

# GSW Recommendations

## Symbol legends & glossary



Hiking



Fishing



Town Beach



Mtn. Biking



Downhill ski



Lean-to



Road Biking



X-Country ski



Camping



Paddling



Snowshoe



Fire Tower



Kayaking



Snowmobile



Hand Launch



Rafting



Winter Sports



Scenic View



Climbing



Horse Trail



Boat Launch

**Regional Network:** a system of routes designed to interconnect communities across the GSW

**Local Network:** trail systems that connect one or more communities with destinations on the Forest Preserve or DEC easement lands

**Loop or Circuit:** a trail that brings travelers back directly to (or near) their starting point

**Nested Loop:** trail feature in which two or more connected loop routes can be traveled

**Connector:** a route designed to directly link communities to the regional or local networks in the area

**Multi-Modal:** a route designed to incorporate different modes of recreation along different sections

**Spur** - simple out-and-back trail, usually to a specific point of interest



ADA Accessible



Fire Tower



Day Use Area



Lodging



Historic Site



Rock Climbing



Boat Launch



Lean-to



Scenic Area



Natural Feature



Paddling Access



Great Camp



State Campground



Parking



Fishing Access



Primitive Campsite



Scenic Area



Downhill Ski Center



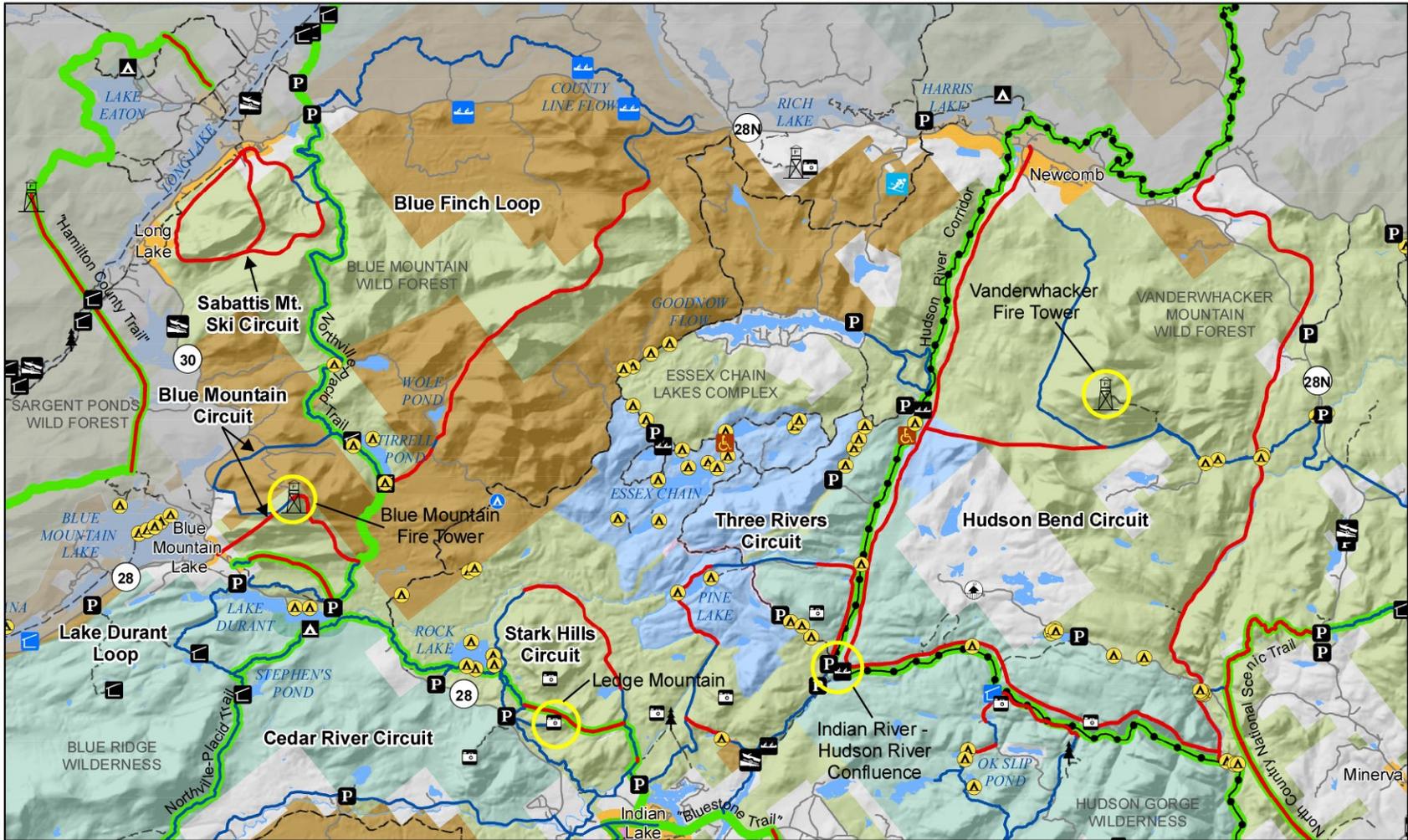
Proposed Feature



Cross-Country Ski Center

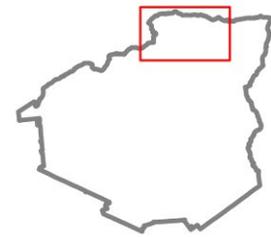
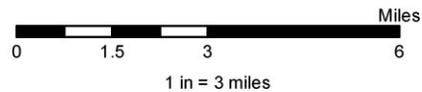
# Map 1 ► Five Towns Area

(portions of Newcomb, Long Lake, Indian Lake, Blue Mountain Lake and Minerva)



	ADA Accessible		Fire Tower		Local Network		Community
	Lodging		Historic Site		Regional Network		Historic
	Boat Launch		Lean-to		Construction Required		Intensive Use
	Natural Feature		Paddling Access		DEC Trail		Pending Classification
	State Campground		Parking		Road		Primitive
	Primitive Campsite		Scenic Area		State Administrative		State Administrative
	Downhill Ski Center		Proposed Feature		Wild Forest		Wilderness
					Easement		

## Long Lake, Newcomb



Map produced by the Great South Woods Project Team at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry

## Map 1 ► Five Towns Area Lake Durant Loop



**Lake Durant Loop** is an 8.2-mile circuit, comprised entirely of existing trails and infrastructure, that connects hikers from the DEC Lake Durant Campground and the NPT with the Blue Ridge Wilderness backcountry and the western end of Lake Durant. Guided hiking-paddling trips may be developed with a local outfitter, lodges, ADK Museum and Arts Center in hamlet of BML. Access from highways and via Blue Mountain Circuit (proposed) provide opportunities for weekend excursions to multiple points of interest.

**Access:** All existing infrastructure -- now linked into regional network. Hybrid hiking-paddling opportunities could be developed or expanded on Lake Durant, linking with DEC campground. Joins with Blue Mountain Circuit (proposed) from shared parking area on Rt 30.

**Connectivity:** An existing local circuit for Blue Mountain Lake that uses sections of the NPT and Bluestone Trail (proposed) in the GSW regional network, which connects multiple communities. Good location for vehicle traffic at intersection of NYS 28 and 30.

**Stewardship:** Mostly located in Blue Ridge Wilderness and could require additional infrastructure and maintenance efforts with potential increased use. Backcountry trail areas along ponds may become degraded through erosion. If 'pack and paddle' trips are implemented, boat washing stations could be installed at DEC campground. Otherwise nominal concern for invasives, but campground visitors should be mindful of firewood regulations to reduce spread of insect pests. Could be a good place to educate public about invasive species.

