

History & Ecology

Mud Pond Conservation Area consists of 141 acres of land that includes a peat bog pond and surrounding upland forests. The land was transferred to the Town from The Nature Conservancy and the Yandell family in 1990 and has become one of the most popular destinations for nature-loving Williston residents over the years.

Mud Pond, with an average depth of less than 10 feet, has characteristics of both a bog and a fen—acidic and neutral water chemistry, and is one of only two examples of this type of pond in the state of Vermont.

The pond is ringed with a floating mat of sphagnum moss and supports many species of sensitive bog plants. If you are lucky, you may see one of the many wild creatures that also use the pond area, from the rare four-toed salamander to red fox or the occasional moose.

From the parking area follow the path and bear left at the first intersection to walk about a half-mile to the Mud Pond observation platform. Bearing right at the intersection, the trail parallels South Rd , follows the VAST trail west and then intersects the VAST trail south to a scenic boardwalk on the west side of Mud Pond.

Please stay on the platforms while enjoying the view of the pond - the bog plants are very sensitive to being crushed underfoot.

Rules of the Trail

- Pack OUT what you packed IN
- No camping or fires
- No motorized vehicles
- Dogs must be on leash or under voice control
- No mountain biking
- Please park in designated parking area
- Hunting/ Trapping Prohibited



Sphagnum Moss, a common bog species

On your hike, you will observe a large number of downed trees throughout the park, toppled over from windstorms. Such disturbance events are a natural part of forest ecology. Openings in the forest's canopy allow abundant new growth, providing browse for deer, moose, and many other species. Fallen trees provide wildlife habitat.



Questions or Comments?

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

Mud Pond Conservation Area



Directions:

From the 4-way stop in Williston Village, go south on Oak Hill road for 0.3 miles and turn left onto South Road. Follow South Road for approximately 2 miles and take a right onto Mud Pond Road.

Immediately on your right will be a small parking area near the trailhead. Please observe the No Parking signs along the side of Mud Pond Road.

Distance:

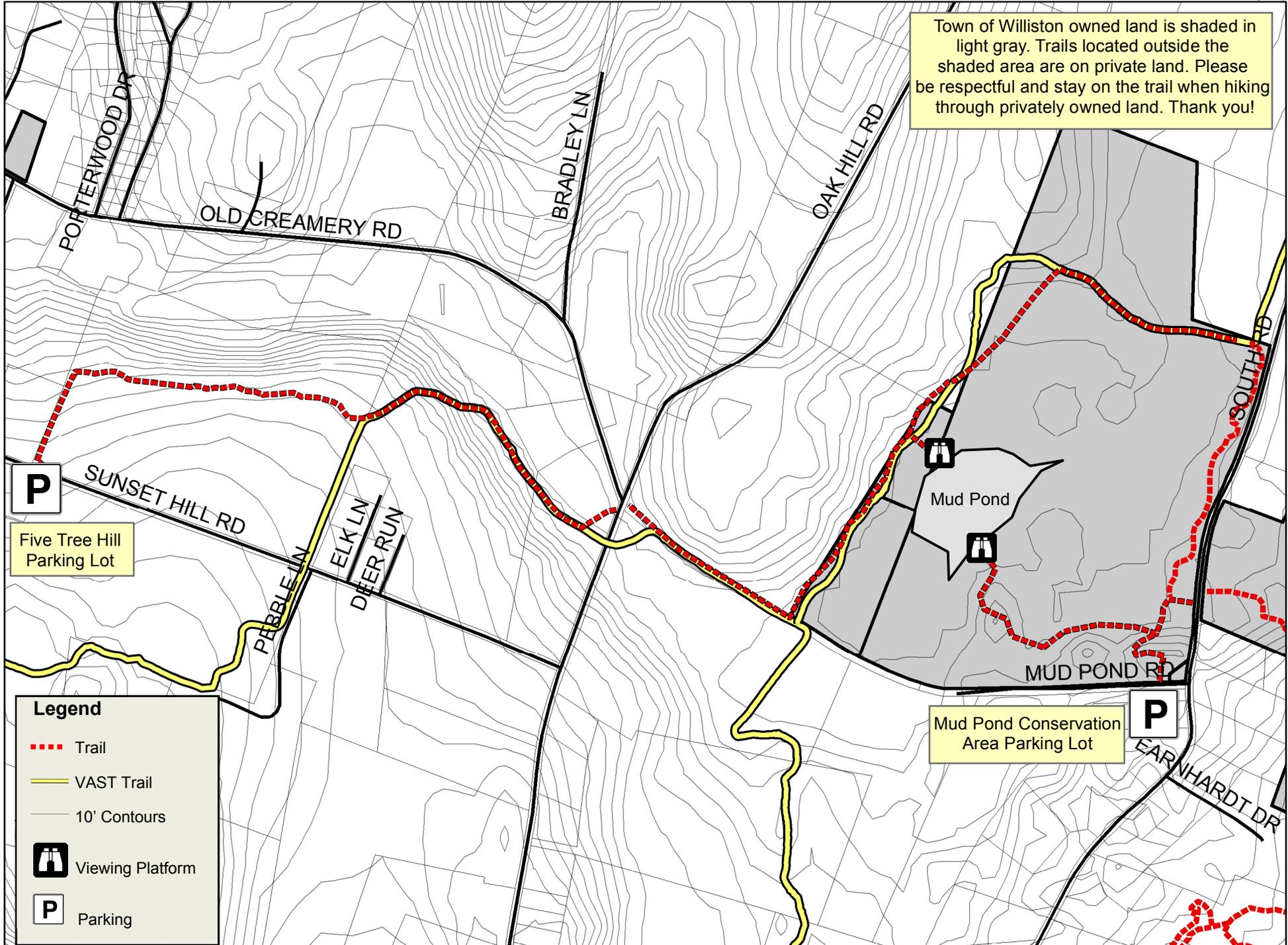
Mud Pond is approximately 0.5 miles from the parking area.

Mud Pond Conservation Area

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Town of Williston owned land is shaded in light gray. Trails located outside the shaded area are on private land. Please be respectful and stay on the trail when hiking through privately owned land. Thank you!



P
Five Tree Hill
Parking Lot

P
Mud Pond Conservation
Area Parking Lot

Legend

- Trail
- VAST Trail
- 10' Contours
- Viewing Platform
- Parking