



## **About the Bull Mountain Preserve**

The Bull Mountain Preserve is a spectacular mountaintop woodland acquired by the Kent Land Trust in November 1997 and expanded in 2015 to its current 93 acres. The Preserve features distinctive rock outcroppings, mature coniferous and hardwood forest, an inviting trail following old wood roads, and, as a reward for reaching the trail's end, glorious views of the Womenshenuk Valley.

Forward-thinking South Kent neighbors Philip and Roberta Puschel and Robert and Carol Lenz arranged and contributed the necessary funds for the purchase of the original 77.7-acre Bull Mountain Preserve. But access to the Preserve was difficult for many years. Thanks to land purchases and gifts made in the fall of 2015, one by Joseph Raslavsky, and another by Katherine Greig and David Schwimmer, visitors may now park here and follow the trail which begins at your left through to Bull Mountain's vista.

As you wind along the trail, reflect on Bull Mountain's natural history. The rock below you started as muddy deposits beneath the Iapetus Ocean over 500 million years ago. When continents collided the mud was lifted and transformed, creating shale and later the gneiss formation now underlying Bull Mountain. Glaciers came and went. The last great ice sheet retreated some 12,000 years ago, depositing erratic boulders (keep a look out!) and scraping the mountain down to near its present height of 1,140 feet. Soil formed and forests took hold. Trees were felled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to make fuel for the region's iron furnaces. Then the trees grew back. Today, Bull Mountain's rich woods provide excellent habitat for various mammals and forest interior birds. Perhaps you will see or hear some along the way.

Consistent with the mission of the Kent Land Trust, use of Bull Mountain Preserve is limited to noncommercial, passive recreational activities. For more information about the property including permitted activities, please contact the Kent Land Trust at (860) 488-9185 or [info@kentlandtrust.org](mailto:info@kentlandtrust.org).