

MOUNT BLUE STATE PARK AND TUMBLEDOWN PUBLIC LANDS

HIKING TRAILS

MOUNT BLUE STATE PARK

Mt. Blue Trail (3.2 miles roundtrip, 3-4 hours, moderate): A strenuous, straight-up hike leads to scenic vistas and an observation tower at the peak. The trail offers excellent birding and abundant wildflowers. Observation deck is at the summit.

Center Hill Nature Trail (0.5 miles roundtrip, 1 hour, easy): An interpretive brochure and numbered way stations allow visitors to learn more about the region's cultural and natural history. The trail begins at the parking lot of the Center Hill picnic area.

Campground Trails: - To reach these trails, travel 2.4 miles north on Rte. 142 past Weld Village and bear left on the West Side Road at Webb Corner. