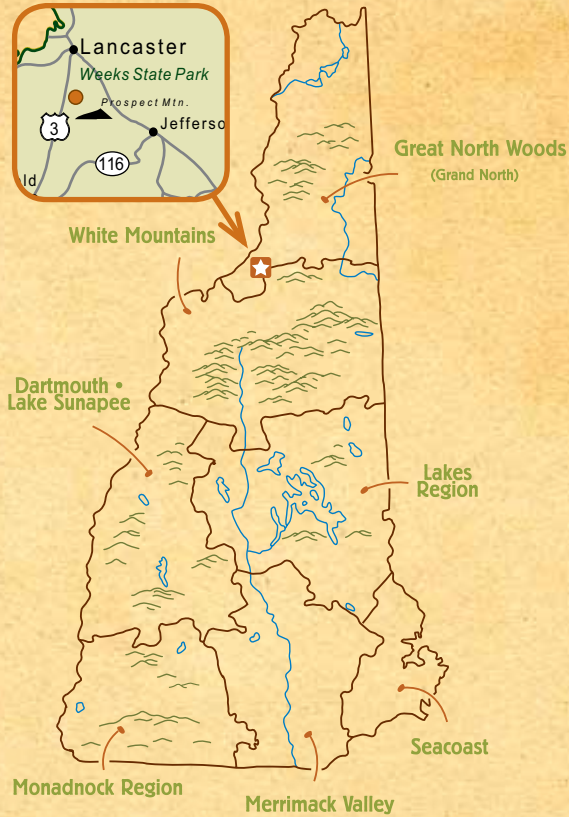




Weeks State Park is located on US Route 3, 1.5 miles south of Lancaster, NH.

WEEKS STATE PARK



What can you do at Weeks State Park?

Summer and Fall

- Take a Scenic Drive up the 1.5 Mile Auto Road
- Tour the Historic John Wingate Weeks Summer Home, a Fascinating Museum
- Attend Programs, Wildflower and Bird Walks, and Other Special Events
- Climb 48 Steps to the Top of the Stone Observatory and Fire Look Out Tower
- Try a Letter Box or Geo-Cache Hunt
- Hike, Bike, or Run the Park Trails or Auto Road
- Enjoy Breathtaking views of the North Country
- Picnic with Your Family and Friends
- Bird and Wildlife Watch
- Schedule a School or Youth Group Field Trip
- Schedule Your Wedding, Family or Meeting Event

Winter

- X-Country or Downhill Ski (rope tow)
- Snowmobile, Hike, Snowshoe

Spring

- Hike, Bike, Run
- Enjoy a Wildflower or Bird Watch Walk



Hours of Operation

Wednesday through Sunday: 10 am to 5 pm.
The museum and road are open seasonally from June through October

Weeks State Park is managed by the Department of Resources and Economic Development and NH DOT

Weeks State Park
Rt. 3 (304 Prospect Street)
Lancaster, NH
(603) 788-4004
nhstateparks.org



Explore, Discover, Experience...

Northern New Hampshire's Unique
Historic and Recreational State Park.



(603) 271-3556 | NHSTATEPARKS.ORG



Mount Prospect

Visitors to the summit of Mount Prospect can enjoy a spectacular 360° panorama of mountain splendor; the Presidential Range, the White Mountain National Forest, Percy Peaks, Vermont's Green Mountains, and the Killkenney Range.

Mount Prospect's unique natural site is an ecologically significant wildlife and plant habitat. Its transformation from 19th century farmland to an early 20th century summer estate illustrates the history of North Country forests.

John Wingate Weeks had the winding scenic auto road to the summit completed in 1911. The architecturally significant Arts and Crafts home, the stone observation and water tower, the caretaker's cottage, and auto garage were completed in 1913.

As a NH Fish and Game selected wildlife viewing area, the mountain provides visitors with opportunities to learn about many species of plants and wildlife. Nature trails, the historic Victorian Rowell Bird Collection, and the NH Forestry exhibition are just a few of the lures of Weeks State Park.

The Weeks Law of 1911

By the early 1900's, vast areas of the Appalachian Mountains had been devastated by wasteful timber practices in the 19th century and the widespread fires that followed. The resulting soil erosion steadily lowered the flow of water from the mountains, and at other times, the lack of forests contributed to immense flooding and mudslides. These major contributing factors led to the lack of steady river flow and impeded the navigability of many major waterways in the eastern part of the United States. Causing severe economical consequences for major industries, a strong call for federal intervention and conservation of forestlands at the headwaters of important tributary streams and rivers was demanded.

Thanks to the leadership of Massachusetts Congressman John W. Weeks, who crafted the Weeks Act, President William Howard Taft signed US Public Act #435 into law on March 1, 1911. The act was titled:

"An Act to enable any State to cooperate with any other State or with the United States for the protection of the watersheds of navigable streams and to appoint a commission for the acquisition of lands for the purpose of conserving the navigability of navigable rivers."

Today, the Weeks Law has protected over 20 million acres of forests, created over 48 national forests, and is still enabling law. The White Mountain National Forest was among the first to be protected. The law is called, "One of America's most significant pieces of conservation legislation."



John Wingate Weeks, 1860-1926

John Wingate Weeks was a Lancaster native. His great-grandfather was an early settler in Lancaster after the American Revolution, and his grandfather had farmed on the southern slopes of Mt. Prospect.



He was born into a family committed to community and public service. At least one of his family members had served in every American war through World War I.

Although his successful professional career as banker and his accomplished public service as U.S Congressman and U.S Senator were conducted in Massachusetts, Weeks kept his ties to Lancaster. In 1908 he began to purchase farmlands and the former Mt. Prospect House hotel site and assemble them into the estate on Mt. Prospect that is Weeks State Park today.

In 1941, Mr. Weeks' children, Sinclair Weeks and Katherine Weeks Davidge, gave the property to the State of New Hampshire as a memorial to their father. The property is used as a recreational site and as an educational site for forest conservation. Today, visitors can tour the house, now a museum, which contains period decoration, furniture, and memorabilia of John W. Weeks' career and family.