**Destination:** Day-hike into the Blue Ridge Wilderness from Lake Durant Campground or parking areas on NYS 28, passing by backcountry Stephen's and Cascade Ponds, with overnight opportunities at lean-tos. Hike or paddle back to DEC campground on Lake Durant, head south into the heart of Blue Ridge Wilderness on the NPT, into Blue Mountain Lake for a day at the ADK Museum, or hike up to scenic views on the summit of Blue Mountain. In winter, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing.

**Partnerships:** Highlight and build upon existing local circuit for guided trips / local outfitters. May be good opportunities for multi-modal 'pack and paddle' trips based out of Blue Mountain Lake village. Snowshoeing and nordic skiing trips in winter. Also opportunities for local residents and visitors to support stewardship for back-country lean-tos and trail sections.

## Map 1 ► Five Towns Area Sabattis Mtn. Ski Circuit



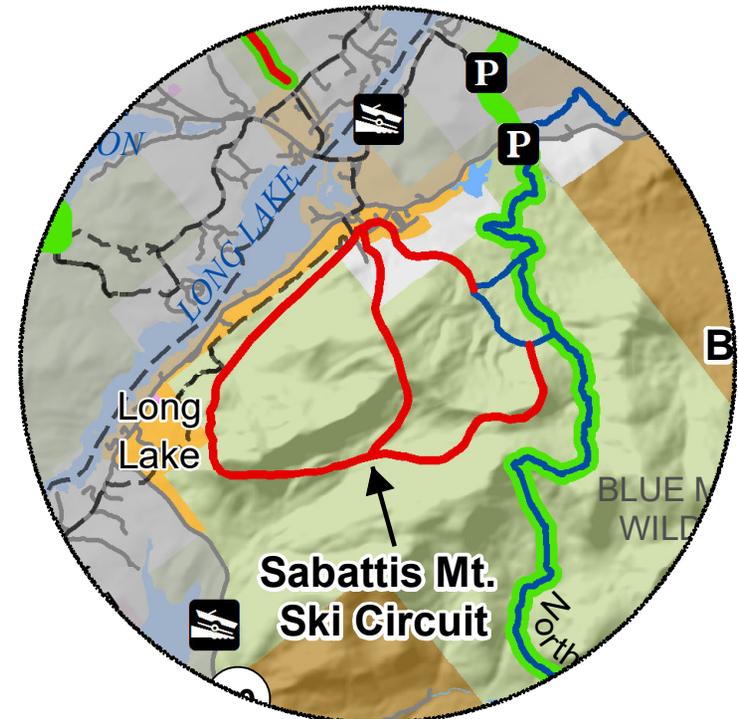
**Access:** New winter and summer recreation opportunities in currently trail-less Blue Mountain Wild Forest directly adjacent to hamlet of Long Lake. Connects NPT directly to popular year-round community pavilion in center of town.

**Connectivity:** Easily accessible in and out of Long Lake. Access off the NPT via a quarter-mile existing connector trail. Connects the NPT directly to hamlet of Long Lake instead of 1.5 miles east on NYS 28N.

**Stewardship:** 93% of loop requires route planning and construction. Western loop may be preferable for grooming, while eastern loop - which connects with NPT - should be designed as a backcountry ski trail. Increased exposure to invasive plants based on proximity to town and junction of NYS 28N and 30.

