



North Monoosnoc Summit from Granite Street

Brief Description: This loop hike to the top of North Monoosnoc Hill features two great viewpoints, one looking east over Pierce Pond and the other looking northwest towards Mt. Monadnock.

Distance, Time, and Difficulty: This is a moderate hike of about 2.2 miles and takes about one hour and fifteen minutes to complete (more time if you take a rest at the viewpoints.)

Uses: Hiking, snowshoeing, birding, observing wildlife, geocaching, and hunting.

This hike is within Leominster's Watershed Area so dogs are NOT allowed per Leominster Water Department regulation!

Directions to Granite Street Trailhead: From Monument Square in the center of Leominster, take West St. for 1.0 mile to a left fork with a small sign for Leominster High School. Take the left fork onto Granite Street and follow it for 1.0 mile to the end of the pavement. Go straight up the rough dirt road for 0.2 mile and then right into the Granite Street Trailhead parking lot. (Note: you may need a high-clearance vehicle for the rough dirt road; sometimes it is bumpy and eroded from rainstorms.)

Trailhead Address: 375 Granite Street.

Trailhead Parking: There is room for about 10 cars in the parking lot. Please don't park in front of the gate.

The Hike: From the trailhead kiosk at the parking lot, follow the yellow dot trail that enters the woods to the left. The trail here is mostly level and easy walking. At **Intersection #17**, go right. The trail wanders gently downhill by a stone wall to cross a small brook. Immediately after the brook, an unmarked trail comes in from the right. Follow the yellow dot trail to the left as it ascends North Monoosnoc Hill.

Viewpoint at Intersection #2

As you get up near the viewpoint, you reach **Intersection #2** with the blue-blazed Monoosnoc Trail (the intersection sign is hidden on a tree to the right). From the scenic vista looking eastward, you can see Pierce Pond and the Twin City Mall. This is a great spot to take a break or stop for lunch! Bring your binoculars to get the full value of the wide open vista.

Cross Wooded Summit to Viewpoint of Mt. Monadnock

When you are done looking at the view, turn around and follow the blue dot Monoosnoc Trail as it wanders upwards to the southwest over some rocky outcrops, passing through a magical forest of stunted trees covered in lichen.

After a few minutes, the blue dot trail makes a sharp left turn at an intersection with an unmarked trail to the right (this will be blazed in yellow dots at some point). Take this short spur to the right where you will find a rocky outcropping with a clearing in the forest to the northwest. Look carefully for a beautiful view of grand Mount Monadnock far off in New Hampshire! You can also look for a tiny drill hole in the granite ledge indicating the actual summit of North Monoosnoc Hill (985 feet).

Intersection #3

From this vista, go back to the blue dot trail as it continues gently downhill to the south and passes some stands of mountain laurel. At **Intersection #3**, you connect with an old woods road blazed in yellow dots coming in from the right. Follow the blue blazed Monoosnoc Trail, now on the old woods road, to the left.

Stone Wall

After a short distance, you hike past the corner of a craggy, lichen-covered stone wall on your right. As the trail descends, it becomes a bit rough, rocky, and eroded. This stretch can be quite wet in the spring. Just before you reach another old woods road, you see an abandoned, rusted car, lying upside down next to a nice outcropping of rock.

Intersection 4

Right after passing the car and rock outcrop, you come to **Intersection #4**, with a woods road (the old Granite Street that used to pass through these hills), heading both right and left. To get back to the trailhead, go left following the yellow dots. The trail here is somewhat steep and rocky.

Pass Intersections 18 and 19 Back to Trailhead

Near a stand of small birch trees, you pass an unmarked trail to the left and then shortly come to **Intersection #18** with a yellow blazed trail coming in through a stone wall on the left. Almost immediately thereafter, you pass **Intersection #19** with an unmarked trail (to be blazed in yellow dots) off to the right.

Continue to follow the yellow dot trail on the old woods road straight ahead to the southwest. This section of the trail can sometimes wet in spring. You soon see a green metal pipe gate. The trailhead and parking area are just beyond on the left.

Updated 5/30/2011 by the Leominster Trail Stewards.

For more information, go to www.leominstertrailstewards.org

Trail Facts

Hike Length*	2.2 mi
Starting Elevation*	725 ft
Max Elevation*	968 ft
Max Vertical Change*	243 ft
Est. Time to Complete*	~75 min

* All distances and times are approximate



Trail Elevations

