

GENERAL INFORMATION

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE PARKS

HISTORIC SITES

WAYSIDE PICNIC AREAS

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BEAR BROOK STATE PARK (Allenstown) 1943

9,307 acres -- largest park in the system. Eight miles northeast of Suncook, off Route 28. Season: mid-May to mid-October. Main area includes beach and bathhouse on Catamount Pond, family picnic area; separate group picnic grounds (with shelter) for up to 1,500 persons, play fields, boat rentals, pond and stream fishing. Park includes six ponds, two complete summer camps (available for off-season rental), 3,500-acre game refuge open each fall only for deer hunting by archers, 18-mile system of marked, maintained hiking trails, archery course. Separate public campground with 90 tent sites on a pond.

Nature Center operated by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire -- field trips, evening programs, natural science museum. Naturalist in charge. Open July and August.

CARDIGAN STATE PARK (Orange) 1918

5,525 acres. Four and one-half miles east of Canaan, off Routes 4 and 118. Season: mid-June to mid-October. A mountain road leads to picnic grounds and parking area on the west slope of Mt. Cardigan. Hiking trails to the 3,100-foot summit and lookout station. AMC lodge, open year-round to members and guests, is the base of several trails.

GLOUGH STATE PARK (Weare)

150 acres. Ten miles southwest of Concord, off Route 13. Located within the Hopkinton-Everett Federal flood control project at the foot of the Everett Dam. Pool of 120 acres formed by the Piscataquog River, 900-foot beach, two bathhouses, 120 tables, 60 fireplaces in picnic groves, boat launching ramp. Boating (no motors). Season: late May to mid-October.

COLEMAN STATE PARK (Stewartstown) 1957

1,685 acres. On Little Diamond Pond. Twelve miles east of Colebrook, off Route 26 and an unnumbered road. Season: mid-June to mid-October. Located in the heavily-timbered Connecticut Lakes Region, noted for game fishing and hunting. Stream and lake fishing, boating, picnicking, recreation building. Campground with 15 tent sites.

CRAWFORD NOTCH STATE PARK (Crawford Notch) 1913

5,950 acres. Twelve miles north of Bartlett on Route 302. Season: late May to mid-October. Ten miles of scenic, rugged natural beauty, two waterfalls, Flume and Silver Cascades, visible from the highway. Arethusa Falls, one of the State's highest, is two miles from the road on a path. Ideal for fishing, photography; hiking on trails of the Appalachian Mountain Club system.

Large menagerie of native wildlife -- birds and animals seldom seen outside the forest (free admission). Separate campground with 24 tent sites. Shop offers products fashioned by members of the New Hampshire Blind Association, handicapped persons, and New Hampshire artisans. Separate souvenir shop. Refreshments. Site of the Willey House, a stop-over for wagon teams traveling between the mountains and the seacoast in the 19th century. The occupants, Samuel Willey, his wife, five children, and two hired men perished here in 1826 when an avalanche roared into the notch from Mt. Willey.

ECHO LAKE STATE PARK (North Conway) 1901

396 acres. Two miles west of North Conway via local road off Route 16 and 302. Season: late May to mid-October. A mountain lake with White Horse Ledge as a scenic backdrop. Bathing, picnicking. A scenic road leads to a vantage point on nearby Cathedral Ledge (elev. 700 feet) for views of the Saco River Valley, the Ossipee Range, and the White Mountains.

ELLACOYA STATE BEACH (Gilford) 1956

89 acres. Two miles east of Glendale on Route 11 on the southwest shore of Lake Winnepesaukee. Season: mid-June to Labor Day. 600-foot beach, bathhouses. Large parking lots, refreshment stand. Views across the lake of the Sandwich and Ossipee mountain ranges. Swimming only.

ELM BROOK STATE PARK (Hopkinton)

10 acres. Three miles northeast of Hopkinton, off Route 202. Picnicking and bathing. Area is part of the Everett-Hopkinton Federal flood control project. Season: mid-June to Labor Day.

FOREST LAKE STATE PARK (Dalton) 1934

420 acres. Four miles south of Whitefield, via local road, two miles west of Route 116. Season: late May to Labor Day. A mountain lake in a woodland setting with picnic sites overlooking the water and in birch groves. Bathhouse.

FRANCONIA NOTCH STATE PARK (Franconia) 1928

6,440 acres along Route 3. Season: late May to mid-October. One of the best-known and scenic notches in the White Mountains, traversed by Route 3 from Echo Lake southward for eight miles to Lincoln. A mountainous defile between the towering peaks of the Kinsman and Franconia mountain ranges, featuring many geological wonders. Hiking trails of the Appalachian system. Trail to AMC hut at Lonesome Lake.