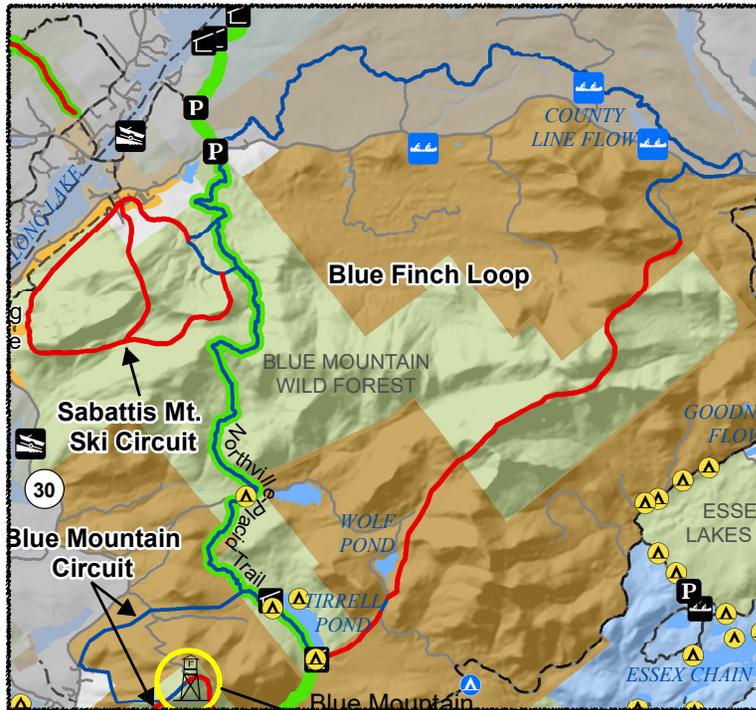
**Destination:** One and only skiing opportunity in scenic village of Long Lake, multiple grades of skiing and route-options along the loop, including groomed and backcountry trails. Day-hiking and mountain biking in summer.

**Partnerships:** Circuit was proposed at public meeting in Long Lake. Will require coordination with town government, private landowners and state agencies to draft plans. Races and community events at Sabattis Pavilion could be developed around using the circuit. Engage local expertise and the Town of Long Lake Parks & Rec Office in all implementation phases.



The **Sabattis Mountain Ski Circuit** is a 10 mile ‘double-loop’ trail system designed primarily for cross-country skiing on both groomed and backcountry paths, which connects directly with both the Sabattis Pavilion in the heart of Long Lake village and the Northville-Placid Trail as it runs south through Blue Mountain Wild Forest. One loop may be designed for groomed trails, the other for nordic skiing, but with a shared access point near town amenities, including outfitters. It provides new access to a large area of Forest Preserve directly adjacent to the destination community of Long Lake, and could bring more NPT hikers into town (without requiring a road walk). The circuit could also support day-hiking and mountain biking in summer. Nearly all (93%) of the circuit, based on approximate routes, will require design and construction. Local capacity for recreation planning and community engagement is strong and should be leveraged.

## Map 1 ► Five Towns Area Blue Finch Loop



The **Blue Finch Loop** is a 32.2-mile foot trail circuit that incorporates a long segment of the Northville-Placid Trail for a 4-6 day backpacking trip, with several angling opportunities in ponds and streams, through Blue Mountain Wild Forest and working forest parcels with DEC conservation easements, including the former Finch-Pruyn lands. Proposed new trail provides access to Wolf Pond, scenic views of the Essex Chain Lakes Complex along a ridge traverse, and connection to existing snowmobile trails along Fishing Brook and NYS 28, where DEC has proposed several parking areas and boat launches for fishing access. Winter access for nordic skiers and snowshoers into Tirrell and Wolf Ponds from parking areas on NYS 28 near Lake Durant.

**Access:** The proposed new 6.9-mile trail segment along the loop accesses Wolf Pond from NPT, into currently trail-less areas of Blue Mountain Wild Forest and former Finch-Pruyn DEC easement lands. Proposed hand launches for boats along Fishing Brook.

