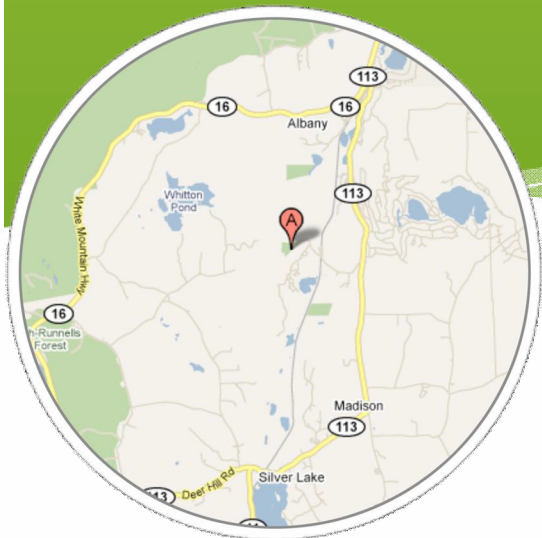


Visiting the Madison Boulder Natural Area

The Madison Boulder Natural Area is located at the end of Boulder Road, off NH Rte. 113 in Madison, NH. A short walk from the parking area will bring you to this "very impressive rock." First time visitors are often amazed at its actual size. Bring your camera and a picnic lunch. There are several picnic "rocks" along the path around the boulder where you may sit and enjoy this natural wonder.



This park is un-staffed but is open to the public year-round at no charge. Please be reminded that no comfort stations are available and all items (including trash) must be carried out with you when you leave. Should an emergency arise during your visit, please call 911 for assistance.

**TITLE LXII of the NH CRIMINAL CODE CHAPTER 634
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY
Section 634:2.XI states: Under this law any person convicted of criminal mischief against a natural geological formation, site, or rock formation which has been designated as a natural area or landmark shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.**



New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation

Assisted by the National Park Service, the NH Geological Survey and the Geological Society of NH.

More at:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/gsu/index.htm>

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NH STATE PARK'S Madison Boulder Natural Area

NH Route 113, Madison, NH



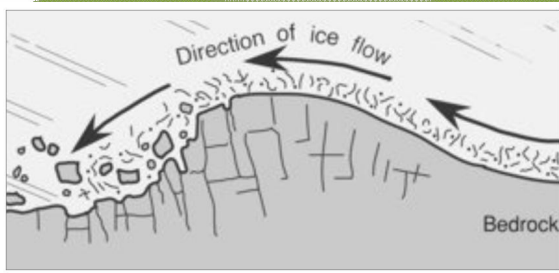
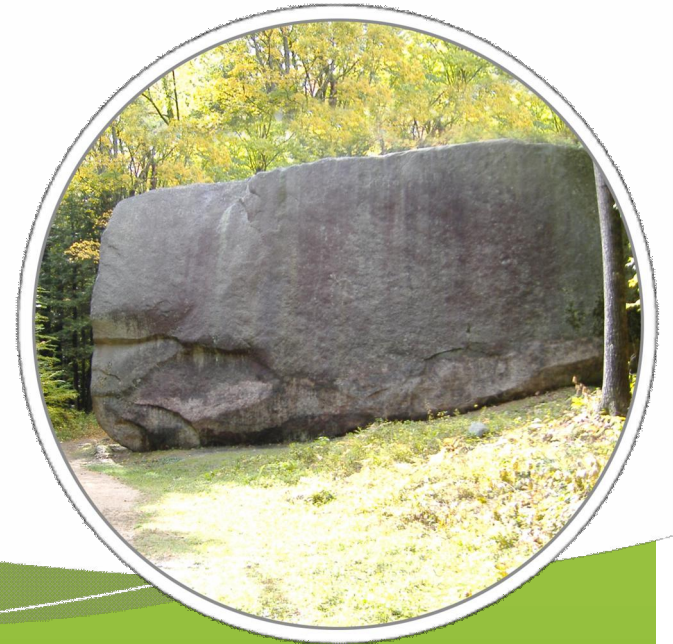
Largest known
glacial erratic in
North America and a
National Natural
Landmark

How Big?

Today we are not able to see the whole boulder. Its base is buried up to 10' deep in the soil upon which it rests. With this in mind, the Madison Boulder measures 23' (7m) in height, 37' (11m) from front to back and 85' (28m) from left to right.

Imagine trying to put this on a scale!

However, there are ways of estimating its weight. Because a cubic foot of Conway Granite weighs approximately 164.86 lbs., we can calculate the approximate weight of this irregularly shaped object. Current estimates put its weight at 5,963 tons (11,926,000 lbs.).



What is a glacial erratic?

The most recent ice advance occurred during the Pleistocene (ply-sto-seen) Epoch, which is a unit of geologic time that began about 2.6 million years ago. The world's climate had cooled enough to allow snow to accumulate into huge sheets of ice that covered much of the northern half of North America. Here in New England, the continental glacier flowed southward from present day Labrador. As this ice flowed over our hills and mountains, it broke off pieces of rock from the underlying bedrock.

Some of these rocks were quite large.

The Madison Boulder was probably plucked from Whitten Ledge, less than two miles to the northwest, which is made of Conway Granite. The ice transported the boulder, smoothing its edges, and left it sitting on a different type of rock, called the Concord Granite. A glacial boulder sitting on bedrock of a different type is known as a glacial erratic.

History of ownership

The Town of Madison was incorporated in 1852 in honor of President James Madison. The land upon which the boulder sits went through several owners until 1946, when the Kennett family deeded the 17 acre site to the state, as a memorial to the late A. Crosby Kennett of Conway, NH.

In 1970 the Madison Boulder was designated a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior because this enormous erratic "is an outstanding illustration of the power of an ice sheet to pluck out very large blocks of fractured bedrock and move them substantial distances."

