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Bureau of Parks and Lands
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Maine Department of
PARKS & LANDS
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Stellar hiking, trail riding, biking, swimming and picnicking in the Western Mountains

GUIDE & MAP

MOUNT BLUE STATE PARK AND TUMBLEDOWN PUBLIC LAND



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/firewood
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.

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 trailhead 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 at 187 Webb Beach Rd. (GPS Coordinates: Lat 44.681737, Lon -70.449439)
Access Tumbledown Public Land 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 Land
Western Region Lands Office
P.O. Box 327
Farmington, ME 04938
207-778-8231
Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
248 Wilton Road
Farmington, ME 04938
207-778-4215
www.franklincountymaine.org
Mt. Blue State Park
Headquarters:
299 Center Hill Road
Campground & Beach:
187 Webb Beach Road
Weld, ME 04285
Summer: (207) 585-2347
Fall, winter and spring:
(207) 585-2261
www.maine.gov/mountblue

Mount Blue has an official Maine State Parks Geocache: www.maine.gov/dacf/geotour

Land for Maine's Future LMF
Maine
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2024

VISITOR RULES

- Camping** Camp only at established sites at Mount Blue State Park. Reservations: www.campwithme.com. The campground is open May 15-Oct. 15. Gates are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Advanced reservations are recommended for the campground. Camping on Tumbledown Mt. is prohibited.
- Day Use** Park hours are 9:00 a.m. to sunset.
- Fires** Kindle fires only in campsites and picnic sites with fire pits or grills. Do not cut live vegetation.
- Pets** While in the park, pets must be leashed, attended to and under control. Clean up their waste.
- Trash** Carry out all trash.
- ORVs** Snowmobiles are permitted only on designated trails.
- Protect Natural & Historical Locations** Visitors may not remove, damage, or injure anything historical, physical, prehistorical, or natural (except hunting and trapping lawfully), and may not endanger people or property.
- Quiet Hours** 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). Use of generators is permitted between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at Mount Blue's campground, if the sound does not bother other visitors.



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 LAND

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, the forests of Tumbledown Public Land are managed scientifically and sustainably.



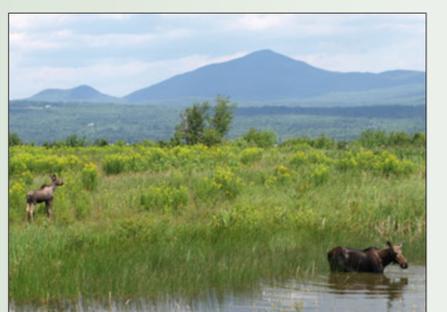
TIMBER MANAGEMENT ON MAINE'S PUBLIC LANDS

Sustainable forest management is one of the many principal land management activities that take place on Maine's Public Reserved Lands. Scientifically-based timber harvests are planned in coordination with recreation, wildlife, forest health, and scenic considerations. Revenues from timber sales support the management and maintenance of trails, campsites, roads and other infrastructure and wildlife management projects.



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

This property was acquired in part with funds from the Land for Maine's Future program. 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. Maine Conservation Corps AmeriCorps Field Teams and volunteers from the community help rehabilitate sustainable trails at both Tumbledown Mountain and Mount Blue.



SERVICES AND FACILITIES AT MOUNT BLUE STATE PARK

- 136 campsites (each with fireplace & picnic table) near Webb Lake. All sites accommodate both tents and RVs. Four sites can be reserved for large groups. 12 sites have electric and water hook-ups.
- 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 that encompasses Franklin and Oxford Counties, and represents the westernmost portion of Maine. (www.maine.lakesandmountains.com) 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.
- **Rangeley 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 15,000 acres of conserved lands in the Belgrade Lakes region, west of Augusta—protected through a public-private partnership.

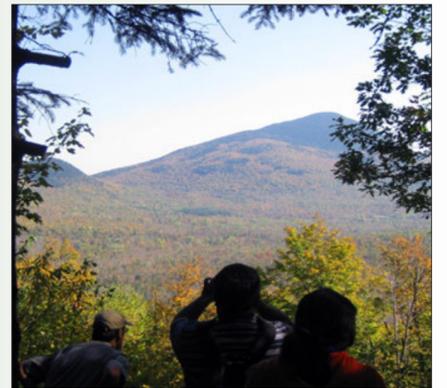
POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Height of Land**, a famous overlook on Route 17 (between Byron and Rangeley), provides a stunning vista of the entire Rangeley region and access to 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 Rangeley on Route 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

Mount 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 and equestrians can experience 18 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 LAND

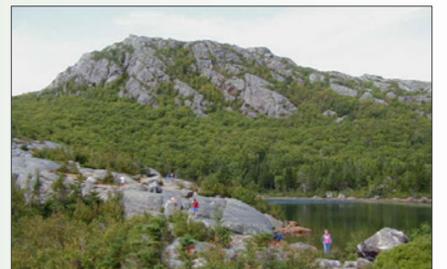
Adjoining Mt. Blue State Park is more than 22,000 acres of State-owned Public Lands and State-held easements encompassing the Tumbledown Mountain Range. Tumbledown Mountain, with an alpine pond near the summit, is the most popular hike, but surrounding lands offer many other outdoor opportunities.

