

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Wear appropriate footwear and layered clothing. Carry wind and waterproof clothing. Inform someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Buy only local firewood and thoroughly clean boats and motors to avoid importing invasive plants and animals. FMI: www.maine.gov/forestinvasives
www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives
- Do not leave valuables unattended in your vehicle.
- Please stay on established trails (even when muddy) to protect sensitive ecosystems—particularly in summit areas.
- Observe wildlife from far enough away that they do not change their behavior. Do not follow or feed animals. Avoid areas with nesting birds, dens or young animals (even those that appear abandoned).
- Be prepared for black flies and mosquitoes, particularly in May and June. While the area is not heavily infested with deer ticks, it is still advisable to check yourself daily to prevent Lyme disease.
- Don't count on your cell phone in an emergency as coverage is spotty to non-existent. Vehicle GPS systems are unreliable in this area.



Skating rink at Park Headquarters on Center Hill Road.

VISITOR RULES

- While in the park, keep pets on a leash and under control at all times. Clean up their waste and don't leave them unattended.
- Please carry out all trash.
- Quiet in camping areas is required between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (and is encouraged during the day as sound travels). Gates are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Generators in the campground can be operated only at designated times.
- Park rules prohibit use of intoxicating beverages.
- ATVs and snowmobiles are permitted only on designated trails.
- Visitors may not remove, damage, or injure anything historical, physical, prehistorical, or natural (except for hunting and trapping as provided by law) and may not endanger other persons or property.
- Hunting is not permitted between June 1 and Labor Day at Mount Blue State Park. Hunting at the Tumbledown Public Lands follows State hunting seasons. For Maine fishing and hunting laws, and license information, visit the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website, www.maine.gov/ifw.
- Discharge of any weapon is prohibited at all times within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, campsite, parking area, building, shelter, boat launch site, posted hiking trail or other developed area.
- Baiting wildlife for hunting is prohibited at Mount Blue State Park. Trapping may take place (with written permission of the Bureau if inside the State Park) only in accordance with local ordinances and the laws and rules of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. FMI: www.maine.gov/ifw.
- Bear-baiting (hunting bear over bait) is allowed on the Tumbledown Public Lands. Contact the Bureau's Western Region Lands office for bait site requests: (207) 778-8231.



PROPERTY HISTORY

Between 18,000 and 14,000 years ago, ice sheets overspread the region—scoring exposed rocks and scouring out valleys like the one where Webb Lake lies. Indigenous people later used this area for seasonal hunting and trapping, making permanent settlements where food could be found consistently on larger lakes and rivers, and along the coast. The area's first farm was established in 1798 and, within 30 years, much of the virgin forest on lower slopes had been cleared. By the early 1900s, many area farms had been abandoned. Visitors can still find stone walls and cellar holes from this era.

MOUNT BLUE STATE PARK

During the 1930s Great Depression, the federal government purchased 51 parcels of marginal farmland under the U.S. Resettlement Administration Land Utilization Project. The federal Works Progress Administration hired workers and began to build the infrastructure of roads and buildings that would become Mt. Blue State Park. The U.S. Department of Agriculture transferred the property to the State in 1955, and subsequent acquisitions expanded the park to its current size of 8,000 acres.

TUMBLEDOWN PUBLIC LANDS

For generations, traditional trails outside the park crossed private forest lands without guaranteed access. In response to this threat, numerous groups joined forces to secure the summit and northern slopes of Tumbledown Mountain, the parcels bordering the Webb Beach Campground and East Brook, all of Jackson Mountain, the top of Blueberry Mountain, the entirety of Jackson Pond, and easements on an additional 12,000 acres.

While many forests within the public lands have been harvested (some just prior to the State's acquisition), there are wooded pockets that have seen limited cutting and contain hardwoods more than 150 years old. Today, portions of the Tumbledown Lands are managed sustainably to produce timber products (that help fund property management) while still providing recreation and conservation benefits.



