

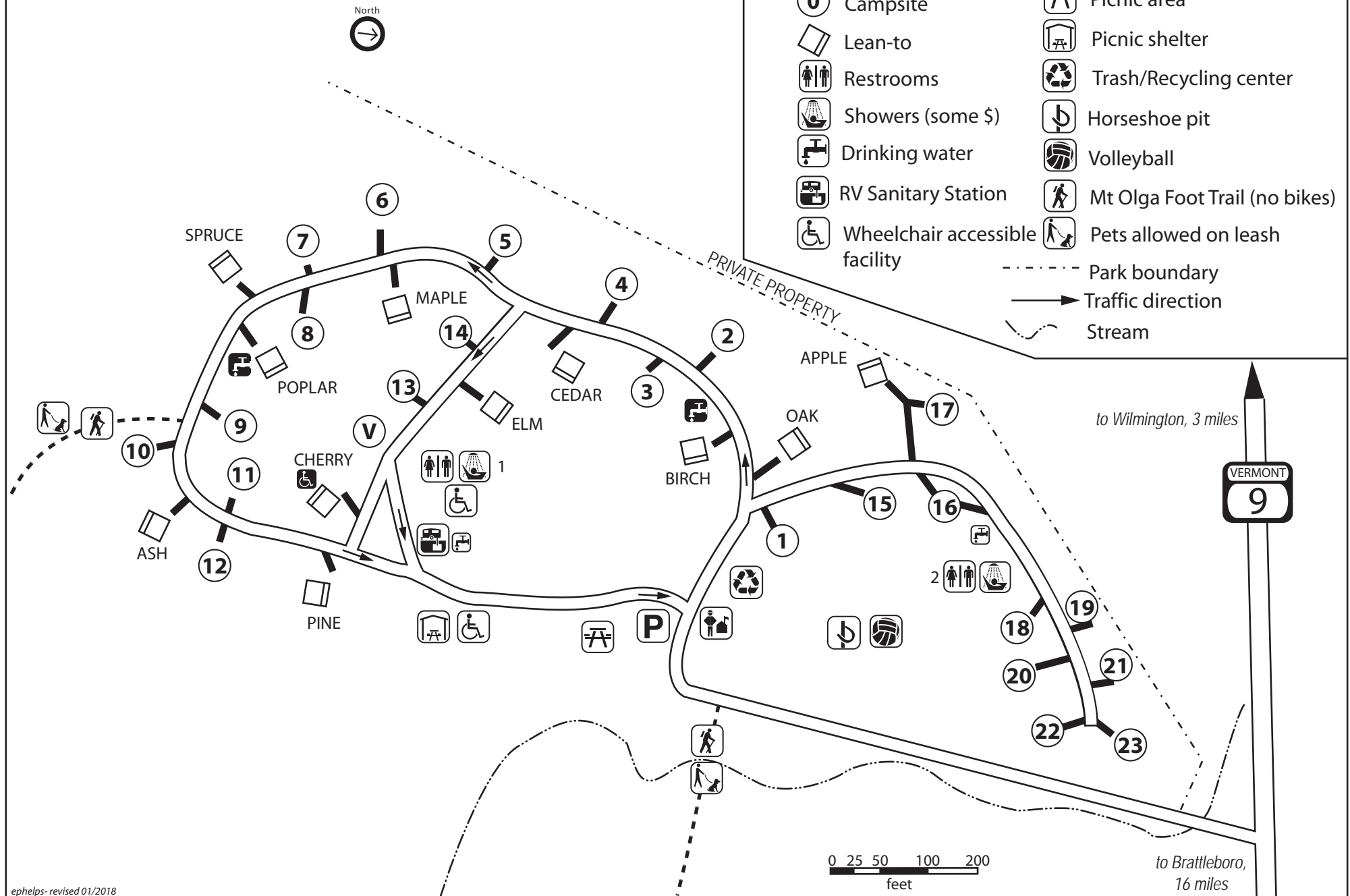
# Molly Stark State Park

Wilmington, Vermont



## LEGEND

- |  |                                |  |                               |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
|  | Park office                    |  | Parking                       |
|  | Campsite                       |  | Picnic area                   |
|  | Lean-to                        |  | Picnic shelter                |
|  | Restrooms                      |  | Trash/Recycling center        |
|  | Showers (some \$)              |  | Horseshoe pit                 |
|  | Drinking water                 |  | Volleyball                    |
|  | RV Sanitary Station            |  | Mt Olga Foot Trail (no bikes) |
|  | Wheelchair accessible facility |  | Pets allowed on leash         |
|  |                                |  | Park boundary                 |
|  |                                |  | Traffic direction             |
|  |                                |  | Stream                        |



## Molly Stark State Park

Welcome to Molly Stark State Park, named for the famous wife of Revolutionary War General John Stark. The park is located along the *Molly Stark Trail Scenic Byway* (State Route 9), the main east-west route in Southern Vermont that connects Brattleboro, Wilmington and Bennington.

The Starks hailed from New Hampshire, where John Stark was a respected and successful road builder. Stark was moved to join the cause of American Independence, and received a commission in the First New Hampshire Regiment. Stark was influential and persuasive enough to recruit many men to fight for the Continental Army. He attained the rank of General by early 1777. Stark is reported to have inspired his New Hampshire Volunteers the eve before the Battle of Bennington, fought on August 16, 1777, by proclaiming *"Now, my men, yonder are the Redcoats! Tonight, the American flag flies over yonder hill or Molly Stark sleeps a widow!"*

Elizabeth "Molly" Paige Stark was an accomplished and independent woman by her own right; she raised 11 children, teaching them to read and write. She was strong willed and social, and didn't bow to her husband's demands. She was instrumental to the American success at the Battle of Bennington; after the General departed west from New Hampshire, Molly recruited more men for the New Hampshire Militia. She even converted her homestead barn into a hospital to care for wounded from both sides. The approximate westward route that Stark and his Volunteers followed is commemorated by the Molly Stark Trail Scenic Byway.

