Hiking

Hiking a Overnight

scattered today. This Peacham has a north Elevation.

Trail indicated. from Groton, logging, and largest uses the history these bedrock leads to a pond,

Changes: 1,746 feet – 1,760 feet.

July 0.3 mile, 1/2 hour. Rating: Moderate. This trail joins the Ossipee Pond Hiking Loop and Hosmer Brook Trail. This trail begins to follow the brook. Trail ends shortly after leaving the brook side at the junction of the Ossipee Pond Hiking Loop and Big Mt. Trail. (Elev. Chg.: 1086 feet – 1526 feet)

1.7 miles, 1 hour. Rating: Moderate. This trail traverses through a spruce-fir forest stream with some rocky sections. Trail is accessed by hiking the Groton Nature Trail. It ascends gradually; midway, the trail begins to follow the brook. Trail ends shortly after leaving the brook side at the junction of the Ossipee Pond Hiking Loop and Big Mt. Trail. (Elev. Chg.: 1086 feet – 1526 feet)

10. Kettle Pond Loop Trail

3 miles, 2 1/2 hours. Rating: Easy. This trail goes around a secluded lake. The trail leaves the parking lot off VT Rte. 232, turns left onto the road to Peacham Pond. After 0.3 miles, the trail leaves the road in a red pine plantation. The trail is fairly level for most of its distance, but climbs steeply from trail junction (1.1 miles) to ridgetop. Views include Peacham Pond, Peacham Bog and the White Mts. Elevation change: 1464 feet – 1902 feet.

3. Ossipee Pond Hiking Loop

2 miles, 2 hours. Rating: Easy. This scenic loop begins at the Ossipee Pond picnic shelter. The trail veers south, away from the pond's edge. It passes under a power line just before the junction with the Little Deer Trail (0.6 miles) Continuing around the pond, the trail crosses Hosmer Brook and heads north to the trail junction. At the north end of pond, the trail may be wet near the junction with the trail from New Discovery Campground. The trail follows the pond back to the picnic shelter. Elevation Change: 1456 feet – 1477 feet.

4. Owls Head Trail

1.5 miles, 1 hour. Rating: Moderate. This hike leads to a scenic vista of Lake Groton, Kettle Pond and the Green Mountains. Trail starts off the road from New Discovery to the Ossipee Pond scenic area. Bypassing a swampy area, trail first descends and then climbs to a parking lot. The trail to the top continues to the left, following the rock steps of a path built by the CCC in the 1930’s. Elevation Change: 1746 feet (1958 feet)

5. Little Deer Trail

0.5 mile, 1/2 hour. Rating: Moderate. Trail leaves south end of Ossipee Pond Hiking Loop (0.6 miles from shelter). Trail follows a power line for a short distance before heading uphill, steeply at times, to a ridgetop. Good views of Lake Groton and surrounding mountains. Elevation Change: 1456 feet – 1760 feet.

6. Big Deer Mt. Trail

0.9 mile from Ossipee Pond Hiking Loop, 3/4 hour. Rating: Moderate. starts at the junction of the Ossipee Pond Hiking Loop and Hosmer Brook Trail. Climbs steeply, then descends to a marshy area before joining the trail from New Discovery, to ascend to the top for several scenic vistas. Elevation Change: 1456 feet – 1992 feet.

7. Hosmer Brook Trail

1.3 miles, 1 hour. Rating: Moderate. This trail traverses through a spruce-fir forest stream with some rocky sections. Trail is accessed by hiking the Groton Nature Trail. It ascends gradually; midway, the trail begins to follow the brook. Trail ends shortly after leaving the brook side at the junction of the Ossipee Pond Hiking Loop and Big Mt. Trail. (Elev. Chg.: 1086 feet – 1526 feet)

8. Telephone Line Multi Use Trail (Under Development)

2.5 miles, 1.25 hours. Rating: Moderate. Conditions and track size vary on this multi-use trail. Accessed via the northern Rural Trail Connector (park across from New Discovery SP on VT Rte 232), or from Big Deer State Park. Hikers (but not bicyclists or equestrians) can access the trail via the Hosmer Brook Trail from the Groton Nature Center in addition to the other access points.

9. Coldwater Brook Trail

1.9 miles, 1 hour. Rating: Moderate. This trail winds through diverse woods. There are some rocky sections at the upper end of the trail. Starts at the Nature Center parking lot, climbs embankment, then follows the trail from Peacham Brook Crosses Peacham Bog Loop Trail (0.4 miles) and turns left, ascending gradually. Elevation Change: 1086 feet – 1575 feet.