TIMBER MANAGEMENT ON MAINE'S PUBLIC LANDS

The Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) manages its public lands to achieve multiple benefits: public recreation, wildlife habitat and timber sales (revenues from which help fund land management). The Bureau adheres to strict practices in selectively harvesting timber, minimizing runoff and soil erosion, and taking other measures to ensure that the health of the larger ecosystem is maintained. BPL's forest practices are green-certified by two independent auditors—the Forest Stewardship Council™ and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative™.



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

From 1999 through 2002, the Department worked closely with the Tumbledown Conservation Alliance and The Trust for Public Land to expand key sections of Mount Blue State Park, protect critical buffer lands, and conserve significant portions of the Tumbledown Range. Thanks to the hard work of these partners, the State was able to protect approximately 30,000 acres. This brochure was made possible in part by funding assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.



SERVICES AND FACILITIES AT MOUNT BLUE STATE PARK

- 136 campsites (each with fireplace and picnic table) near Webb Lake. All sites accommodate both tents and RVs. Four sites can be reserved for large groups.
- Swim beach on Webb Lake
- 2 reservable group picnic shelters
- Waterfront picnic area on Webb Lake
- Summit picnic area on Center Hill
- Playground
- RV dumping station
- Hot showers for campers, flush and pit toilets, and changing facilities for swimmers
- Amphitheater and nature center (with interactive displays and exhibits)
- Rowboat, kayak, paddle boat, paddle board and canoe rentals (available during the summer only)
- Outdoor ice rink, warming hut, and ample parking (winter & summer) at Park Headquarters on Center Hill Road
- Trailered boat launch on Webb Lake; Online Sortable Table at www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches



Beach at Webb Lake

NEARBY DESTINATIONS

Mt. Blue State Park and the Tumbledown Range are in the Maine's Lakes and Mountains Region (www.westernmaine.org) that encompasses Franklin and Oxford Counties, and represents the westernmost portion of Maine. Nearby destinations are listed below.

- **Androscoggin Riverlands State Park** is a 2,800-acre expanse with 12 miles of river frontage offering abundant opportunities for walking, fishing, boating, wildlife watching and hunting just north of Lewiston-Auburn.
- **Grafton Notch State Park/Mahoosuc Public Lands** offers hiking, picnicking and sightseeing (with numerous waterfalls and gorges) within a mountainous, 33,000-acre region encompassing some of the state's most scenic terrain.
- **Rangely Lake State Park**, with 869 acres in the heart of Maine's Western Mountains, offers 50 campsites along cool, clear waters popular for boating and fishing.
- **Kennebec Highlands** offers a variety of recreational opportunities on more than 6,500 acres of conserved lands in the Belgrade Lakes region, west of Augusta—protected through a public-private partnership.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Height of Land**, a famous overlook on Route 17 (between Byron and Rangely), provides a stunning vista of the entire Rangely region and hiking along the Appalachian Trail.
- **Coos Canyon**, a scenic gorge along the Swift River in Byron, offers an opportunity to pan for gold and enjoy swimming in a spectacular natural setting.
- **Smalls Falls Rest Area**, just south of Rangely on Rt. 4, provides a picnic spot and swimming hole by a cascading set of falls within a scenic gorge along the Sandy River.
- **State Route 27** is a designated National Scenic Byway that runs from Kingfield north through the Carrabassett Valley to the Canadian border.



OVERVIEW

Mt. Blue State Park and the Mt. Blue/Tumbledown Public Lands offer a prime, four-season destination with abundant outdoor recreation opportunities in Maine's Western Mountains—just a two-hour drive from most of Maine's major cities.



MT. BLUE STATE PARK

Mt. Blue State Park is Maine's largest state park, encompassing approximately 8,000 acres in two sections separated by Webb Lake. A campground in the Webb Beach section has 136 wooded sites, which are a short walk from a sandy beach and a picnic area with a playground. Visitors can swim, launch and rent boats, and walk on trails near the lake. During summer months, park staff routinely offer canoe trips, walks, and nature programs. A Nature Center features hands-on exhibits and displays.