ECHO LAKE — Largest body of water in the notch, has mountains on three sides. Famous for its unusual setting. Beach on the lake, boating, fishing, picnicking, trail to Artist's Bluff for a view of the notch.

OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAINS (Great Stone Face, the Profile) — A natural granite likeness of a man's profile jutting out from the sheer cliffs of Cannon Mountain, 1,200 feet above Profile Lake. Visible from the lake shore and Route 3. Carved by the caprice of nature after the great ice sheet melted, the profile is formed by five separate granite blocks, one of which weighs 30 tons. From chin to forehead, it measures about 40 feet.

THE FLUME — Created by titanic natural forces after the great ice sheet melted, this deep chasm extends 800 feet along the flank of Mt. Liberty (elev. 4,460 ft.) and terminates at Avalanche Falls, a 25-foot waterfall. Walls of fractured Conway granite, varying in width from 12 to 20 feet, rise perpendicularly from 60 to 70 feet from the floor of the gorge. A strong boardwalk crisscrossing the chasm affords closeup views of verdant flora growing from crevices in the moist walls.

THE FLUME (continued) (1946 comes under Park management)

The Flume includes Sentinel Pine Bridge and the Pool—a tree 16 feet in circumference and nearly 175 feet long bridging a 130-foot cliff and a pool 40 feet deep and 150 feet in diameter; Liberty Gorge and the Cascades, a torrent of water tumbling into a narrow defile; and the Flume Covered Bridge, one of the oldest in the state.

Several well-marked footpaths lead to the above features. Bus service from the Flume entrance gate to Boulder Store near the entrance of the gorge is ten cents each way. Flume admission: adults, 50 cents; children, (6-12 inc.), 25 cents.

LAFAYETTE CAMPGROUND — South of the Profile. 98 tent sites in the forest. Near AMC hiking trails. Fishing, swimming nearby. Family camping only. Special area near the tramway for groups. Open from late May to late September.

THE BASIN — A deep glacial pothole, 20 feet in diameter, at the foot of a waterfall on the Pemigewasset River. Bored smooth by sand, stones, and water.

AERIAL PASSENGER TRAMWAY — One-half mile north of the Profile. Cable car, suspended from steel carrying cables, ascends with 27 passengers to the mountain station at 4,017 feet elevation on Cannon Mountain in about six minutes. Distance is 5,500 feet; vertical ascent 2,022 feet. Second car descends while the other ascends. Views during the ascent. At the 4,100-foot summit, a platform affords wide views of distant mountains and valleys. Walking trails lead to other vantage points. Summit building with lounges, refreshments, rest rooms. Tramway operates daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fares: Adults, round trip \$2; children, \$1. (1950)

WINTER — CANNON MOUNTAIN has a vast network of 26 slopes and trails served by eight major lifts, including the aerial tramway; Paul Valar's Ski School, ski shop, three heated buildings. Special rates, subject to change.

GREENFIELD STATE PARK (Greenfield) 1959

347 acres. One mile west of Greenfield via Route 136 on Otter Lake. Season: mid-May to mid-October. One of the largest multiple-use parks in the system with separate areas for day visitors and campers. Day-use section includes beach and bathhouse, boat-launching ramp and dock, large picnic grounds for families and organized groups, play field, boating, and fishing. Largest state-operated campground has 252 tent sites, 11 toilet buildings, registration building, 900-foot beach on the lake. Special camping area for groups.

HAMPTON BEACH STATE PARK (Hampton) 1934

50 acres. Route 1-A south of Portsmouth. Two state developments. The Sea Shell, in the heart of the resort section—modern complex with offices housing Sweepstakes sales, meter patrol, Employment Security, lifeguard headquarters — band shell, amphitheater, information services, comfort stations, observation points. At the south end of the beach, the State Park: Ocean bathing, picnicking along the river and in the sand dunes, bathhouse with showers, checking, souvenirs, refreshments. Children's playground. Large parking lot. Open mid-June to Labor Day.

KINGSTON STATE PARK (Kingston) 1934

44 acres. Off Route 125. Season: mid-May to mid-October. Beach and wooded picnic groves on the southern shore of Great Pond; close to the seacoast. Boating, fishing, play fields, special picnic area for organized groups.

