

Saddleback Ridge Wind, LLC // Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA) and Site Location of Development Act applications

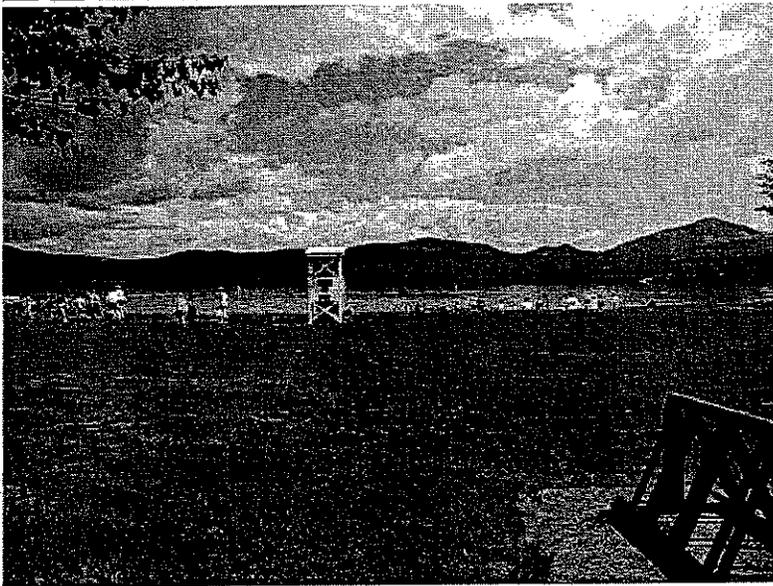
- Department of Conservation information on Mr. Blue State Park

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new search



Mt. Blue State Park



Description

Here you will find stellar hiking, trail riding, biking, swimming and picnicking in the Western Mountains.

Mt. Blue State Park and the adjoining Mt. Blue/Tumbledown Public Lands offer a prime, four-season destination with abundant outdoor recreation opportunities in Maine's Western Mountains just a few hours from several major cities.

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 a short walk from a sandy beach and picnic area. 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 section is the centerpiece of the Park, 3,187-foot Mt. Blue, a popular day-hike. Visitors also enjoy walks and picnics on Center Hill (see Trails section). 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

Location

Weld, ME



Fees

[current fees](#)
[camping](#)
[reservations](#)
[park passes](#)

Contact

Mt. Blue State Park
 299 Center Hill Road
 Weld, ME 04285

cross-country skiing. Families come to sled at Center Hill and skate on an outdoor ice rink at park headquarters.

Adjoining Mt. Blue State Park is more than 10,000 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 attractions.

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 is open and fully staffed from May 15 through Columbus Day, but visitors are welcome year-round. 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 [make your own reservations online](#) at www.campwithme.com.

Fees and Camping

All fees are payable at the Park's entrance. For more information about fees:

[Day Use & Boat Launch Fees](#)

[Camping & On-line Reservations](#)

[Annual Individual & Vehicle Passes](#)

Partners and Supporters

From 1999 through 2002, the Maine Department of Conservation worked closely with the Tumbledown Conservation Alliance 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.

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Park season:
(207) 585-2347
Fall, winter &
spring: (207)
585-2261

Maps

[download
campground
map](#) (403
KB/pdf)

Current Weather

[Get Mt. Blue
State Park
Weather
Forecast](#)

Directions and Parking

[Get Google map
and 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 Road from Weld Village. To reach the Webb Lake campground and beach, proceed 2 miles north past Weld Village and bear left on the West

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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. Click here [for a geological tour of Tumbledown mountain](#). Indigenous people later used this area for seasonal hunting and trapping, making more permanent settlements where food could be found more 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, but visitors can still find stonewalls and cellar holes from this era.

During the Great Depression in the 1930s, 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 what 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.

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Activities

- ATV riding
- Boating (motorized)
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Cross-country skiing
- Fishing
- Hiking (trails)
- Horseback riding
- Hunting
- Off-road biking
- Snowmobiling
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming
- Watchable wildlife

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Road at Webb Corner. Continue 4 miles to Webb Beach Road, which leads down to the lake and campground.