The area that now makes up Molly Stark State Park was cleared for agriculture and sheep farming by settlers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1932 a Civilian Conservation Corps crew built a roadside picnic area here on land owned by the Towns of Wilmington and Brattleboro. In 1939, the towns gave the 100 acre property to the State; later in the same year, Olga Haslund, a Wilmington resident, gave 48 acres. The result was the creation of Molly Stark State Park.

In 1955, the steel fire tower was moved from Townshend State Park to the summit of Mt Olga at Molly Stark State Park. Hogback Ski Area operated partially on park property under lease agreement from 1955 until 1987. Campground development started in the late 1950's with the park officially opening on July 2, 1960.

### Molly Stark State Park Amenities

- 23 campsites
- 11 lean-to shelters
- Loop hiking trail to Mt Olga and lookout tower
- Picnic facilities
- Firewood & Ice sales
- Full restroom facilities with showers

### Sightseeing and Recreation in the Area

- Mt. Snow Resort-West Dover
  - Hiking
  - Chairlift rides
  - Mountain biking
  - Golf
- Wilmington
  - Memorial Hall Center for the Arts
  - Farmstands and tours
  - Historic downtown
  - Harriman Reservoir
- Marlboro –Southern Vt. Nat. History Museum
- Bennington
  - Museums
  - Battle of Bennington historic sites
  - Historic downtown and villages

### for more information, contact:

**Molly Stark State Park**  
705 Route 9 East  
Wilmington, VT 05363  
(802) 464-5460 (Operating Season)

**Vt State Parks Reservation Center**  
(888) 409 7579 M-F 9AM-4 PM

Or

[www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com)



**AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

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# Molly Stark State Park Map & Guide



**Memorial Day Weekend -  
Indigenous Peoples' Day**

Camping  
Hiking  
Picnicking  
Group Events

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