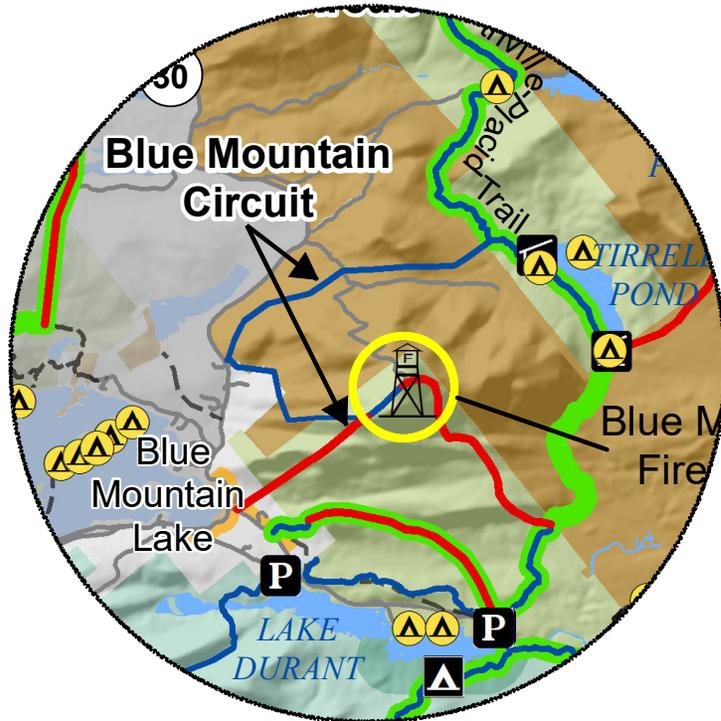
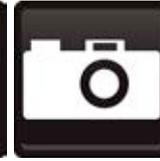
**Connectivity:** Builds on existing connection via NPT from Blue Mountain Lake to Long Lake. Also connected to proposed Sabbatis Mountain Ski Circuit, which originates directly in the hamlet of Long Lake.

**Stewardship:** Additional parking and signage required near County Line Flow/28N. Likely will need additional lean-tos or campsites along the new trail section in Blue Mtn WF. Trailhead parking and registers needed at intersection with 28N. Boat wash stations and invasive species prevention signage needed at proposed hand launch sites. Increased Ranger monitoring of use along some portions that are long and isolated. New trail along ridgeline should be designed with care and attention to ecological impacts as well as safety.

**Destination:** A multi-day backpacking trip that brings hikers and anglers to several ponds exploring recently acquired Finch easements.

**Partnerships:** Will require establishment of recreation rights on easement lands, including negotiation of fishing rights on Wolf Pond and hiking access on northern end of trail in easement; opportunities for community participation as trail and lean-to stewards.

## Map 1 ► Five Towns Area Blue Mountain Circuit



**Access:** Brings a trailhead for Blue Mountain summit into the BML hamlet area, also provides quick access to summit from NPT. Parking areas in the village and at Lake Durant provide different options for day-hike routes.

**Connectivity:** Uses sections of NPT and Bluestone Trail (proposed) to connect hamlet of BML with summit and NPT. Links to Lake Durant Loop via shared parking area just west of Lake Durant Campground on NYS 30.

**Stewardship:** Trail construction should follow best management practices, several steep and rocky sections along route. Continue 'Summit Guide/Steward' program in the cabin/tower during summer and could coordinate more with local communities (i.e., recruit a local community member as, or in addition to, the guide/steward).

**Destination:** The destination is the journey - two new approaches to the iconic Blue Mountain Fire Tower with a direct start from the Hamlet, and a loop hike accessed from either NPT or the NYS Lake Durant Campground.

**Partnerships:** Public parking in hamlet would be required, as well as construction of roughly 75% of the loop. All Fire Towers should have accurate, readable observation maps which could be produced in partnership with local government, historical societies or interested citizens.

The **Blue Mountain Circuit** is a 11.8-mile foot trail system that connects the lakefront to the iconic summit. New proposed trails provide local access to NPT from the hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake, via new and challenging routes to the Blue Mtn summit and fire tower. The circuit originates along the lakefront in the village of Blue Mountain Lake and creates an alternate route from the Northville-Placid Trail to Blue Mtn summit that eliminates the need for thru-hikers to retrace their footsteps. NPT hikers can take the existing Tirrell Pond Trail to the Blue Mountain Trail (which share a trailhead and parking area adjacent to NYS 30), ascend to the summit and fire tower, and return to the NPT using the proposed trail heading southeast from the summit.