Nearby Attractions

[Maine's Lakes and Mountains Region](#)

Mt. Blue State Park is in the Maine's Lakes and Mountains Region that encompasses Franklin and Oxford Counties and represents the westernmost portion of Maine.

[Androscoggin Riverlands](#)

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 P.L.](#)

offers hiking, picnicking and

Rules

- Visitors may not remove, molest, injure or damage anything historical, physical, prehistorical, or natural (except for hunting and trapping as provided by law) and may not endanger other persons or property.
- 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.
- While in the park, keep pets on a leash (less than 4 feet) at all times, do not leave them unattended, and clean up their waste.
- Carry out all trash.
- Hunting is permitted at Mount Blue State Park between October 1 and April 30.
- Discharge of any weapon is prohibited at all times within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area or 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 only take place with written permission of the Bureau and only in accordance with local ordinances and the laws and rules of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
- ATVs and snowmobiles are permitted only on designated trails.
- See Rules for State Parks and Historic Sites

Consider lending a hand. Contact us if you would like to help with stewardship or maintenance work.

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Trails

Visit the [Mount Blue State Park Winter Trails Report](#) for current trail conditions.

Visit the [Mount Blue Trail map](#) at Maine Trail Finder.

Visit the [Blueberry Mountain Trail map](#) at Maine Trail Finder.

Visit the [Center Hill Nature Trail map](#) at Maine Trail Finder.

sightseeing (with numerous waterfalls and gorges) within a mountainous, 33,000-acre region encompassing some of the state's most scenic terrain.

Rangley Lake State Park offers 869 acres in the heart of Maine's Western Mountains, 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 Lake region west of Augusta - protected through a public-private partnership.

State Route 27 is a designated national scenic byway that runs from Kingfield north through the Carrabassett Valley to the

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Visit the [Mount Blue State Park - Cross-country Ski Trails map](#) at Maine Trail Finder.

Canadian border.

Visit the [Mount Blue State Park - Snowshoe Trails map](#) at Maine Trail Finder.

Relevant Contacts

HIKING TRAILS

[Friends of Maine State Parks](#)

Mt. Blue Trail (3.2 miles roundtrip, 3-4 hours, moderate): A strenuous, straight-up hike leads to scenic vistas at the peak. The trail offers excellent birding and abundant wildflowers. A new observation tower is scheduled to be built in 2011.

[Maine Trail Finder](#)

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.

[Franklin County Chamber of Commerce](#)
248 Wilton Road,
Farmington, ME
04939 / (207)
778-4215

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

[Rangeley Lakes Chamber of Commerce](#)
P.O. Box 317,
Rangeley, ME
04970 / (207)
864-5364

Webb Lake Nature Trail (0.6 miles, 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 miles, 2 hours, easy/moderate): Circling the upland around the Webb Lake campground, this circuit is good for exercise and family nature walks.

MULTI-USE TRAILS

The multi-use trails consist of two loops. Both start at park headquarters, one approximately 20 miles; the other 4 miles. Those exploring by mountain bike, ATV, horse, or on foot will encounter varied terrain: 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.

GROOMED WINTER TRAILS

Cross-country ski trails at Mount Blue State Park provide an opportunity to see some of the park's more remote areas in winter's splendor. Six trails traverse forests, fields, and old farmlands. Fifteen miles of groomed ski trails range in length from a half-mile to 10 miles.

Snowmobile trails wind through the park, connecting the Maine ITS system and local trails.

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Tours and Programs

View the Maine Parks and Lands [EVENT CALENDAR](#)

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Services and Facilities

- Campground
- Group picnic shelter
- Picnic area
- Playground
- RV dumping station
- Showers
- Trailered boat launch
- [See Visitor Accessibility](#)

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Special Considerations

Expect changing weather while hiking and be prepared with extra clothing and appropriate footwear. 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 plant and animal species. [Burn It Where You Buy It](#)

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.

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When to Visit

Open year-round, fee charged, fully staffed from May 15 through Columbus Day; advanced reservations for the campground are recommended: call 1-800-332-1501 in Maine; if outside Maine call (207) 624-9950. Or [reserve on-line now](#) at www.campwithme.com

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