

Down heavily wooded parcels are on the northwest flank of Bald Mountain, reaching about to the ridgeline of the mountain. The mountain is visible from a large part of the Connecticut Valley and is crossed by the Shenipsit Trail, a part of the Blue Trail System.

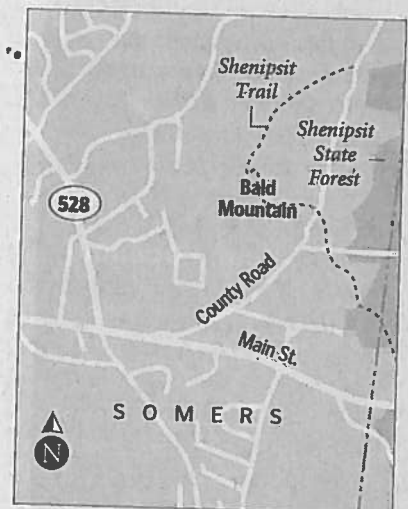
"We are getting quite a bit of contiguous open space out there," said Karl Hasel, a member of the trust's board of directors. "I think Bald Mountain has always been a high priority for us."

Smith said that the trust would be developing a stewardship plan for the parcel that could include some selective logging to maintain a wildlife corridor and walking trails.

"You figure with the Bridge property and the new parcel, we have more than 80 acres up there," Smith said. "It's a good chunk of land. It's a beautiful upland forest filled with oak and maple. It's also something you have to take care of and watch over."

The trust, town and state have teamed up to preserve more than 400 acres of the mountain. Overall, the trust owns more than 470 acres, with nearly half of the total in Somers. The trust serves Somers, Stafford, Enfield, Ellington, Vernon, East Windsor and Union.

*Questions or column suggestions are welcome. Peter Marteka may be reached by phone at 860-647-5362, by mail at The Courant, 200 Adams St., Manchester, CT 06040, or by e-mail at [pmarteka@courant.com](mailto:pmarteka@courant.com).*



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