Across the lake from the Webb Beach campground is the centerpiece of the Park - 3,187-foot Mt. Blue. A walk to the summit is a popular day-hike. Visitors also enjoy walks and picnics on Center Hill. Mountain bikers, equestrians, and ATV riders can experience 25 miles of challenging, multi-use trails. In winter, the park's extensive trail system supports snowmobiling, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Families come to sled at Center Hill and skate on an outdoor ice rink with warming hut at the Center Hill Road Park Headquarters.



TUMBLEDOWN PUBLIC LANDS

Adjoining Mt. Blue State Park is more than 22,000 acres of State-owned Public Lands and State-held easements encompassing the Tumbledown Mountain Range. Tumbledown Mountain, with an alpine pond near the summit, is the most popular hike, but surrounding lands offer many other outdoor opportunities.

The large expanse of unfragmented land supports wildlife habitat while meeting human needs. Visitors may spot moose, deer and the occasional bear, coyote or fox—along with numerous songbirds (including all six species of thrush that breed in Maine). Hikers can explore several trails and peaks—many of which afford splendid views. Long traditions of hunting and timber harvesting continue today, with all forestry now done to certified sustainable standards.

WHEN TO VISIT

Trail enthusiasts, anglers, and campers enjoy this region through warm-weather months, followed by snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and ice-skaters in winter.

Mount Blue State Park welcomes visitors year-round, however the campground is open from May 15 through Columbus Day. Park hours are 9:00 a.m. to sunset. Earlier openings vary with the season; call ahead for these and campground hours. Advanced reservations are recommended for the campground. Contact the State Park Reservations Office: 800-332-1501 in Maine; 207-624-9950 from outside Maine; or online at www.campwithme.com.



MAINE'S LAKES & MOUNTAINS REGION

DIRECTIONS

To reach Mount Blue State Park in Weld, follow Route 156 from Wilton or Route 142 from Dixfield or Phillips. To reach the Mount Blue trail-head and Center Hill picnic area, follow the Center Hill Road from Weld Village. To reach the Webb Beach and campground, proceed 2 miles north past Weld Village and bear left on the West Side Road at Webb Corner. Continue 4 miles to Webb Beach Road, which leads down to the lake and campground. Access Tumbledown Public Lands from the Byron Rd. NOTE: GPS navigation systems and cell phones are unreliable in this area. Do not count on them. Carry a Maine road map.



FEES

Park fees are payable at the Park's entrance. View online information for all Parks and Lands sites:

- www.parksandlands.com
- Camping: www.campwithme.com

CONTACTS

Tumbledown Public Lands Western Region Lands Office P.O. Box 327 Farmington, ME 04938 207-778-8231	Mt. Blue State Park Headquarters: 299 Center Hill Rd Campground & Beach: 187 Webb Beach Rd. Weld, ME 04285
Franklin County Chamber of Commerce 248 Wilton Road Farmington, ME 04938 207-778-4215 www.franklincountymaine.org	Summer: (207) 585-2347 Fall, winter and spring: (207) 585-2261 www.maine.gov/mountblue



MOUNT BLUE STATE PARK AND TUMBLEDOWN PUBLIC LANDS

HIKING TRAILS

MOUNT BLUE STATE PARK

Mt. Blue Trail (3.2 miles roundtrip, 3-4 hours, moderate): A strenuous, straight-up hike leads to scenic vistas and an observation tower at the peak. The trail offers excellent birding and abundant wildflowers. Observation deck is at the summit.

Center Hill Nature Trail (0.5 miles roundtrip, 1 hour, easy): An interpretive brochure and numbered way stations allow visitors to learn more about the region's cultural and natural history. The trail begins at the parking lot of the Center Hill picnic area.

Campground Trails: - To reach these trails, travel 2.4 miles north on Rte. 142 past Weld Village and bear left on the West Side Road at Webb Corner. Continue 4 miles to Webb Beach Road, which leads down to the lake and campground.

Hopping Frog Nature Trail (1 mile roundtrip, 1 hour, easy): This meandering foot path, between the shore of Webb Lake

and Swett Brook, is well-suited to nature study. Start near the Park's nature center and return by the same route.