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. For Trail Condition Alerts text BLUE to 888-514-7527.

- **Spring** Wildflowers and song of migrating birds greet visitors this time of year. Be alert for wildlife with their young. Watch and enjoy from a distance.
- **Summer** Hikers enjoy the scenic vistas, diversity of trails, and camping. Get your Park Passport stamped. Pick up the Jr. Ranger activity booklet to help you explore and learn more about the park.
- **Autumn** Fall foliage can be viewed from the Center Hill Nature Trail. Typical visit time is mid-September through October. Visit: MaineFoliage.com
Wear blaze orange during hunting season.
- **Winter** Extensive trail system for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. Ice rink and heated yurt at Center Hill Headquarters.



MOUNT BLUE STATE PARK AND TUMBLEDOWN PUBLIC LAND

CAMPING is not allowed on Tumbledown Mt. in order to protect the fragile subalpine vegetation and pond. Camping opportunities are available at Mount Blue State Park and Rangeley Lake State Park.

HIKING TRAILS MOUNT BLUE STATE PARK

Mt. Blue Trail (3.2 miles roundtrip, 3-4 hours, moderate to difficult): A strenuous, straight-up hike leads to scenic vistas and an observation tower at the peak. The trail offers excellent birding and abundant wildflowers. An observation deck is located 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 at 187 Webb Beach Road.

Hopping Frog Nature Trail (1 mile roundtrip, 1 hour, easy): A self-guided brochure is available at the trailhead. This meandering foot path, between the shore of Webb Lake and Sweet

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

Sweet 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 LAND

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 Land

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

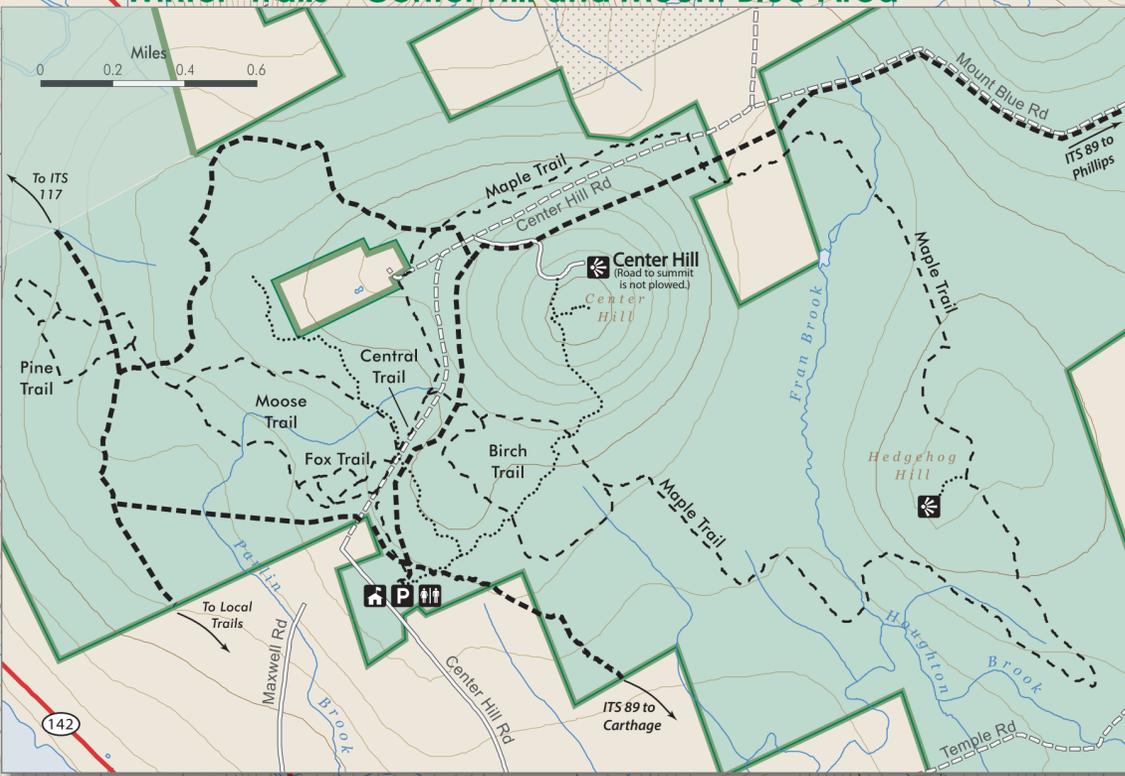
- Major road, Highway
- Secondary road, Street
- Gravel road

Land Designations

- BPL land
- Other conservation land
- Working forest easement



Winter Trails - Center Hill and Mount Blue Area



TUMBLEDOWN PUBLIC LAND

(continued from above right)

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. Leave your vehicle in the parking lot before 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 in Phillips. Those exploring by mountain bike, horse, or on foot will encounter varied terrain: old unimproved roads and some wooded sections that offer challenging riding. To reach these trails, follow Center Hill Road from Weld Village to the park headquarters' ample parking area.

Please note that ATVs are not allowed on any of the Mount Blue or Tumbledown trails.

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.