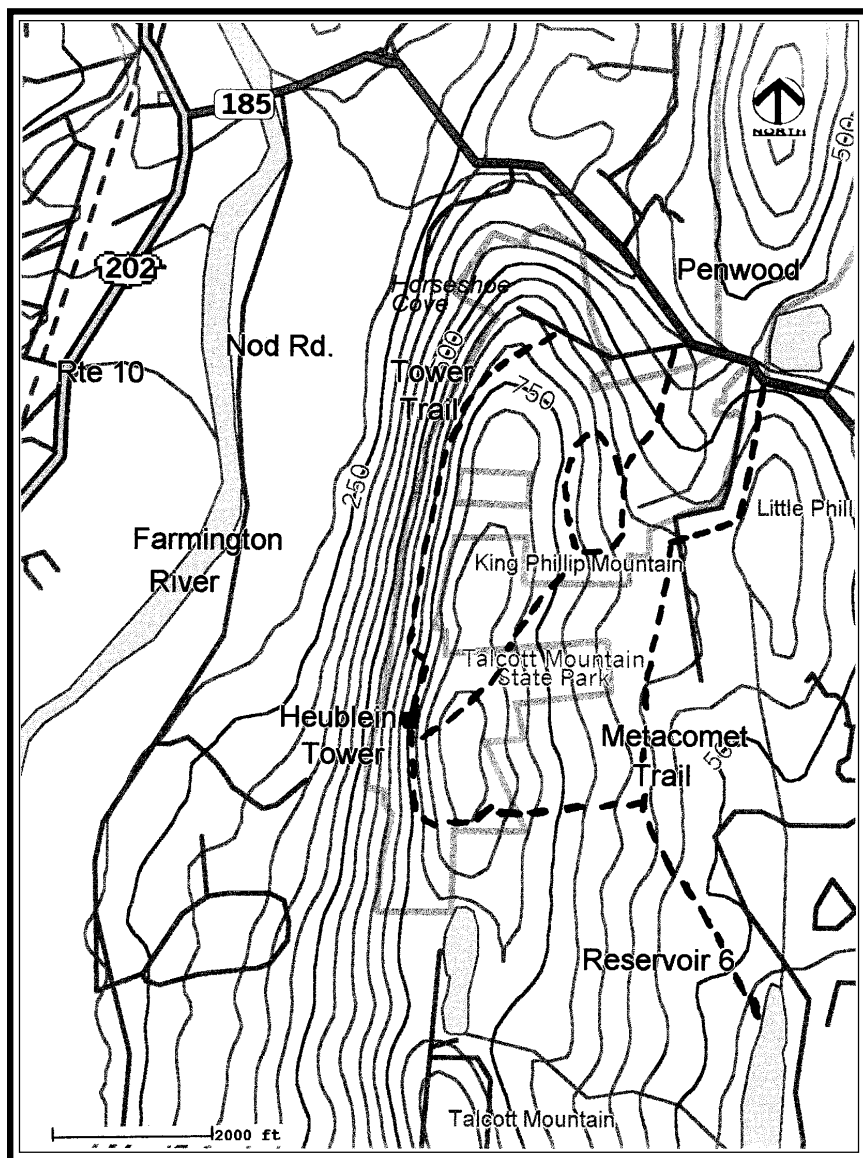


TALCOTT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK



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Talcott Mountain is the most dominant natural feature of the Farmington Valley and it showcases the most notable man-made landmark: The Heublein Tower. In addition to the tower, Talcott Mountain State Park includes the Tower Trail leading to it and King Philip's Cave, another important local landmark.

The Park entrance is on the south side of Route 185, just over a mile east of Route 10. The Tower Trail begins on the left, half-way up the access road and is clearly marked. The trail is 1 1/2 miles in length, the first 1000 feet being steep and the remainder fairly flat. Most of the hike is easy but hikers must be extremely careful near the cliff edges.

Reaching the edge of the cliff visitors are treated to a stunning view of the river valley and beyond. This ridge is a popular spot to view fall foliage as well as the migration of hawks and other birds as they ride the thermals. Just below is King Philip's Cave, named after the Pequot leader Metacomet. Some say King Philip may have taken refuge there as his troops burned the settlement of Simsbury. Resist the temptation to take the trail down to the cave as it is very dangerous. Further along on the right is a small pond formed from rain water trapped by the underlying rock.

The Heublein Tower is the most recent of five towers built here and was completed as a country retreat in 1914 by Gilbert F. Heublein. The State now owns the tower, and with the help of the Friends of Hueblein Tower the building is open to the public. Hikers preferring a loop trail can return to their cars by continuing east on the trail to a junction with the blue blazed Metacomet trail. A left turn returns to Route 185 and a right leads to MDC reservoir No. 6. off of Route 44.