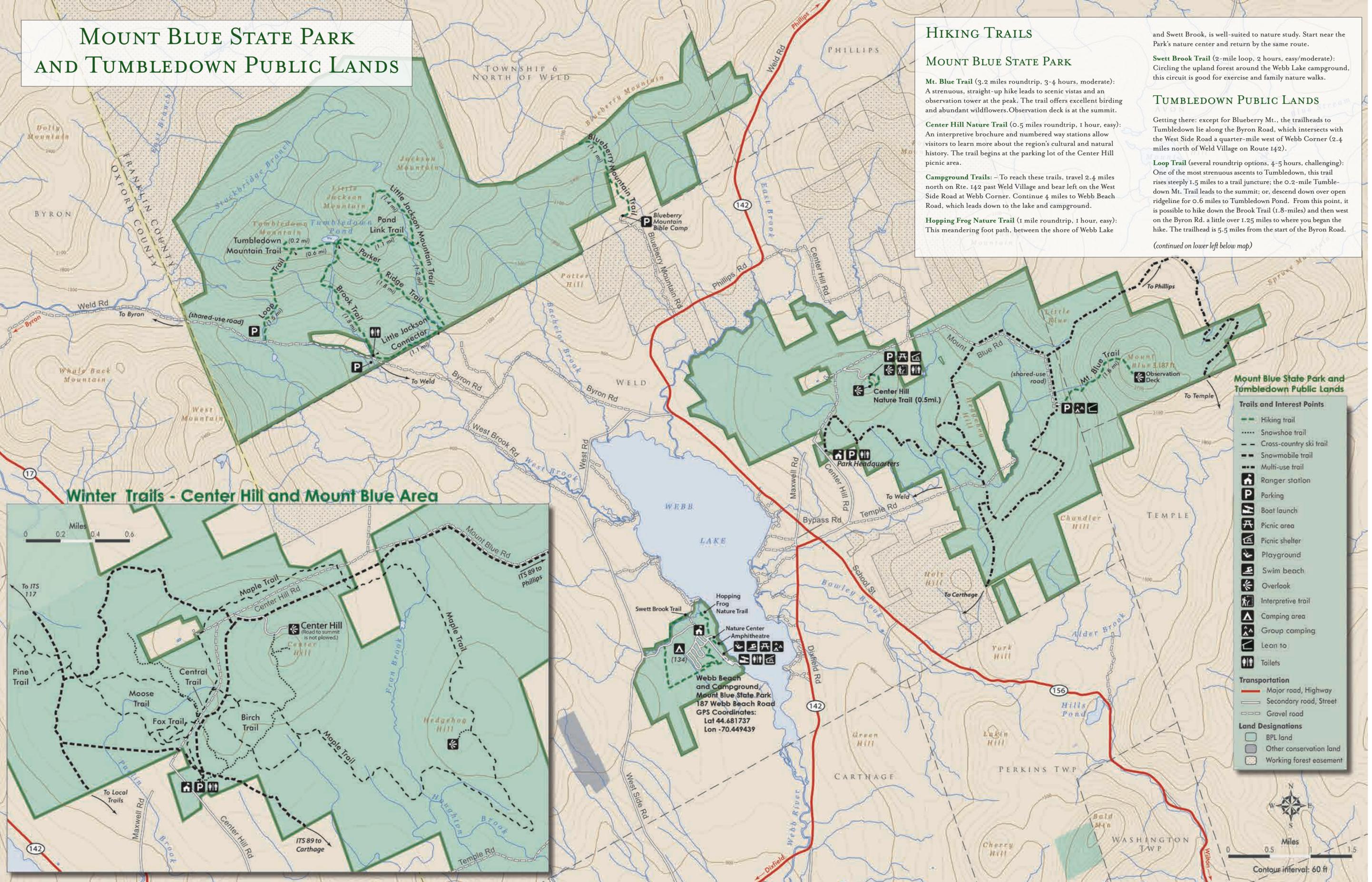
Swett Brook Trail (2-mile loop, 2 hours, easy/moderate): Circling the upland forest around the Webb Lake campground, this circuit is good for exercise and family nature walks.

