

TURTLE MOUNTAIN & MAWHANE MOUNTAIN (Welsford area)

Distance: Turtle Mountain: 21 km, 7 hr return

Mawhane Mountain: 15.2 km, 5 hr return

Difficulty: Challenging due to the distance involved, and the rocky trail.

CAUTION:

Allow 6 – 7 hours of daylight for the Turtle Mountain hike.

Turtle Mountain is plenty of hike for one day, and it is better to treat Mawhane Mountain as a separate hike.

The fork in the trail at 6 km is tricky because you can't see where the Turtle Mountain trail continues on the far right.

The left hand trail leads naturally towards Mawhane Mountain. (pronounced MA-HAW-NEE)

The trail to Turtle Mountain is easy to miss on the far right. (Sometimes marked with orange flagging tape)

There are several short side loops along the trail that bypass rough or wet areas.

As you approach Turtle Mountain, keep to the wider main trail when you see a less traveled trail on the right.

It's helpful to have a GPS with the coordinates entered.....especially the place where the trail splits and goes to the two mountains.

GETTING THERE:

Travel route 7 to about km 76, then watch for the large blue "STONEHAMMER-Geopark" sign. (45° 21.969'N 66° 16.958'W)

Either park along route 7, or:

Near this sign, along the opposite side of the guardrail, there is an uneven track that allows you to carefully drive to a gravel side road.

Cross this gravel road and park in the large parking area.

Leave the parking area and turn RIGHT on this gravel road, and go a short distance past an underpass, then turn RIGHT and see the white and orange gate.

STAGE 1 OF THE TRAIL (12 km return to the parking area)

***to where the trail divides into the Mawhane Mtn. Trail & the Turtle Mtn. Trail**

(KM 0) (45° 21.893'N 66° 16.815'W) **(the gate)**

Pass through the gate, and walk for about 45 minutes (3 km) along the gravel road to an atv bridge.

Note: about 5 minutes after passing a red camp on the right beside Robin Hood lake, keep left at the fork in the road.

(KM 3) (45° 21.057'N 66° 18.572'W) elapsed time: 45 minutes **(the bridge)**

At the junction of Robin Hood and Little John lakes, carefully cross the ATV bridge and follow the trail into the woods.

This section of trail has many short side trail loops to the right, bypassing wet or rocky areas.



(KM 4.5)

The trail crosses an open area and an atv trail.

(KM 5)

The trail reaches an old wood road on the right.

Eventually the trail turns west and leaves the woods in favor of an open landscape of sheep laurel and black spruce. When you come to a fork, keep to the RIGHT as this is the drier trail. When the two trails come back together, you will be near the side trail to Mawhane Mountain.

(KM 6) (45° 21.711'N 66° 20.223'W) **(where the trail splits)**

The trail reaches a plateau, and a 1.6 km long side trail on the left leads south to Mawhane Mountain.

There are some good views from Mawhane Mountain. **(Distance: 3.2 km, 1 hour return)**

The trail here leads naturally towards Mawhane Mountain, and the Turtle Mountain trail is easy to miss on the far right.

STAGE 2 OF THE TRAIL

The two trails leading to Mawhane Mtn. & Turtle Mtn.

MAWHANE MOUNTAIN TRAIL (3.2 km return to the fork in the trail)

At the end of stage 1 (6 km point), take the left hand trail and head south 1.6 km to Mawhane Mountain.

The mountain top is a bare area of rock and low bushes with good views. (45° 21.051'N 66° 19.666'W)

Mawhane Mountain summit is a very nice spot, and well worth the trip.

TURTLE MOUNTAIN TRAIL (9 km return to the fork in the trail)

At the end of stage 1 (6 km point), take the right hand trail southwest for 4.5 km to Turtle Mountain.

Turtle Mountain is one of the top daytrips in New Brunswick.

(KM 8.5)

The trail crosses a brook.

(KM 9.5)

The trail reaches the rock of Turtle Mountain and then ascends very steeply on a path reminiscent of a tilted sidewalk.

This is the most strenuous part of the trail, and trekking poles are helpful.