MILAN HILL STATE PARK (Milan) 1935

127 acres. Two miles west of Milan off Route 16. Season: mid-June to Labor Day. Picnicking and camping (eight tent sites) on a hilltop in northern New Hampshire. Play area. Views of southern Canada, the White Mountains, and the Kilkenny Range. Trout fishing nearby.

MILLER STATE PARK (Peterborough) 1891

83 acres. Three miles east of Peterborough, off Route 101. Season: late May to mid-October. Paved, scenic road to summit of Pack Monadnock Mountain (2,280 ft.); oldest unit in the system. Views of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts. Picnic sites, walking trails around the summit.

MONADNOCK STATE PARK (Jaffrey) 1905

700 acres. Four miles north of Jaffrey off Route 124. Entrance road extends a mile up the side of the mountain. Season: mid-May to Nov. 11. 30-mile network of maintained trails to the 3,165-foot summit of Mt. Monadnock. Views of all New England states. Summit refreshment stand. Base area: Campground with 21 family tent sites; seven group sites. Especially popular with Boy Scouts, other youth groups. Picnic grounds, recreation building. Swimming five miles away. Stream and lake fishing nearby.

MOOSE BROOK STATE PARK (Gorham) 1934

755 acres. Two miles west of Gorham, off Route 2. Season: mid-June to late September. Excellent base for hiking to the Randolph Range; good trout fishing country. Large pool, bathhouse, picnic grounds for families and groups. Views of the Presidential Range of the White Mountains. Separate campground with 42 tent sites. Recreation building, refreshments.

MT. SUNAPEE STATE PARK (Newbury) 1948

2,194 acres. One mile off Route 103, 35 miles west of Concord. A major year-round recreation area. Summer season: late May to mid-October. Enclosed, four-passenger gondolas ascend 6,800 feet in about 15 minutes to summit of Mt. Sunapee (2,743 ft.). Stationary loading and unloading, 32 cars. Vertical ascent, 1,450 feet. Summit lodge with snack bar. Observation deck for views of Mt. Kearsarge, Mt. Chocorus, Mt. Washington, Mt. Ascutey, and others. Walking trails with overlooks, picnic sites. Hiking trail to Lake Solitude (about a mile).

Base Area: Headquarters building with large cafeteria, souvenir shop, sun terrace, changing displays and exhibit.

Summer Events: Annual Craftsmen's Fair by League of New Hampshire Arts and Crafts, free weekly outdoor band concerts, annual Gem and Mineral Festival. Special package plan for groups includes use of auditorium, gondolas, and beach. Children's playground, shaded picnic sites, exhibition trout pool.

State Beach, 1,000 feet long, on Lake Sunapee. Roped area for children; bathhouse, large parking area, refreshments.

Winter: Network of 175 acres of trails and slopes above 1,300-foot elevation served by seven major lifts. Paul Valar's Ski School, ski shop, heated base and summit lodges with cafeterias. Special rates, subject to change.

OTTER BROOK STATE PARK (Keene) 1964

352 acres. Three miles northeast of Keene, off Route 9. Season: mid-June to mid-October. Swimming and picnicking at a Federal flood control project in the rolling hills of the Connecticut River Valley.

PAWTUCKAWAY STATE PARK (Nottingham) 1923

5,501 acres. Three and one-half miles north of the junction of Routes 101 and Mountain Road in Raymond, off Route 156. Season: late May to mid-October. Boating, fishing, bathing, picnicking, camping, and hiking in a scenic, rugged wilderness.

This newest and largest multiple-use state park was developed (1966) as a prototype of state parks of the future under a new concept in park planning: to create a major recreation complex for intensive public use but still preserve its natural scenic aspects. A master plan split into three development phases was initially proposed. Because of the magnitude of the plan and its estimated cost, only the first phase was developed.

The area developed is in the Neal's Cove section at the northern end of Pawtuckaway Lake. Facilities for day visitors include a 700-foot beach, 25-acre family picnic area with 450 sites, three toilet buildings, a ten-acre group picnic area with shelter building, boat dock, snack bar, bathhouse, a playfield, visitor's information center, and parking for 1,000 cars. A separate campground on nearby Horse Island has 80 family tent sites and three toilet buildings.

Pawtuckaway, including the primitive and rugged Bay of Fundy, is under joint management of the Fish and Game Department (wildlife management), the Division of Resources Development (forest management), and the Division of Parks.

PILLSBURY STATE PARK (Washington) 1920

3,702 acres. Five miles north of Washington on Route 31. Season: mid-June to late September. A wilderness area in rugged country; it includes five ponds. Bird sanctuary. Hiking trails to nearby mountains. Popular with Boy Scouts and youth groups. Limited swimming. Boating, pond and stream fishing. Twenty elementary tent sites on a pond for public camping.

