The New England Trail (NET) is a National Scenic Trail. This 233 mile trail connects Long Island Sound in Guilford, CT to Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire. It crosses Farmington from south to north on the Metacomet Trail. The southern section takes you over Rattlesnake Mt. (highest point in Farmington at 750’), by the historic landmark of Will Warren’s Den, and to great views east and south from Rattlesnake Cliffs. You can also continue south over Pinnacle Rock, with it’s views to the west, and reach a former Nike Missile Base.

Parking is off rt. 6 at 41° 42’ 31.19” N 72° 49’ 45.46” W. Ascend on the blue and white blazed trail (B/W), turning right at the junction with the blue blazed Metacomet Trail (B) at 0.1 mile. At 0.2 miles, there is a small clearing on your right with a great view to the north. Continue upward going around the tall TV towers to reach Rattlesnake Mountain at 1.1 mile. The actual high point is to your right, but the forest blocks any good view points. Descend, taking a sharp left turn in front of Will Warren’s Den. The trail now turns east to the great views from the Rattlesnake Cliffs at 1.3 miles. Returning to your car completes 2.6 miles and 850 feet vertical.

The Nike Missile Base extension adds 2.2 miles, 1,140 vertical feet, plus the steepest trail sections in town. (note the Hike Profile above) It is much harder than the first, but the rewards are great views to the west and a historic connection to the Cold War. The blue trail goes down the steep front face of the Rattlesnake Cliffs, as well as several other steep descents before reaching Pinnacle Rock at 2.2 miles. This is followed by an almost level hike to the Missile Base (1956-1961) ending at 2.4 miles. The round trip is 4.8 miles and 1,990 vertical feet. (The video link below shows Pinnacle Rock as part of the HA-67C Nike Missile Base)

Rattlesnake Mt: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rattlesnake_Mountain_%28Connecticut%29
HA-67C Nike Missile Base Plainville CT: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWm-ZoWnh3k

Alan M. Perrie 10/17/17