Grasslands

The site consists of many large, open fields, which are being managed to provide food and shelter for regionally rare grassland birds, such as the bobolink, and habitat for pollinators like the monarch butterfly.

Forests

Much of Overmountain is covered by forests, primarily mesic (semi-dry) red oak forest, sugar maple forest, and ash/maple forest which are home to white-tailed deer, as well as elusive species like bobcat and black bear.

Wetlands & Streams

Notice evidence of many springs that feed the numerous small streams that are found here, as well as seasonal woodland pools and wetlands. They provide habitat for sensitive species like salamanders, turtles, and frogs.

About the Site

The Overmountain Conservation Area is the largest Public Conservation Area in the Columbia Land Conservancy’s portfolio, at 1,700 acres in size.

The site is comprised of three main areas: Round Ball Mountain, Fox Hill, and Kite Hill. It follows the ridgeline above the Harlem Valley, offering spectacular views of the Taconic Range to the east and Catskill Mountains to the west, with the entire Hudson Valley in between.

Site History

CLC acquired the property in three phases, starting with the bargain sale purchase of Round Ball Mountain from the Kitchen family, followed by the donation of Fox Hill by the Baxt family, and culminating with a gift of 1,300 acres from the Gilmore family.

Thank You

The purchase of Round Ball Mountain was possible with assistance from private donors and a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund. We also thank the Wellspring Foundation, and Greenagers, a Great Barrington-based nonprofit, for partnering to provide youth with natural-resources based work experience maintaining the site’s trails and other amenities.
Welcome to Overmountain Conservation Area
A Columbia Land Conservancy Property

Kite Hill Trails
138 Catalano Road

Yellow Trail, 1.7 miles
This trail follows an old farm road out between rows of maple trees to Kite Hill. A locust wood gazebo provides spectacular views. To the south this trail mails a loop to the top of Gentian Hill.

Double Blue Trail
This spur connects the Kite Hill Gazebo to the Blue Trail.

Black Trail
The black trail is a mowed trail in fields being managed for grassland birds, and is open October-December to provide hiking opportunities during hunting season.

Green Trail, 0.4 miles
This trail connects you to the gazebo from the Double Blue.

Overmountain offers spectacular views of the Harlem Valley, Hudson Valley, and the Taconic Mountains.
The site features three trailheads, pictured in the inset maps. The Blue Trail links all three trailheads.

Round Ball Mountain Trails
503 Carson Road

Green Trail, 1.6 miles
This trail loops around the base of Round Ball Mountain.

Purple Trail, 0.4 miles
This trail summits Round Ball Mountain.

Yellow Trail, 0.4 miles
This spur trail travels through the woods of the property.

Overmountain offers spectacular views of the Harlem Valley, Hudson Valley, and the Taconic Mountains.
The site features three trailheads, pictured in the inset maps. The Blue Trail links all three trailheads.

Blue Trail, 3.2 miles
This trail connects the original Round Ball property to the other trailheads, and traverses through a mixed hardwood forest with rocky outcroppings and views of farmland, the Taconic Range, and the Harlem Valley Wetland Complex. The trail parallels beautiful stone walls and crosses seasonal streams. It terminates at the Fox Hill trailhead.

Green Trail, 0.3 miles
This shortcut connects the parking lot to the Blue Trail.

Fox Hill Trails

Red Trail, 1.1 miles
This summit trail nearly crests Fox Hill, a local geologic feature with an elevation of 1,346 feet.

Orange Trail, 0.2 miles
This shortcut connects the Red and Blue Trails.

Green Trail, 0.3 miles
This shortcut connects the parking lot to the Blue Trail.