RHODODENDRON STATE PARK (Fitzwilliam) 1946

294 acres. Two and one-half miles from Fitzwilliam on a local road off Route 12. Season: mid-June to Labor Day. One of the largest tracts of wild rhododendron maximum north of the Allegheny Mountains. Over 16 acres of hardy shrubs in a glen surrounded by a walking path. Shrubs usually blossom about mid-July and last about a week. Picnic grounds. Foot trails lead to views of Mt. Monadnock and other peaks in the region.

ROLLINS STATE PARK (Warner) 1935

118 acres. Four miles from Warner, off Route 103 on the south slope of Mt. Kearsarge. Season: late May to mid-October. Mountain road, with turn-outs for sweeping views, winds two miles up the mountain to picnic sites and a parking area. Easy, half-mile trail to summit (2,937 ft.). Good hiking. Vistas of southern New Hampshire.

RYE HARBOR STATE PARK (Rye) 1936

63 acres. Ten miles south of Portsmouth on Route 1-A. Season: late May to mid-September. Picnicking on a breezy promontory overlooking the ocean. Salt water fishing from a stone jetty. At Rye Harbor: Public dock and boat ramp, commercial wharf, boat moorings, service building with toilets, and a large parking area.

SILVER LAKE STATE PARK (Hollis) 1949

80 acres. On Route 122, one mile north of Hollis. Season: mid-May to mid-October. Curved beach, 1,000 feet long, winds around one end of Silver Lake. Swimming and boating, bathhouses. More than 100 picnic sites in shaded groves. Large parking area.

WADLEIGH STATE PARK (North Sutton) 1934

52 acres. On Route 114. Swimming, boating and fishing on Kezar Lake. Bathhouse, refreshments. Picnicking under tall pines. Play fields especially suitable for group outings.

WALLIS SANDS STATE PARK (Rye) 1901

18 acres. South of Portsmouth on Route 1-A. Season: mid-June to Labor Day. Deep, 800-foot pastel beach on the ocean. Spacious, ultra-modern bathhouse with partially open dressing courts, showers, lockers. Refreshments. Large parking area.

WEEKS STATE PARK (Lancaster — formerly Mt. Prospect) 1941

430 acres. Two miles south of Lancaster, off Route 3. Formerly the summer estate of John Wingate Weeks (1860-1926), former Secretary of War, U.S. Senator, and author of legislation which established the White Mountain National Forest. Stucco and fieldstone mansion contains a large trophy room with mementos of Weeks's life, and forest museum. At the 2,058-foot summit, the mansion and nearby observation tower afford views of the Presidential Range, upper Connecticut River Valley, Green Mountains of Vermont, Percy Peaks, Kilkenny Range, and others. Picnic sites.

WELLINGTON STATE PARK (Bristol) 1931

183 acres. Four miles north of Bristol, off Route 3-A. Season: late May to late September. Half-mile beach, one of the state's best, on the western shore of Newfound Lake. Picnic sites directly on the beach and in shaded groves. Swimming, fishing, and boating. Bathhouse. Walking trails. Bird sanctuary.

WENTWORTH STATE PARK (Wolfeboro) 1934

17 acres. Five miles east of Wolfeboro on Route 109. Season: mid-June to late September. A small park on the shores of Lake Wentworth. Swimming, boating, fishing, picnicking. Game areas.

WHITE LAKE STATE PARK (Tamworth) 1933

603 acres. One-half mile north of West Ossipee on Route 16. Season: early June to mid-October. One of the state's most popular campgrounds (185 tent sites).

WHITE LAKE STATE PARK (continued)

Two separate camping areas, many service buildings, long beach on White Lake. Swimming, boating, trout fishing, picnicking, refreshments. Recreation building. Hiking trails. Play areas.

WINSLOW STATE PARK (Wilmot Flat)

3,543 acres. Three miles south of Wilmot Flat, off Route 11. Season: late June to mid-October. Views from a road curving up the northern slope of Mt. Kearsarge (2,937 ft.) to a plateau. Views of the White Mountains and nearby states. Picnic sites, children's playground. One-mile trail to the summit.

H I S T O R I C S I T E SDANIEL WEBSTER BIRTHPLACE (Franklin) 1950

Four miles south of Franklin, off Route 127, near the Salisbury town line. 150 acres. A two-room frame structure, the replica of an ell to the nearby farmhouse in which the distinguished statesman was born. Restored in 1913, the structure contains numerous antique furnishings and utensils of the period (1782-1852) and Webster mementos. Among them is a plate from the family dinner set and Webster's life insurance policy. Picnic sites. Guide Service. Season: late May to mid-October.

