

Sweet Pond State Park

Guilford, Vermont



This map is intended for informational purposes only. Not survey accurate.

Legend

- Parking (not maintained in winter)
- Cartop Boat Launch
- Foot trail
- Town trail
- State forest highway
- State Park boundary
- Vista

Welcome to Sweet Pond State Park

Sweet Pond State Park was established in 1976 when the State of Vermont purchased a 100-acre tract of land with funds from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The park is named after Dr. Charles and Susan Sweet, who maintained a summer home on the property for much of the 20th century.

Located in the southeastern Vermont town of Guilford, the park is less than 1 ½ miles from the Massachusetts border, and is nine miles southwest of Brattleboro. The park includes all of the shoreline of 20-acre Sweet Pond. The pond is an artificial impoundment on Keats Brook; a dam was first established here in the mid 19th century to power a mill. The land was originally settled by the Franklin family, who farmed the land for more than 150 years beginning in 1777. The Franklin Cemetery lies within the park.

The park is undeveloped, except for the Sweet family homestead, a public parking area and a foot trail. There are traces visible of historic farmsteads and roads on the property. The 1.3 mile Sweet Pond Trail circumnavigates the pond. The park is managed for dispersed recreation, wildlife habitat and timber production. The park is open for day activities; camping or overnight use is not permitted. Hiking and paddling are the most common activities here.

Sweet Pond Trail

1.3 miles, loop, Easy.

The Sweet Pond Trail begins at the parking area off of Sweet Pond Road. The trail cuts down the hillside, and swings to the left, or north, after a few yards, following an old road. It continues along the western shore of the pond; there are three short side trails that lead to vistas of the

pond. At the northern end of the pond, the trail crosses through a brushy wetland on several elevated timber boardwalks. The trail continues to the southeast, along the eastern side of the pond through mature hemlocks and oaks. There is another vista near the southern end. At one mile, the trail crosses over the concrete and stone dam and connects to Sweet Pond Road. Follow the road back to the park entrance and parking area.

Getting to Sweet Pond State Park

From Brattleboro, head south on U.S. Route 5, and turn right onto the Guilford Center Road. Turn left (1.7 miles from Rt 5) onto Weatherhead Hollow Road. Continue past the Guilford fairgrounds and Weatherhead Hollow Pond and turn right onto Baker Cross Road (5.6 mi.). Turn right again onto Sweet Pond Road (6.1 mi.). The road is rather narrow, so use caution and drive slowly. Pass the dam and outlet (7.4 mi.) and take a sharp right at the park entrance (there's a sign; 7.7 mi.). Immediately turn left and go down a short, narrow lane to the parking area and information kiosk.

For more information, contact the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation at 100 Mineral St, Ste 304, Springfield, VT 05156; (802) 885-8855 or www.vtstateparks.com

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Sweet Pond State Park Map & Guide



*Hiking
Paddling*

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