

Hiking at Mt. Philo State Park, Charlotte, Vermont

There are many opportunities to vary your hiking experiences at Mt. Philo State Park. Trails can be combined with other trails or segments of park road to create a variety of hiking loops.

House Rock Trail (0.4 miles). Beginning at the State Park entrance, this trail climbs through rocky hardwood forests up the northern slope of Mt. Philo. Named for the large, house-sized rock located ½ way up the trail, the House Rock Trail brings hikers to the park road and the start of the Summit Trail.

Summit Trail (0.45 miles). Beginning at the park (down) road across from the end of the House Rock Trail, the Summit Trail continues the ascent to the summit of Mt. Philo along a widened trail with beautiful stone staircases. The Summit trail intersects with the Campground Trail before continuing along a winding stone staircase. As the trail levels off it intersects with the At Rabbit Rock Trail (*Matgwaswabskak*) before wrapping around the western slope of Mt Philo to spectacular views of the Champlain Valley and Adirondack Mountains of New York. From there it is just a short hike to the summit.

Campground Trail (375 feet). This east-west trail connects the Summit Trail to the Campground. The North Vista Trail can be accessed by following the campground road north to the park road.

At Rabbit Rock Trail (*Matgwaswabskak*) (400 feet) is a short trail that travels south from the Summit Trail intersecting with The Waters Between Trail before ending at the parking area on the summit. *Matgwaswabskak*, or At Rabbit Rock, is the Abenaki place name for Mt. Philo.

The Waters Between Trail (*Pitawbagok*) (600 feet) This universally accessible trail connects the upper parking area to the lawn area at the summit below the shelter. *Pitawbagok*, or The Waters Between, is the Abenaki place name for Lake Champlain.

Devil's Chair Trail – (0.4 miles). The Devil's Chair Trail does not provide access to the summit but rather follows along the base of the cliffs on the west side of the mountain. Named for a chair-shaped rock near its southern end, the trail begins at the park (down) road west of the House Rock/Summit Trail intersection and ends at the park (up) road. From there you can hike to the summit or return down to the entrance parking lot via the park road.

Old Carriage Road Trail (0.3 miles). This trail is along an old road at the top of the southern end of the cliffs. It provides views of the Champlain Valley and Adirondack Mountains and connects the park road to the summit.

North Vista Trail (500 feet) this out-and-back trail follows a mowed path along the ridge to a quiet vista with views to the north and west.

73°13'0"W

