



During your hike, look for small wooden signs with numbers along the trail side. These numbers correlate to this brochure, which offers information about this park's unique habitats.



History of Five Tree Hill

Five Tree Hill is named after the grassy knoll at the end of the walking trail that was once marked by five sugar maple trees. The lookout provides beautiful views of Lake Champlain, the Adirondacks and Brownell Mountain to the west, as well as the spine of the Green Mountains to the east. Five Tree Hill consists of 57 acres of forested land owned by the Town of Williston.

The now forested landscape was once cleared and used as pasture land. The large stately pines, stone walls, and barbed wire fencing seen along the trail can attest to this fact. White pines are a pioneer species and once agricultural land is abandoned, they quickly colonize the parcel to create **White Pine Forests (see sign #1)**. Squirrels, chipmunks, and white tailed deer, as well as rare visitors such as black bear can be found in white pine forests. A survey from the 1800's reveals that part of the land was also used as apple orchard and had an operating cider mill beginning in 1836. At the turn of century the land changed hands. The pasture land was abandoned and the forest was able to grow back. The land was then utilized as a woodlot.

The land is also home to **Moist Lowland Forests (see sign #2)**. Characterized by a seasonal stream and moist gullies, eastern hemlock, red maple and white pine dominate the canopy. White tailed deer can often be seen in these forests, especially in the winter months.

You can also find **Upland Hardwood Forests (see sign #3)**. This kind of forest is much more open and spacious than other forest types. It's often found on relatively dry ridge-tops, with little understory present besides wild grasses. The canopy is dominated by red and white oak as well as shagbark hickory. Acorns provide nutrients to many animals including wild turkeys.

There are at least four **Vernal Pools (see sign #4)** on the Five Tree Hill property. These small puddles and damp areas may look insignificant, but they provide an important predator free breeding ground for amphibians like newts, salamanders, and spring peepers. Vernal pools are only seasonally flooded so they don't support predators such as fish and large frogs.

Rules of the Trail

- Pack OUT what you packed IN
 - No camping or fires
 - No motorized vehicles (except snowmobiles on designated VAST trails)
 - Dogs must be on a leash or under voice control
 - No mountain biking
 - Hunting Prohibited
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Questions or Comments?

Town of Williston
Conservation Commission
7900 Williston Road
Williston, VT 05495
(802)878-6704

Five Tree Hill Country Park



Overlook at Five Tree Hill

Directions:

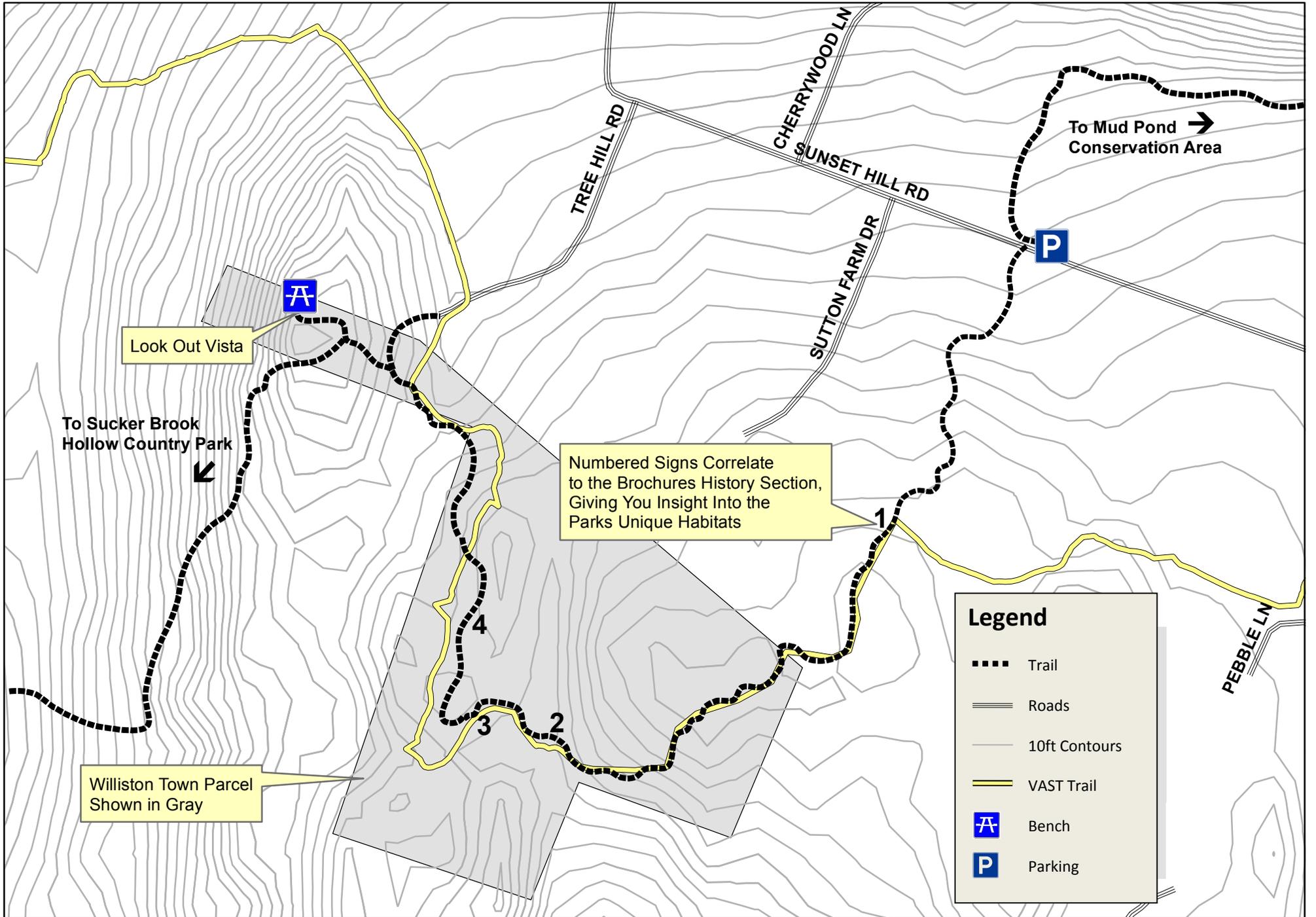
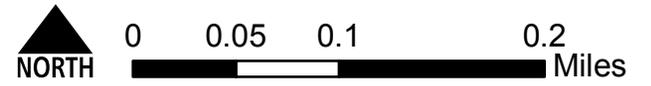
From the 4-way stop in Williston Village Center, go south on Oak Hill Road.

Take a right on Sunset Hill Road and look for the parking area on your right after approximately 0.6 miles. The trailhead is directly across from the parking area.

Distance:

The overlook is 1.3 miles from the parking area.

Five Tree Hill Trail



Legend

- Trail
- Roads
- 10ft Contours
- VAST Trail
- Bench
- Parking