

Gifford Woods State Park

Welcome to Gifford Woods State Park. This park is a favorite of hikers with many local trails and peaks to traverse. Many through-hikers pass the park on their Appalachian Trail journey from Georgia to Maine. The park is also a popular destination during the fall foliage season for its dramatic autumn colors.

Established in 1931 when the state purchased 13 acres of land from Lee Pearsons, the park grew over the next two decades with a land donation from Walter K. Barrows and various land purchases. Mr. Barrows noticed that many passing motorists stopped at the spot to admire the large old trees growing on his property and decided that it should be protected by adding it to the newly established state park.

Today, Gifford Woods contains one of the few old-growth hardwood tree stands remaining in Vermont. The stand has many grand-sized sugar maple, beech, yellow birch, white ash and hemlock. The understory is rich with native wildflowers. Portions of the old-growth stand are both a State Natural Area and a National Natural Landmark.

Development began in 1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, a federal public works program created during the Great Depression to provide jobs and training for thousands of unemployed Americans. In 1933 and 1934, CCC crews constructed the park office and ranger's quarters, picnic area, stone restroom building, trails, the park entrance and parking area. In 1939 the CCC constructed a camping area. A new section was added to the campground in 1959. The park continued to grow throughout the 20th Century, and reached its current size of 285 acres in 2003, when 171 non-contiguous acres were acquired from the Green Mountain Club to protect the Long Trail corridor.

Gifford Woods State Park amenities:

- 22 tent/trailer sites
- 21 lean-to shelters
- 4 rental cabins

- Picnicking
- Hiking trails
- Mountain biking trails
- Firewood and ice for sale

Recreating and sightseeing in the area: *Killington*

- Killlington Adventure Center
- Hiking on the Appalachian Trail and Long Trail
- Recreating in the Green Mountain National Forest
- Fishing on Kent Pond

Rutland

- Historic downtown, shopping and dining
- Wonderfeet Childrens Discovery Museum

Woodstock

- Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
- Billings Farm & Museum
- Historic downtown, shopping & dining

Plymouth

- Coolidge State Historic Site
- Camp Plymouth State Park
- Coolidge State Park

For more information, contact:
Gifford Woods State Park
34 Gifford Woods
Killington, VT 05751

(802) 775-5354 (during operating season) OR

VT State Parks Reservation Center (888) 409-7579

Monday - Friday 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. www.vtstateparks.com



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Gifford Woods State Park Map & Guide



Operating Season: Mid May- Late October

Camping Hiking Mountain Biking Picnicking Nature Interpretation