



Our History

In 1946, a small group of civic-minded local residents purchased a 37-acre tract of wooded upland on Putney Mountain, including the lookout, and set up the Putney Mountain Association to preserve and manage it for public use. If not for their foresight, private homes would undoubtedly sit on this land, making it inaccessible to the public.

For most of its history, PMA simply maintained the trail through the Putney Town Forest to the lookout, cleared brush from the summit, and paid the town taxes. (The land straddles Brookline and Putney, so taxes were due in both towns.) One year, PMA was unable to pay the taxes, and the 37 acres at the summit was sold. It had one year to pay the back taxes and regain ownership. The community, realizing what was at stake, passed the hat at Town Meeting and raised the necessary dollars so PMA could reclaim the land.

PMA has come a long way from these modest beginnings. In the 1990's, PMA began to acquire and conserve additional land along the ridge line. It now owns 368 acres on Putney Mountain, adjoining 130 acres of Town Forest. The long range goal is to create a wildlife habitat and trail corridor running along the ridge from Prospect Hill in Dummerston to Pinnacle Mountain in Westminster. The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association is working to extend this corridor all the way to Saxtons River. Other projects include monitoring native wildlife, and removing nuisance plants like buckthorn that choke out native plants.

PMA remains a non-profit conservation organization staffed by volunteers. The conservation effort is driven by contributions from our growing membership, donations from local businesses, and grants from foundations.

This brochure was written and produced by Sheryl Canter.

Our Mission

...on the mountain top it is easy to realize that whatsoever special nest we make ... we all dwell in a house of one room. —John Muir, 1838-1914

The Putney Mountain Association, acknowledging the vital link between human beings and their natural environment, has as its primary civic purpose the conservation of uplands in our part of Vermont, so that present and future generations can experience and appreciate their beauty and understand the plants and animals they nurture.

Our Goals

- Manage and maintain the Putney Mountain Nature Reserve.
- Acquire and conserve ridge line land from Dummerston to Westminster.
- Develop a system of upland trails and habitat protection corridors along the ridge line.
- Sponsor educational programs that promote understanding and appreciation of southern Vermont uplands.

Getting Involved

The PMA welcomes new members and encourages active participation. For example, you can join our Spring and Fall brush- and trail-clearing work parties, our wildlife monitoring project, or lead nature walks.

Putney Mountain Association Membership Form

Date: _____

Name 1: _____

Name 2: _____

Address: _____

I'm enclosing a \$25 per person lifetime membership fee, payable to Putney Mountain Association.

I'm enclosing an additional contribution of \$_____.

I'm enclosing \$25 each for the following gift memberships:

Note: All contributions are tax deductible.