10. Kettle Pond Loop Trail

3 miles, 2 1/2 hours. Rating: Easy. This trail goes around a secluded lake. The trail leaves the parking lot off VT Rte. 232, turns left onto the road to Peacham Pond. Stay right for Loop Road. On the south side of the pond, the trail is rocky and may be wet. The trail ends at Kettle Pond State Park. Elevation Change: 1453 feet – 1477 feet.

11. Montpelier & Wells River Rail Trail, Cross-Vermont Trail

11 Miles in Groton State Forest. Elevation Change: Easy. This multi-use trail is a good place for walking, bicycling or horseback riding. There are many places to access this trail along VT Rte 232.

12. Groton Nature Trail

0.6 mile, 3/4 hour. Rating: Easy. This self-guided nature trail is a walk through diverse woods. An accompanying trail guide is available at the Nature Center or at the Stillwater State Park office.

13. Little Loop Trail

0.9 mile, 1 hour. Rating: Easy. Access the Little Loop Trail at the corner of the Nature Center parking lot. This short loop has a vista overlooking a wetland. Both the Coldwater Brook Trail and the Peacham Bog Loop can be reached from this trail.

14. Peacham Bog Loop Trail

4.5 miles, 3.5 hours. Rating: Moderate. This hike through diverse woods provides an opportunity to view Peacham Bog and a beaver dam. The trail can be accessed by hiking the Little Loop Trail, which begins at the corner of the Nature Center parking lot. The trail crosses the Coldwater Brook Trail (state forest highway at this crossing) and heads east for 2.0 miles to a viewing platform on the edge of Peacham Bog. Caution: the bog is fragile. Please make your impact as light as possible and stay on the trail. After the bog, you will take a right on a dirt road which will eventually turn to trail again, heading westward until it reconnects back to the Coldwater Brook Trail. Take a right to return to the first trail intersection. Elevation Change: 1086 feet – 1526 feet.

15. Devil’s Hill Trail

0.5 mile, 1/2 hour. Rating: Easy. From Groton Village, travel north on Minard Hill Road to South Peacham. Turn left on Maple Tree Lane, go 0.7 mile. Turn left on Green Bay Loop Road for 0.13 mile, then go left on Minard Road (no sign), which is just beyond a log home, 1.6 mile to gate. Hike can be out-and-back or a loop. Excellent views of Peacham Bog and other points west from the top. Elevation Change: 1700 feet – 2058 feet.

16. Silver Lodge Trail

0.6 mile, 1/2 hour. Rating: Moderate. Trail starts from Beaver Brook Road and crosses level terrain for a short distance. After crossing the brook, the trail climbs steeply. The trail ends at a splitoulder with views of Lake Groton and beaver meadows. Elevation Change: 1358 feet – 1383 feet.

17. Cross Cut Trail

1.25 miles, 1/2 hour. Rating: Easy. This 10-foot wide multi-use trail connects the Montpelier-Wells River Rail Trail to Depot Brook Road. It is primarily used by equestrians. Begin on the Montpelier-Wells River Rail Trail 1/2 mile north of Ricker Pond State Park. Continue west 0.1 mile; cross Route 232 and proceed to intersection with Depot Brook Road. You can then go north to get to several trails, or south to Seyon Lodge State Park. Elevation Change: 1220 feet – 1650 feet.

18. Noyes Pond Loop Trail

1.75 miles, 1 hour. Rating: Easy. This mostly level hiking trail circumvents Noyes Pond. Begin at the dam, and follow the northern shoreline. At the western pond end, cross two small brooks and then connect with old logging roads on the south side of the pond leading back to the Lodge.

19. Seyon Lodge Trails

Seyon Lodge State Park has a network of winter trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Please contact the park directly (802-584-3829) for more information.

GROTON STATE FOREST SUMMER TRAILS GUIDE

GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

- Hiking trails are marked with blue blazes.
- Forest boundaries marked with orange blazes.
- Overnight camping and campfires are allowed only at designated remote sites and in the developed campgrounds. Inquire at park offices for more information.
- Stay on marked trails. Hiking or riding off trails causes erosion and destroys vegetation.
- Keep trails free of litter. Carry out what you carry in.
- Keep pets on a leash at all times.
- Hiking trails are for foot travel only. Multi use trails are for foot travel, horses, and bicycles. ATVs and other motorized vehicles are not permitted on the trail system.
- Leave all wildflowers and plants in their natural environment for others to enjoy.
- See the companion Groton State Forest Winter Trails Guide for more information on winter trails.

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