## Map 1 ► Five Towns Area Three Rivers Circuit



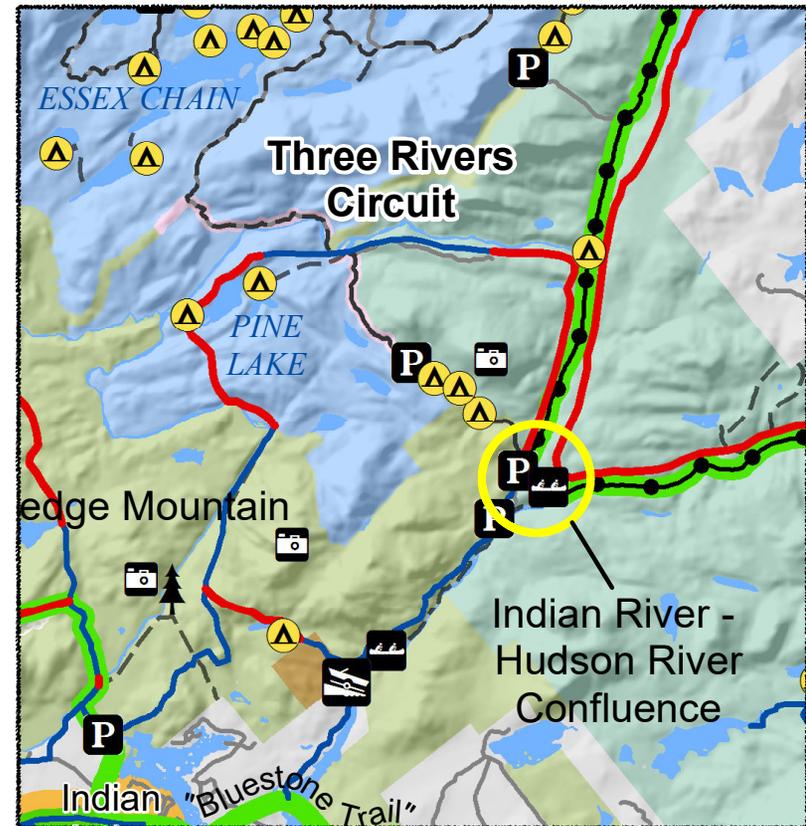
**Access:** New access to west bank of Hudson and western shore of Pine Lake and southernmost Essex Chain complex, approximate route allows short bushwhacks to McGinn Mtn and Big Pisgah Mtn.

**Connectivity:** Connects Indian Lake with Essex Chain Complex via foot trail; links Indian-Hudson and Cedar-Hudson confluence via trail along west bank of Hudson River.

**Stewardship:** Three segments totaling 6.7 miles need construction. Trail construction and management must safeguard *Wild and Scenic* character of Hudson River and be designed to minimize risk of erosion or damage to riparian areas. Same environmental protections should be implemented for confluence of Hudson and Indian Rivers. Live bait should be prohibited; if live bait is allowed, discourage dumping of bait worms, which are invasive and can damage nearby forests.

**Destination:** A backcountry weekend for hikers, anglers and river enthusiasts, leaving from Indian Lake, with primitive camping on Pine Lake and whitewater rafting through the scenic Hudson Gorge.

**Partnerships:** Increased use of short trail segment through easement may require negotiation with landowner. Trail and campsite stewards could come from Indian Lake or Newcomb. River guides / outfitters using Indian River access may design guided hiking-boating trips with return shuttles from North River back to Indian Lake.



The **Three Rivers Circuit** is a 15.7-mile loop designed for backcountry and river enthusiasts, providing a weekend trip with opportunities for camping, fishing, kayaking and whitewater rafting on the Indian and Hudson Rivers. Using a section of unpaved road from parking area to the Hudson-Indian River confluence, the circuit can be accessed from Indian Lake via two popular parking areas with raft/kayak launches, and provides access into southernmost portions of the Essex Chain Complex, including campsites on Pine Lake. It is also accessible from Newcomb via the existing road in Essex Chain Complex and a proposed trail on the west bank of the Hudson River.