



# TOWNSHEND STATE FOREST

## Recreational Trails Guide

hiking trail marked with blue blazes  
forest boundaries marked with orange blazes

### LEGEND

- Park office
- Campground
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Hiking trail
- Park boundary
- Stream
- Power line
- Vista
- Scott Bridge State Historic Site

## Townshend State Forest & Park

Townshend State Park is located within the 1244-acre Townshend State Forest. The State Forest was established in 1912, making it one of the state's oldest land holdings. Its primary use at the time of acquisition was public day recreation, timber harvesting and the location of a forest fire lookout.

During the Great Depression, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was based here. The CCC was a national program putting unemployed men to work on public works projects. The CCC laid out a camping and picnic area and constructed a stone house and steel fire lookout tower. Stone was quarried from within the forest. Several of the camp buildings remained, including a large administration dining building, which was used by local Girl Scouts until it burned in the late 1960s.

The landscape of Townshend State Forest is dominated by Bald Mountain, elevation 1680 feet. The mountain's forested slopes are covered with hemlock, white pine, and a variety of hardwoods including sugar maple, red maple, birch and red oak. Many deer spend the winter here, protected from the cold weather and heavy snows by the cover of hemlock trees.

## Hiking

### Bald Mountain Trail

**3.4 miles round trip, 3 hours. Blue blazes.**

This hiking trail leads to the summit of Bald Mountain, a vertical climb of 1100 feet from the trailhead at the campground. Vistas provide views to the north, south and east at the summit. The moderate to difficult hike ascends quickly, following the steep ravine of Negro Brook for about the first half mile. The trail then crosses the brook and winds its way up the mountain through hemlocks and hardwood forests. The last ¼ mile is a steep climb with some exposed rocks.

The summit is dry and more open, with oaks and hophornbeams among a shaded meadow. Day entry fees apply during the operating season. Parking available during the operating season only.



## The Townshend Area

### Townshend Reservoir Recreation Area

Located near the State Forest, this federal recreation area has swimming and boating facilities. It is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There are several hiking trails, including an interpretive hike.

### Jamaica State Park

Located nine miles northwest of Townshend State Forest, Jamaica State Park offers several miles of hiking trails and a two mile segment of the 13-mile West River Trail, a multi-use trail for foot and bicycle traffic.

## General Guidelines

This area is maintained by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. Please observe posted park rules and regulations, as well as:

- Overnight camping and campfires are allowed only at designated sites in the developed campground. Inquire at the park office for more information.
- Please stay on marked hiking trails.
- Keep the trails free of litter. Carry out what you carry in.
- Keep pets on a leash at all times.
- Trails are for foot travel only.
- Leave all wildflowers and plants in their natural environment for others to enjoy.

Townshend State Park  
2755 State Forest Rd  
Townshend, VT 05353  
(802)365-7500 (operating season)  
[www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com)



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*Operating Season:  
Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day*

*Hiking  
Developed Camping*