

Northampton Conservation Greenway Suggested Hikes Mineral Hills – Galena “Summit Trail”

3/4 mile out and back

1225 Westhampton Road (Route 66) in Google Maps.

<https://tinyurl.com/Mineral-Hill-Galena>



Named for two 19th century galena lead mines, Mineral Hills Galena offers gorgeous views of Westhampton, some relatively remote “back country” hiking, and a rocky cliff we call “Porcupine City.” The summit trail at Mineral Hills Galena is a great place for a quick but vigorous hike when you’re pressed for time and want to get away.

At the end of the asphalt driveway off of Westhampton Road, you’ll find a narrow trail into the woods with a metal arrow sign pointing to the left (west). This lightly used trail can feel a bit rugged and steep at first but quickly turns to the right where the grade will mellow. In 1/8th of a mile you’ll come across a woods road. Follow the blue blazes up



Northampton Conservation Greenway Suggested Hikes Mineral Hills – Galena “Summit Trail”

the woods road to the right. In another 1/8th of a mile you'll reach a fork in the path. Take the westerly left fork to the summit where you'll enjoy views of farms and forests, and the steeple of the Westhampton Congregational Church.

Your adventures need not end there. There is a network of trails to the west and east where you can explore more of the rocky outcrop and lowland forested wetlands. To the south of the summit, a woods road heads sharply downhill beside a large rocky outcrop we affectionately call “Porcupine City” due to all the porcupine dens in these areas. Porcupine dens are easy to spot as they are generally a hole in rocks or trees and they leave piles of oval shaped scat outside their dens. Misshapen eastern hemlock trees in rocky areas are another sign of porcupines as hemlocks are one of their favorite food sources. *Dogs must be leashed at all City conservation areas to protect wildlife. At Mineral Hills Galena this is especially important for the safety of your dog.*



Northampton Conservation Greenway Suggested Hikes Mineral Hills – Galena “Summit Trail”

Directions: From Northampton, take Westhampton Road to the 1200 block. On the north side of the road, you’ll see an asphalt driveway with a wooden conservation sign. Take the asphalt up to the end. Be sure to park as close to the edge of the driveway as possible so that others can park without blocking you in.

If you see anything at Mineral Hills Galena or in any other Northampton Conservation Areas that needs our attention, please email Tom Annese at tannese@northamptonma.gov

