

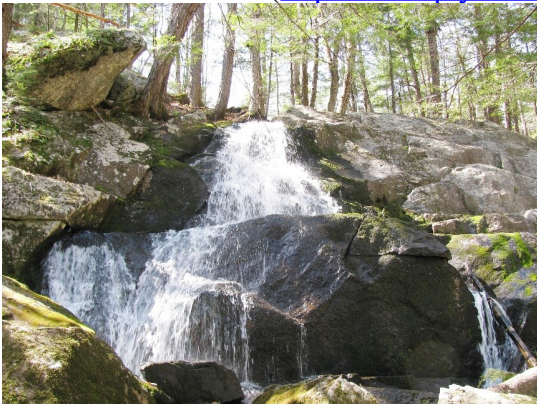
Town of Plymouth Conserved Areas
Written by Al Davis for the Plymouth Conservation Commission

Within the town of Plymouth, there are several parcels that are designated as conserved land. Prominent among these are the Walter Newton Natural Area (WNNA), the Fauver Preserve, and Plymouth Mountain Easement. These conserved parcels were established in 1991 through a grant from the New Hampshire Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) and from donations by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Fauver, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Walter, and Ms. Suzanne Newton.

Conserved land provides many benefits to a town. In addition to protecting unique natural resources and wildlife habitat and preserving air and water quality, the preserved areas specifically mentioned above provide community access for educational as well as recreational uses. Within the WNNA, hiking trails provide access to Rainbow Falls, Glove Hollow Brook, and the Walter Ski Trails, with more trails under construction. Within the Fauver Preserve and the Plymouth Mountain easement, the Fauver Link Trail and the Sutherland Trail provide access to the summit of Plymouth Mountain. These hiking, skiing and snowshoeing trails are maintained by the Plymouth Conservation Commission with the help of many local volunteers.

The following provides access information and a short trail description to each of these areas: Walter/Newton Natural Area: The walk to Rainbow Falls from the parking lot on Cummings Hill Rd is an easy hike of about 1.2 miles round trip. There is also a somewhat more challenging loop hike, which includes the Glove Hollow Trail. To get to the trailhead, drive south on Route 3 toward Ashland. Shortly after you pass the Italian Farmhouse, you approach Cummings Hill Road on your right. Take this road for about ½ mile and park in the parking area on your right. The trail starts across the brook by the kiosk. After ½ mile of easy hiking on the Ruth Walter Trail, you come to Rainbow Falls, a beautiful 30-foot waterfall. You can return the way you came or continue on the trail for another mile and complete a 1½ mile loop. For the loop, cross the bridge below the waterfall and follow the Glove Hollow Trail, which leads around two wetlands.

There are additional trails leading from the Ruth Walter Trail to a parking area on Texas Hill Road and back, and a trail is under construction leading to the Fauver Link Trail and Plymouth Mountain. Once these trails are complete, a brochure with a map will be available. See the PCC website (<http://www.plymouth-nh.org/committees/conservation>) for updates.



Plymouth Mountain and Fauver Preserve: Plymouth Mountain is a moderate 5-mile hike (round trip). There are no views from the summit, but there are two outcrops with outstanding views to the north and east from Pike's Peak (about ½ mile from the summit) and to the east and south from a ledge just below the summit. To get to the trailhead, drive south on Langdon Street as far as Texas Hill Road. Take a right on Texas Hill Road, drive past New Hebron Road until you come to a T-junction (big boulder). Take Old Hebron Road on your right. Drive a couple hundred yards to a parking area on your left. The Fauver Link Trail begins at the end of the parking area. After 0.4 mile you cross an old logging road and continue on the Sutherland Trail, which leads to the summit with a spur off on your left to Pike's Peak. A map with further details of this area is available at the Plymouth Town Hall.



Note: We have attached two photos, in case there is space to print these. The first is Rainbow Falls in the WNNA and the second is the view from Pike's Peak on Plymouth Mountain. (Photo courtesy of Ted Wisniewski)