(KM 10.5)

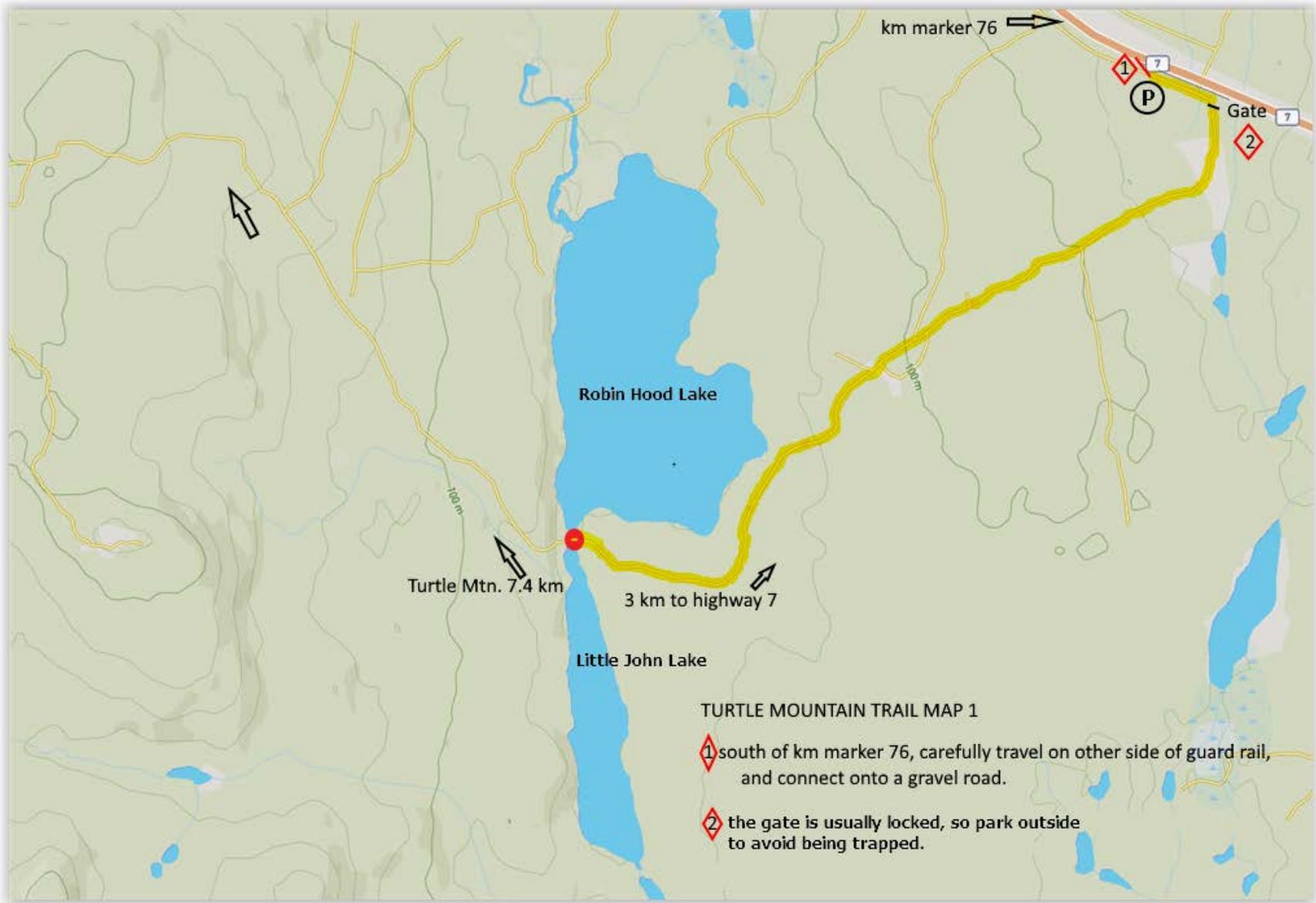
The trail reaches the top of Turtle Mountain. (45° 20.189'N 66° 21.082'W)

Nestled in the patch of woods on top of the mountain are a couple of spots to pitch a tent.

Walking around the summit provides a 360 degree view, but stay back from the edge.

