

## **SECTION 27: WILEY BROOK TO CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENTER**

### **SNAPSHOT:**

This section offers a combination of gentle, rolling, ungroomed terrain through the woods, and the groomed trails of the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. A short stretch, between Rte. 14 and Craftsbury Common, is shared with snowmobiles.

**LENGTH:** 10.4 miles

### **DIFFICULTY:**

This section requires an intermediate level of technical skills. The ungroomed portion of the Trail is narrow but the slopes are gentle. The snow on the short stretch shared with snowmobiles is groomed and well packed. The Craftsbury Outdoor Center trail network is well groomed throughout the ski season.

### **DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL**

#### **ACCESS/EXIT POINTS (south to north):**

##### **1. East Hill (Eden Mountain) Rd. - Eden**

From Rte. 14 in Craftsbury, head southwest on North Wolcott Rd. After 0.45 miles, take the first right on Merrill Loop, then immediately go right again on Collinsville Rd. From Merrill Loop, follow Collinsville Rd. 1.4 miles north and turn left (west) on Eden Mountain Rd. Follow Eden Mountain Rd. 2.5 miles to the CT spur trailhead. (As you go west from Craftsbury to Eden, Eden Mountain Rd. becomes East Hill Rd.)

Alternatively, from Rte. 15 in Johnson or Hyde Park, take, respectively, Rte. 100C or Rte. 100 north for 10 miles to Eden Mills. Turn right (east) on East Hill Rd. Go about two miles until you see Square Rd. on the left. Continue past Square Rd. on East Hill Rd. for about 200 yards to the top of the hill and CT spur trailhead on the south side of the road.

Parking for two or three cars is available along the side of East Hill Rd. near the CT spur trailhead. Ski 1.8 miles south to join the CT just north of Wiley Brook bridge.

##### **2. North Craftsbury Rd. – Craftsbury**

From Rte. 14 in Craftsbury follow the signs to Craftsbury Common. A big parking lot is maintained by the town on the east side of North Craftsbury Rd. in the village of Craftsbury Common adjacent to the CT.

##### **3. Craftsbury Outdoor Center - Craftsbury**

From Rte. 14 in Craftsbury follow the signs to the Outdoor Center. (From the Craftsbury Common green, go north on North Craftsbury Rd., and then bear right onto Wylie Hill Rd. Immediately turn right on Mill Village Rd. After it curves left heading into Mill Village, go right on Lost Nation Rd. to the COC.

### **ROUTE DESCRIPTION:**

From the fork in the trail 75 yards north of the Wiley Brook bridge (0.0), turn right (east) and climb gradually through the woods for 0.4 mi to where the woods open onto a wetland. Turn right (south) to skirt the wetland and go 0.2 mi., crossing a stream, to join a logging trace. Follow the logging trace east-southeast for 0.5 miles, first on the level and then gently downhill, until the slope bottoms out. Keep heading roughly east another 0.3 miles to the crest of a ridge. Ski down off the ridge to the left (east then northeast) through the woods for about 0.8 mi. emerging briefly

into a field. Follow the right (east) edge of the field about 150 yards, then turn right (east) into woods, winding northeasterly for about 0.6 mi., emerging first onto a new logging road then a large field (2.8).

Turn right (southeast) and ski about 0.7 miles along the edge of the field, then back into the woods on a major logging road to a big log landing. Turn left (east-southeast) and follow a smaller logging road, then a trail for about 0.8 miles, emerging on to a sugaring road. Turn right (south) downhill and following the sugar road around a long curve about 0.75 mi. to the east, northeast, and finally due north to ski upstream along the west bank of the Wild Branch. Cross a wooden bridge over the Wild Branch, emerging in a field. Ski uphill (southeast) 0.2 miles to a telephone pole just north of a brown building on Collinsville Rd (5.2).

Go straight east across Collinsville Rd. and uphill through an overgrown pasture for about 0.2 miles. Turn right (southeast) and climb gently along an old roadbed. Then descend gently across a field to enter thick woods (just after crossing a VAST trail and some wet seeps). Continue southeast in the woods for about 0.1 miles before turning left to follow the power line right of way over the crest of a hill to the east. Continue downhill alongside a blueberry orchard and take a hard right to swing south of the house and pond. Cross Coburn Hill Rd. (5.8) under the same power line into a pasture. Watch out for saplings and barbed-wire fences as you descend along the southern edge of the pastures to VT Rte. 14 (6.5).

Cross Rte. 14, skiing east along the side of Post Rd. Cross to the field on the south side of the road at a bridge over the Black River, where the CT joins a VAST trail. About 300 yards east of the Black River, the Trail climbs southeast uphill through woods. Continue straight on the CT when Craftsbury Outdoor Center (COC) Trail 6e exits to the right (south). Climb steeply southeast, then east through woods. Exit the VAST trail to the right (east) and uphill through a farm field and around a new house to North Craftsbury Rd. at Craftsbury Common (7.9). The parking lot here provides an intermediate bail out point. Cross North Craftsbury Rd. and ski east across athletic fields to a junction with groomed COC Trail 6. Follow COC trails 6, 6c, and 6, to the Craftsbury Outdoor Center (10.4). Be sure to check in at the Nordic center to pick up a map and pay the appropriate trail fee.

**DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:**

<b>Mileage Northbound</b>	<b>Landmark</b>	<b>Mileage Southbound</b>
0.0	Wiley Brook bridge	10.4
2.8	Large field	7.6
5.2	Collinsville Road	5.2
5.8	Coburn Hill Road	4.6
6.5	Rte. 14	3.9
7.9	Craftsbury Common	2.5
10.4	Craftsbury Outdoor Center	0.0

**SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:**

The Craftsbury Outdoor Center maintains one of the finest groomed Nordic ski networks in the east, providing the opportunity for many loops and side trail excursions. Snow is very reliable here so many ski events are scheduled throughout the winter.