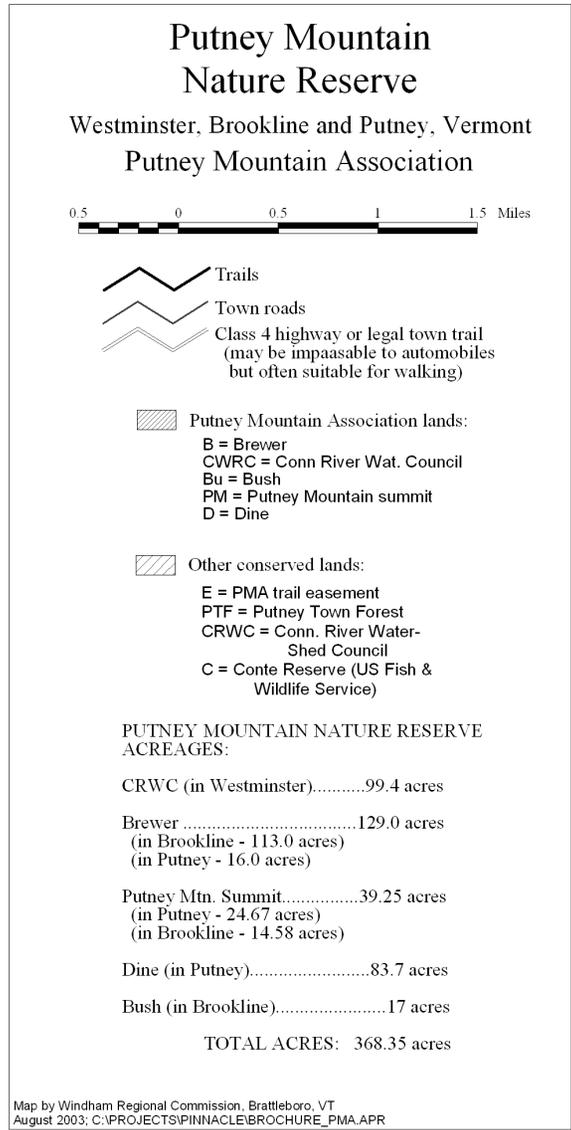
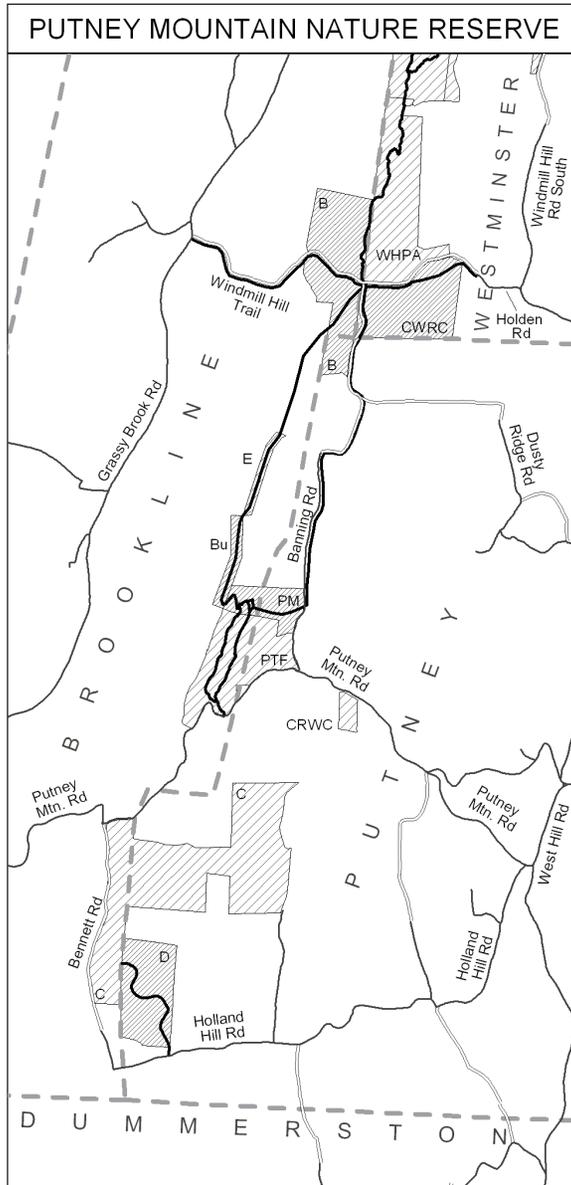
Mail to: _____

Putney Mountain Association

P.O. Box 953
Putney, VT 05346

Phone: (802) 387-6635
Email: clairewi@sover.net
www.putneymountain.org





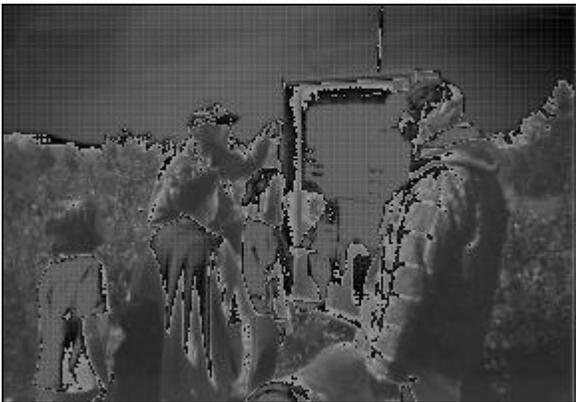
Putney Mountain Nature Reserve

From the Putney Mountain summit, 1640 feet above sea level, you can see east to Mount Monadnock, and west to Mount Snow and the Bromley ski area.

The trail head is about 2 miles from either end of Putney Mountain Road. From there, it's a half mile walk to the summit. This peaceful woodland foot trail is mostly level except for the last few hundred feet. Along the way, you'll see a local landmark nicknamed "the elephant tree" (pictured in our logo).

The wind currents around Putney Mountain make it a favorite pass-over spot for migrating birds looking for a push off towards the south. Each September, the Putney Mountain Association (PMA) sponsors a hawk watch where bird watchers count thousands of migrating birds. If you're lucky, you'll even see an occasional bald eagle.

PMA lands join those of the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association to form the Windmill Ridge Nature Reserve and Trail.



During the annual hawk watch, PMA posts information on how to recognize birds in flight.

August 2003

Legend →