

# About South Mountain Preserve

South Mountain Preserve's public trails equate to nearly 11 miles, open from dawn

to dusk, for visitors to explore unique ecological features—from glacial boulders to the babbling stream along the Trout Run Trail. The mountain biker-loved Mountain Top and Log Trail are accessible by taking the Alpine Street or Uplands Trail but are open to hikers, too. Near the trailhead, the ADA Trail runs along the habitat regenerative deer enclosure. Much of the drinking water in the surrounding communities is sourced from South Mountain springs, streams, and wells, which is one reason the continued conservation of this landscape is critical. Recognized on a local and statewide level as a biodiversity hub, South Mountain's forested ridge provides an important wildlife corridor in an ever-urbanizing area.



# Trail Map & Guide South Mountain Preserve

## About Wildlands Conservancy



**60,000+** acres protected forever  
**14** nature preserves totaling **3,000+** acres

Wildlands Conservancy is the Lehigh Valley's nonprofit land trust. We've been creating lasting connections to nature since 1973 through land protection, environmental stewardship, and education.

Our mission is to protect and restore critical natural areas and waterways and educate the community to create a legacy of a healthy, sustainable environment for future generations.

All we do is kept alive through the committed support of the community and like-minded businesses.

### Get Involved!

- Join us for a program! Visit [wildlandspa.org/events](http://wildlandspa.org/events).
- Follow us on social media: @wildlandspa.
- Volunteer.

**Donate today** to make a lasting difference in your backyard, the Lehigh Valley, and Lehigh River watershed.



Visit [wildlandspa.org/donate](http://wildlandspa.org/donate).



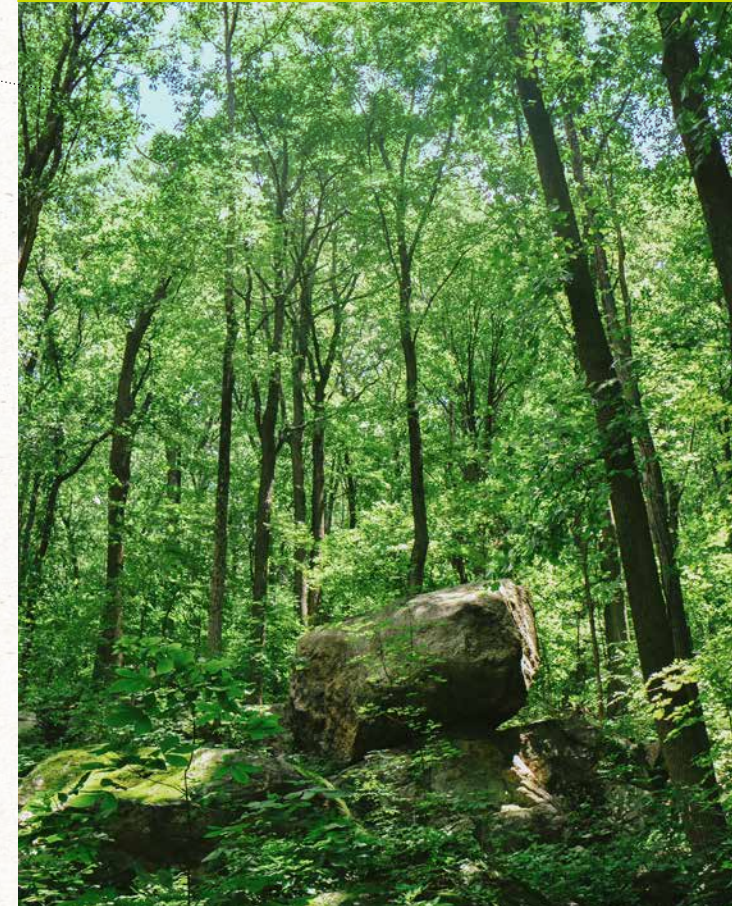
**Wildlands Conservancy**

3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, PA 18049-1637

For more information, visit [www.wildlandspa.org](http://www.wildlandspa.org) or contact us at 610.965.4397.



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Biking trails are maintained throughout, making the preserve one of the best mountain biking points in the Lehigh Valley.