GOVERNOR GOODWIN HOUSE (Portsmouth)

Located in the Strawberry Banke restoration project. Built about 1809, the three-story mansion reflects the Bullfinch influence of that period and was occupied by Ichabod Goodwin in 1836 soon after his marriage. Goodwin was governor of the state from 1859-61. The structure was moved onto a permanent foundation in 1963 and completely restored in 1965.

FRANKLIN PIERCE HOMESTEAD (Hillsborough) 1950

13 acres. Located near the junction of Routes 9 and 31. A national historic landmark, this was the boyhood home of the 14th President of the United States. Built in 1804, it reflects affluent living of the 19th century. A ballroom runs the entire length of the second floor. It was completely restored in 1965 to reflect the 1804-39 period and reveal many of its original architectural features, including decor. Guide service. Season: late May to mid-October.

WENTWORTH-COOLIDGE MANSION (Portsmouth) 1954

65 acres. Two miles from Portsmouth, off Route 1-A, overlooking Little Harbor and the mouth of the Piscataqua River. The official residence of Benning Wentworth, first governor of the separate Province of New Hampshire (1741-66). The 42-room structure contains a council chamber where the state's first Provincial government conducted its affairs. The rambling structure reflects three periods of New England architecture (1650-1700-1750), and is considered to be one of the significant early American dwellings. In 1966, it was structurally repaired to reveal the features of its three phases. Season: late May to mid-October.

HISTORIC SITES (continued)HANNAH DUSTON MONUMENT (Penacook) 1950

Located on an island at the confluence of the Contoocook and Merrimack Rivers, just off an approach road to Interstate 93. A pathway leads from large parking area to the monument.

This imposing statue is a memorial to Hannah Duston, the mother of 12 children who, at age 39, was captured by a band of Indians from her home in Haverhill, Massachusetts on March 15, 1697. Mrs. Duston and two other captives were taken north on the Merrimack River by her captors to the island.

While the Indians slept on the night of March 30, Mrs. Duston and her companions stole their tomahawks and killed ten of the savages. Two escaped. Mrs. Duston took scalps from all ten. The group wrecked all but one of the Indians' canoes and escaped to Haverhill. Later, Mrs. Duston and her companions were awarded sums of money by the General Court of Massachusetts for their exploit.

WAYSIDE PICNIC AREASANDROSCOGGIN

-- 5 acres. On Route 16 in Errol on a bluff overlooking a bend in the scenic Androscoggin River. Several picnic sites. (DT)

ANNETT 1922

-- 1,346 acres. Off Route 124 near the Cathedral of the Pines. Picnic areas in the open and in wooded sections. Open mid-May to Columbus Day. (DT)

CHESTERFIELD GORGE
1948

-- 15 acres. Located on Route 9 in Chesterfield. A swift stream runs the entire length of a long gorge. Footpaths lead to vantage points. Wooded picnic areas. Open mid-May to Columbus Day. Toilet building. Enlarged parking area. (FT)

DIXVILLE NOTCH
1937

-- 137 acres. On Route 26 between Colebrook and Errol. Located in the northernmost and wildest of the White Mountain notches. Waterfalls on Cascade Brook and a small gorge -- waterfalls on Flume Brook. Picnicking and parking facilities. (DT)

FAY 1936

-- 211 acres. On Route 3 in North Woodstock. Secluded picnic sites along the scenic Pemigewasset River. Near the entrance to Lost River and Franconia Notch. (DT)

FRED GARDNER MEMORIAL
1974

-- 8 acres. On Route 2 in Shelburne, near the Maine border. Located on the Androscoggin River near the famous Shelburne birches. (DT)

WAYSIDE PICNIC AREAS (continued)

- HONEY BROOK 1918 --- 975 acres. A restful, cool shaded spot in the pines directly off Route 10 in Lempster. (DT)
- MADISON BOULDER 1946 --- 17 acres. On a side road, off Route 113 in Madison. Picnic sites near one of the largest boulders in the state. (DT)
- SCULPTURED ROCKS 1935 --- 268 acres. Between Routes 118 and 3-A on the Cockermouth River in Groton. Picnicking near native granite ledges eroded through the centuries into interesting and curious shapes. (DT)

DT --- Dry Toilets

FT --- Flush Toilets