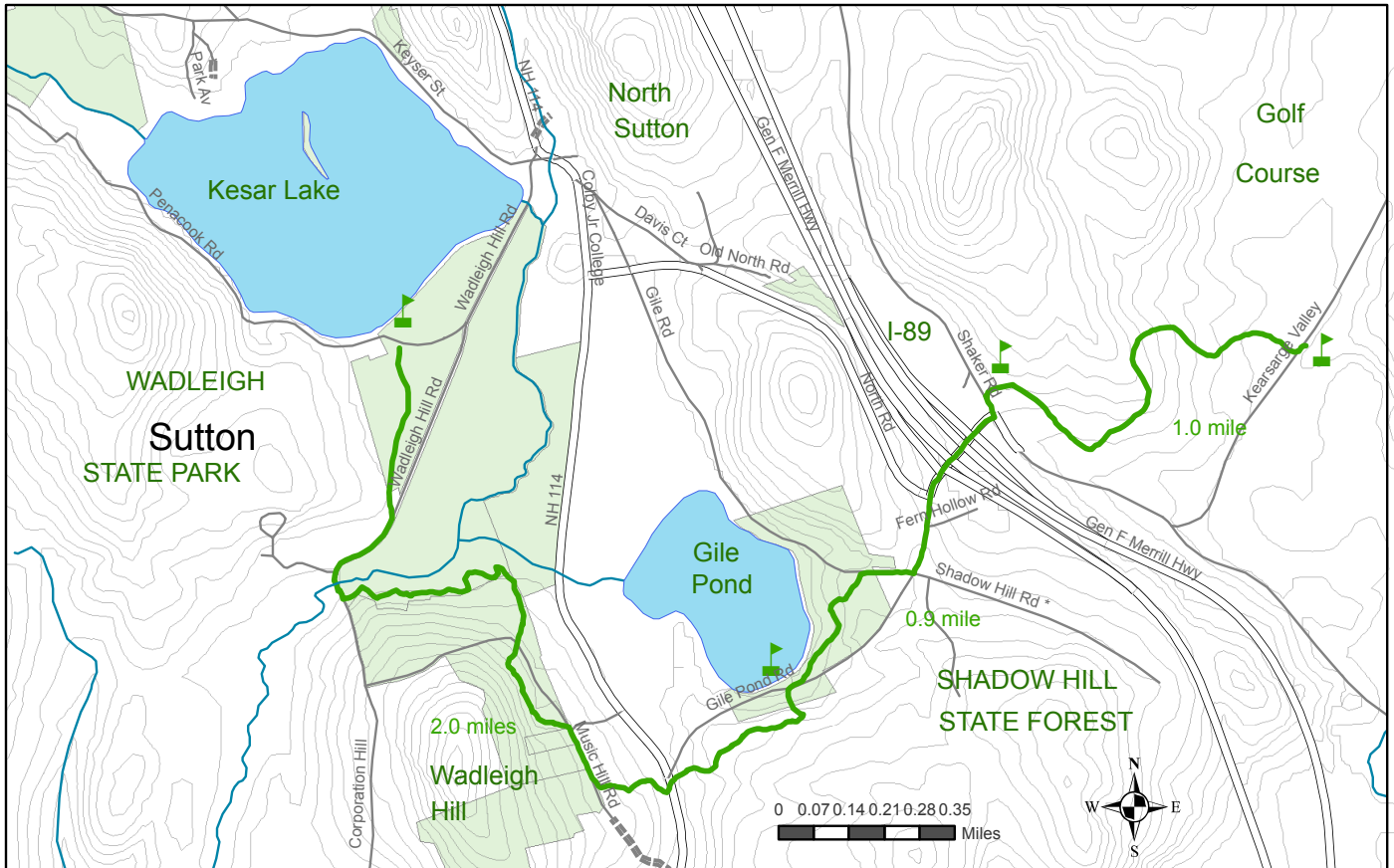


Trail 12 Kearsarge Valley Road to Wadleigh State Park



Total Distance: 3.9 miles
Total Ascents: 290 feet

Estimated time: 2.5 hours
Total Descents: 200 feet

Overview: The portions of this segment of the SRKG that are not on roads have been named the *Kearsarge Valley Trail*. It leaves Kearsarge Valley Road in North Sutton and uses old woods roads interspersed with interesting new trails, passes wetlands and through Shadow Hill State Forest to reach Wadleigh State Park, on Kezar Lake in North Sutton. There are few, if any, blazes on traveled roads. The land for Shadow Hill State Forest was donated two generations ago by the Davis family of North Sutton. Land for the 53-acre Wadleigh State Park was donated to the state by the North Sutton Improvement Society after it raised \$5,000 to purchase the land in 1922 from the Wadleigh family. Gile Pond, part of the Lane River that runs south from Kezar Lake through Sutton Mills to the Warner River, still contains trees from the Hurricane of 1938. The theory is that Kezar Lake and Gile Pond were once one body of water. Only six feet in elevation separates the ponds and the terrain between them is wetlands and a sandy plain.

Finding the Trailheads: The eastern trailhead is on Kearsarge Valley Road, which runs from North Road in Sutton to NH Route 11 in Wilmot Flat. The trailhead is 3.6 mi. from NH Route 11. From Interstate 89 Exit 10, take North Road south 0.5mi to a left on Kearsarge Valley Road. The trailhead is 0.5 mi. on the right (behind the sixth telephone pole on the right side of the road). Parking is in a sandy open area on the east side of Kearsarge Valley Road. Walk south along the road 20 yd. from the parking area until you see the *Kearsarge Valley Trail* sign on the west side of Kearsarge Valley Road. The western trailhead is off NH 114 in the village of North Sutton. It may be reached by following signs to Wadleigh State Park. The parking area, on the south side of the village green, faces Kezar Lake.