Hiking/Skinning Policy

Please review the full Uphill Travel Policy at sugarbush.com/discover/winter-trail-use-policy. The snow report contains the latest updates.

Hiking or skinning is permitted once the mountains are open, before and after operating hours at both mountains, with the following provisions:

- All uphill travelers must obtain an Uphill Travel Permit online, or in person at Guest Services at Lincoln Peak.

Designated Routes at Lincoln Peak

- Between the hours of 5 PM to 10 PM on the following trail: Easy Rider to Lower Pushover to Pushover to Birch Run.
- Between the hours of 4 AM to 7 AM on the following trails: Racer’s Edge to Lower Snowball to Snowball to the top of the Valley House Chair.
- Due to plowing, parking for hiking and skinning is provided at Lincoln Peak in the heli lot, to the right of The Schoolhouse.

Designated Routes at Mt. Ellen

- Between the hours of 5 PM to 10 PM and 4 AM to 7 AM on the following trails: Easy Does It to Straight Shot to Cruiser to Lower Rim Run to Rim Run.
- Due to plowing, parking for hiking and skinning is provided at Mt. Ellen in the lot next to the Sunny Double lift.

Snowshoeing is a great way to experience the quiet, see signs of wildlife, and get exercise during winter. There are two ways to enjoy Sugarbush woods on snowshoes: either self-guided access to designated terrain or guided tours into Slide Brook Wildlife Management Area. For tour dates and times, please visit sugarbush.com.

Guided Gate House Loop Tour
Explore the Gate House woods with one of our Outback Guides giving you insights on the area’s natural features and inhabitants. Territory of black bear, moose, deer, coyote, bobcat, fisher, ermine, owl, turkey, & woodpecker. Though actual critter sightings are rare, trekkers will learn to interpret tracks, scarred trees, nipped branches, and to recognize the sounds in the forest. (1 – 1.5 hrs)

Guided Slide Brook Snowshoe Tours
Our Outback Guide leads your snowshoe adventure into the Slide Brook wilderness, territory of black bear, moose, deer, coyote, bobcat, fisher, ermine, owl, turkey, & woodpecker. Tours through the basin are physically warming and mentally stimulating as natural features found in passing give clues to the lives of Slide Brook’s inhabitants. Though actual critter sightings are rare, trekkers will learn to interpret tracks, scarred trees, nipped branches, and to recognize the sounds in the forest. (2.5 – 3 hrs)

Twilight Snowshoe Tours
Experience the mountain in a different light. Ride the last chair on the Gate House Quad and embark on your Twilight Snowshoe adventure on the Gate House Trail, home territory of black bear, moose, deer, coyote, bobcat, fisher, ermine, owl, turkey, & woodpecker. Our Outback Guide will teach trekkers how to interpret tracks, scarred trees, nipped branches, and to recognize the sounds in the forest. This is the perfect way to end the day with your family and transition into après at Rumbles or the Castlerock Pub. (1 – 1.5 hrs)

Snowshoe rentals available at The Farmhouse at Lincoln Peak and the Rental Shop in the Mount Ellen Base Lodge.
**SNOWSHOE TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS**

**BEGINNER**

**WARREN HOUSE TRAIL**
- **Duration:** approx. 45 min.
- Gentle out-and-back trail with loop at the far end; little elevation change; parallels Clay Brook. Terrain offers mixed softwoods and hardwoods; quiet and secluded through close to human activity. Look for bear-marked beech trees and animal tracks.

**LOWER WOODS TRAIL**
- **Duration:** approx. 1.5 hrs.
- Gentle out-and-back trail with loop at the far end; little elevation change; parallels Clay Brook. Terrain offers mixed softwoods and hardwoods; quiet and secluded through close to human activity. Look for bear-marked beech trees and animal tracks.

**CLIFFS TRAIL**
- **Duration:** approx. 1.5 hrs.
- An aerobic point-to-point trail with 600+ ft elevation change. Shuttle bus access only (no trailhead parking). Park at Lincoln Peak base area and call Mad Bus for pick-up (802)496-RIDE. Terrain is more isolated and consists of mixed hardwoods and softwoods with some wet spots that can be easily crossed. Look for moose, deer and animal tracks.

**INTERMEDIATE**

**VILLAGE WOODS TRAIL**
- **Duration:** approx. 2 hrs.
- An aerobic point-to-point trail with 600+ ft elevation change. Shuttle bus access only (no trailhead parking). Park at Lincoln Peak base area and call Mad Bus for pick-up (802)496-RIDE. Terrain is more isolated and consists of mixed hardwoods and softwoods with some wet spots that can be easily crossed. Look for active wildlife signs.

**LOCKWOOD LOOP TRAIL (MT. ELLEN)**
- **Duration:** approx. 2.5 hrs.
- Trailhead: south edge of Snowflake trail, just above the roped-off water bar; marked with blue Snowshoe Trail signs & blue tape.
- Description: Moderate hike on out-and-back trail loop and small elevation changes. Terrain offers mixed hardwoods and softwoods with some wet spots which can be avoided. Look for bear-marked beech, Lockwood Brook and abandoned ski trail at farthest end, split boulder with small critter ‘home’ on lower loop and animal tracks.

**ADVANCED**

**GATE HOUSE TRAIL**
- **Duration:** approx. 2.5 hrs.
- Our most aerobic out-and-back hike; climbs 800+ ft to Castlerock Connection ski trail. The terrain offers a mix of hardwoods and softwoods with some wet spots that can be easily crossed. Look for ski area views to the south, bear-marked beech trees and animal tracks.

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**FOLLOW THESE SIGNS**

**LOCKWOOD LOOP TRAIL (MT. ELLEN)**
- Intermediate, Approx 2.5 hrs
- Trailhead: south edge of Snowflake trail, just above the roped-off water bar; marked with blue Snowshoe Trail signs & blue tape.

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**GATE HOUSE TRAIL**
- Approx 2.5 hrs RT.
- Trailhead: behind Gate House Lodge; climb bank inside rope, then look left in trees for first trail sign; marked with blue Snowshoe Trail signs & blue tape.