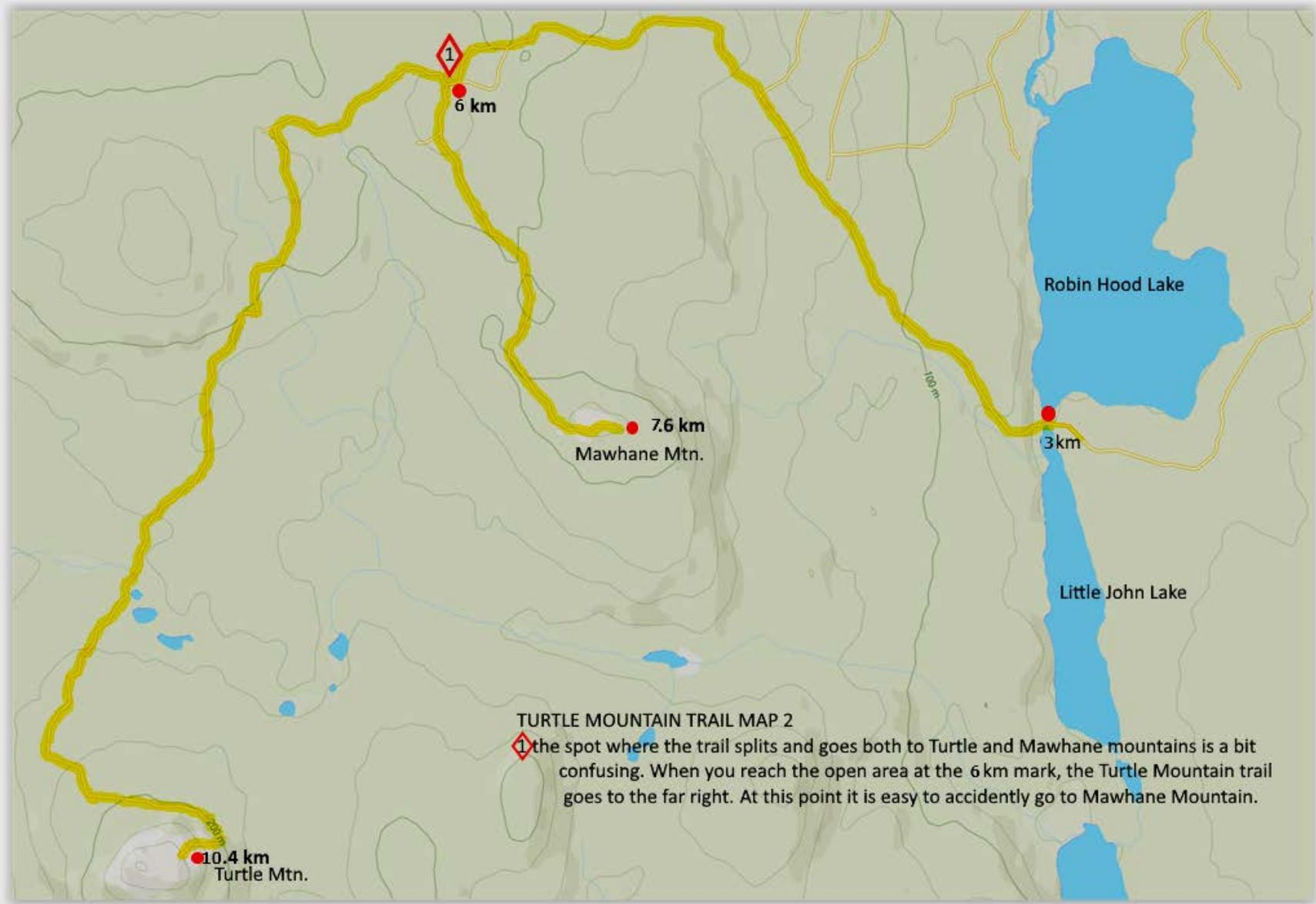
Dave Suttie, November 2017





TURTLE MOUNTAIN TRAIL MAP 1

- 1** south of km marker 76, carefully travel on other side of guard rail, and connect onto a gravel road.
- 2** the gate is usually locked, so park outside to avoid being trapped.



The confusing area of trail 6 km from the gate.

