

- 6** Turn sharply left and, following a trail, begin climbing steeply to the summit of Round Mountain and two vistas, 1.2 miles from Abbott Road.
- 5** Please sign the trail register! You are now 0.6 miles from Abbott Road. The route to the summit now follows an old woods road along the base of Round Mountain.
- 4** Cross the field, keeping slightly to the left, to an opening at the edge of the woods, where there is a trail register.
- 3** Follow the farm lane into a pasture. Use the yellow plastic handle on the electric fence to gain access. Turn right, cross the pasture, and exit through the fence on the other side.
- 2** Turn left onto the farm lane near the house.
- 1** From the parking area, cross Abbott Road and walk uphill, diagonally to the right, across the field. Walk toward, but keeping slightly to the left of, the house and a clump of birch trees, to a farm lane.

Hiking Round Mountain

The route to the summit of Round Mountain is on the lands of a working farm. The first half does not follow an obvious trail; it is a walking route crossing open fields and pastures. When farm operations allow, wooden posts with blue arrows mark the way.

-  hiking route across field
-  hiking route along farm lane
-  hiking route on woods road or trail



Round Mountain

West Brattleboro, Vt.

a part of the Brattleboro Area Trails System

A 1.2 mile hike through fields and forest to two summit vistas.

The trail to Round Mountain is a cooperative venture between the Thurber Family of Lilac Ridge Farm, the Trails Committee of the Town of Brattleboro Conservation Commission, and the Windham Regional Career Center.

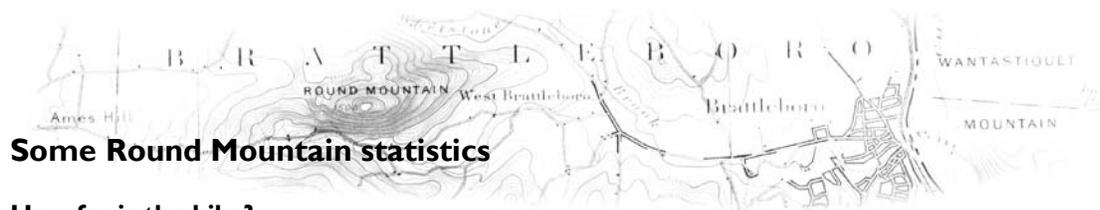
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map by Jeff Nugent, WRC
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Directions to the trailhead

From Rte 9, or Western Ave, in West Brattleboro, turn onto Greenleaf St at the 7-11 gas station (1.3 miles W of Exit 2). Greenleaf St becomes Hinesburg Rd. Continue straight onto unpaved Ames Hill Road. Pass the Lilac Ridge Farmstand, and 2.1 miles from Rte 9, turn sharply right onto Abbott Rd. In 100 yards, turn right into a drive at a group of barns.





Some Round Mountain statistics

How far is the hike?

To the summit overlook: 1.1 miles one-way

To the end of the trail (second overlook): 1.2 miles one-way

- half the hike is across fields and on farm lanes
- half the hike is on forest trails

How high is Round Mountain?

Summit elevation: 1475 feet

For comparison:

- the summit of Wantastiquet Mountain is 1351 feet
- the highest point in Brattleboro is 1840 feet (a point on the Marlboro town line)
- the lowest elevation in Brattleboro is the Connecticut River, at approximately 220 feet

How tall is Round Mountain?

Trailhead elevation (here): approximately 760 feet — **Summit elevation:** 1475 feet

Relief—your total ascent: approximately 715 feet

The steeper section of trail (after the sharp left turn) climbs 345 feet in 0.3 miles, or a 22% average slope. The steepest slope on this section is approximately 35%.

A Brief History of Lilac Ridge Farm

Lilac Ridge Farm has been in the Thurber Family since 1937, when the farm on Ames Hill Road was purchased by Stu Thurber Sr. Originally focused on raising chickens to produce hatching eggs, the farm became primarily a dairy operation in the 1950's, at the time selling its milk to Hillside Dairy on Washington Street in Brattleboro.

In the 1960's, the Thurbers purchased an adjacent farm, the former Round Mountain Farm on Abbott Road, where the Round Mountain Trail is now located. The barns at the trailhead parking area were originally for chickens. For a time, the Thurbers grew Christmas trees in the pasture through which the trail passes. Additional acquisitions have brought the size of Lilac Ridge Farm to around 600 acres.

In 1998, the Thurber family conserved their farm with the Vermont Land Trust, ensuring the long term protection of their working farm and forestland. The Thurbers also granted the public access for non-motorized recreation on the trail to Round Mountain. In protecting their farm from development, the Thurbers joined a conservation effort in the Ames Hill area that has led to more than 1,213 contiguous acres of conserved land.

Today, Stu Jr. and Beverley Thurber, along with their son Ross and his wife Amanda, run Lilac Ridge farm as a diversified family operation. The farm was certified organic in April 2007, with its milk being sold to the Organic Valley Cooperative. Besides milk, the family uses the property to produce vegetables, eggs, maple syrup, fruit, flowers, and timber. The family sells their farm products at their farmstand on Ames Hill Road, at the Brattleboro Farmers Market and the Brattleboro Food Coop, and several local cafes and restaurants.

The Thurbers are both active and generous in sharing their farm with the community. Workshops and tours for organizations such as the Vermont Land Trust, and Woodland Owners Association, as well as schoolchildren in Brattleboro and college groups, are hosted on the farm. And of course the family has allowed hikers access to the trail to the summit of Round Mountain, sharing with the public land that is some of the most scenic in the Town of Brattleboro.

