Chesterfield Gorge Natural Area

Chesterfield Gorge Natural Area spans 13 acres. The park offers a nice spot to picnic and great opportunities for hiking as you explore the footpaths along the gorge and enjoy the scenic views.

History of the Gorge

One man's generosity played an integral role in the preservation of the Chesterfield Gorge. George White, a local farmer, bought the land in 1936 to prevent encroaching loggers from clear cutting it. He then sold fifteen acres of the gorge to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's Forests which then donated the land to the state of New Hampshire.

Explore the Gorge

A short distance from the Visitor Center is trail which is 7/10's of a mile and follows Wilde Brook through Chesterfield Gorge. As you enter the trail you will find yourself in a hemlock forest. With the canopy dominated by hemlock trees, you will find your walk to be shaded and quiet.

Wilde Brook originates in two ponds uphill from the park. After its waters rush through the gorge, the brook flows into the more gentle waters of Partridge Brook. This stream continues on to merge with the Connecticut River ten miles downstream. You may see clumps of brownish suds floating on the stream. This is not pollution from somebody's washing machine, but is more likely to be evidence of minerals in the water from decomposing wood and roots. It is a natural product of the stream and is not harmful.

Park Information

- Pets are allowed, they must be leashed and we ask that you pick up after them.

- All our New Hampshire State Parks are carry in carry out. Through the Carry-In/Carry-Out Program, you can help us keep your parks clean and beautiful by carrying out whatever you carry in. Thank you for your cooperation and remember to recycle.

- Visitor Center offers tourism literature including the Official State Highway map and Official New State Park brochure. We also sell food, drinks and souvenirs. (Please call park for hours)

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