**Wildlands Conservancy**





# Trail Map & Guide

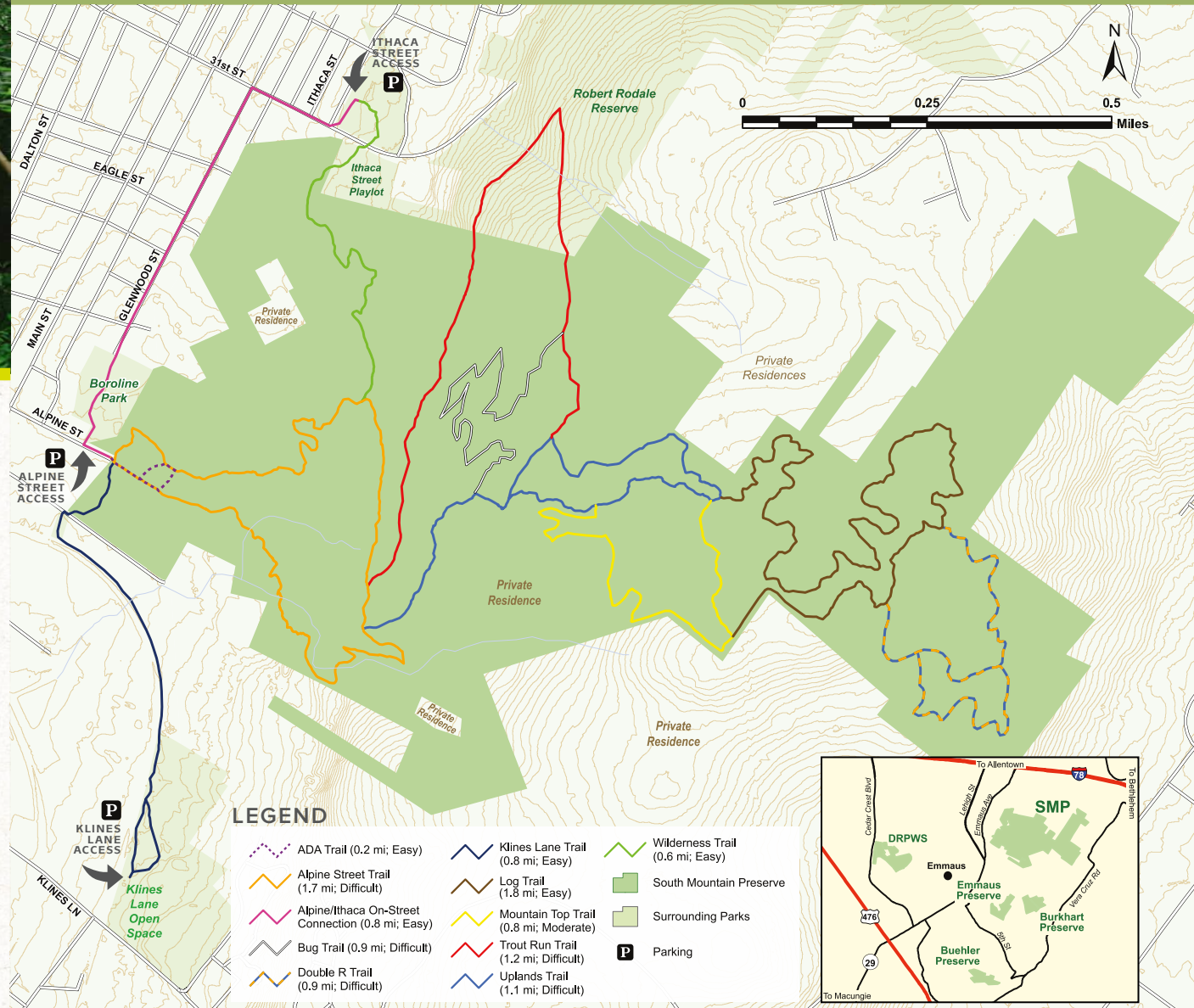
## South Mountain Preserve

### The Story of the Mountain, Our First Preserve

A handful of forward-thinking citizens put pencil to paper to permanently protect their beloved South Mountain and the natural beauty it cast upon the Lehigh Valley. Their efforts were matched with the committed support of Robert “Bob” Rodale, a local champion of organic farming and then chairman and chief of Rodale Press. Rodale’s move enabled the purchase of South Mountain Preserve as one of the organization’s first land acquisitions in 1973.

Before its protection, the mountain served the Lenni Lenape people by providing settlements, refuge, and a vital source of trade materials. European settlements were founded by the Moravians, who settled in areas with vital drinking water sources, which flowed reliably, even in dry periods. As the green background in the Industrial Revolution, the forests were timbered for lumber and mined for iron ore, limestone for the steel mills, and, in limited quantities, gold and uranium.

Today, South Mountain boasts more than 440 acres of woodland trails, unique wetland habitat, pronounced rocky outcroppings, and unique vistas in an otherwise urban landscape. Still, it is considered part of the 800+-acre Robert Rodale Reserve, one of the most important natural areas in the Lehigh Valley.



Please abide by the following: Hours are from dawn to dusk • Hunting and trapping are prohibited • Collecting of plants, animals, and rocks is prohibited • Be respectful of others using the property • No motor vehicles • Please stay on the trails • Do not litter – please carry out all trash • Pets must be leashed, under control at all times, and cleaned up after • Do not smoke or start fires • No camping • Alcohol, illegal drugs, and weapons of any type are prohibited • No glass containers

*Wildlands Conservancy is not responsible for injury, theft, or accident. In case of an emergency, call 911.*