TUMBLEDOWN PUBLIC LANDS

Getting there: except for Blueberry Mt., the trailheads to Tumbledown lie along the Byron Road, which intersects with the West Side Road a quarter-mile west of Webb Corner (2.4 miles north of Weld Village on Route 142).

Loop Trail (several roundtrip options, 4-5 hours, challenging): One of the most strenuous ascents to Tumbledown, this trail rises steeply 1.5 miles to a trail juncture; the 0.2-mile Tumbledown Mt. Trail leads to the summit; or, descend down over open ridgeline for 0.6 miles to Tumbledown Pond. From this point, it is possible to hike down the Brook Trail (1.8-miles) and then west on the Byron Rd. a little over 1.25 miles to where you began the hike. The trailhead is 5.5 miles from the start of the Byron Road.

(continued on lower left below map)



Mount Blue State Park and Tumbledown Public Lands

Trails and Interest Points

- Hiking trail
- Snowshoe trail
- Cross-country ski trail
- Snowmobile trail
- Multi-use trail
- Ranger station
- Parking
- Boat launch
- Picnic area
- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Swim beach
- Overlook
- Interpretive trail
- Camping area
- Group camping
- Lean to
- Toilets

Transportation

- Major road, Highway
- Secondary road, Street
- Gravel road

Land Designations

- BPL land
- Other conservation land
- Working forest easement

Winter Trails - Center Hill and Mount Blue Area

TUMBLEDOWN PUBLIC LANDS

(continued from above)

Brook Trail (3 miles to pond and back, 3 hours, moderate): Following Tumbledown Brook, this trail provides the quickest, most direct route up to Tumbledown Pond. The trail ends at the alpine pond where it meets the Loop, Parker Ridge, and Pond Link Trails. The trailhead is 3.7 miles from the east end of Byron Road by a large parking area just uphill from a brook crossing.

Parker Ridge Trail (5.8 miles, to pond and back, 5 hours, moderate): This trail is accessed via a cutoff from the start of the Brook Trail. The one-mile Little Jackson Connector trail covers gentle ground before linking with the 1.8-mile Parker Ridge Trail, which provides an attractive route to Tumbledown Pond, including a section of open ridge with far-reaching views.

Little Jackson Mountain Trail (7 miles roundtrip, 6 hours, challenging): This trail with good birding, attractive brooks, and splendid views can be reached via the Little Jackson Connector trail from the start of the Brook Trail. Follow the connector trail for 1.1 miles then bear right past the junction of the Parker Ridge Trail to Little Jackson Mt. Trail, on left.

Pond Link Trail (1.1 miles one-way, 1 hour, moderate): The Pond Link Trail connects Tumbledown Pond with the Little Jackson Trail. This trail segment enables loop hikes using the Little Jackson Trail and the Brook Trail or the Loop Trail.

Blueberry Mountain Trail (2.2 miles, roundtrip, 3 hours, moderate): This trail begins in back of the Blueberry Mountain Bible Camp, which is accessed by a 2-mile dirt road off Route 142. The Blueberry Mountain Trail has steep pitches, including near the beginning, but overall offers a modest hike with rewarding vistas. Note: Please respect the private land this trail crosses. Park next to the camp lodge - not at the sports field beyond.

MULTI-USE TRAILS

The multi-use trail consists of approximately 18 miles. It starts at park headquarters and connects to the State-wide interconnected trail system. Those exploring by mountain bike, ATV, horse, or on foot will encounter varied terrain: old unimproved roads and some wooded sections that offer challenging riding. To reach these trails, follow the Center Hill Road from Weld Village to park headquarters' ample parking area.

ATV and multi-use trail information and maps are available on-line at www.parksandlands.com or call (207) 287-2751.

WINTER TRAILS

Cross-country ski trails at Mount Blue State Park provide an opportunity to experience the park's more remote areas in winter's splendor. Six trails traverse forests, fields, and old farmlands. Fifteen miles of ski trails with a set track range in length from a 1/2-mile to 10 miles.

Snowmobile trails wind through the park, connecting the Maine ITS system and local trails. Additional information about snowmobiling and the ITS system is available on-line at www.parksandlands.com or call (207) 287-4957.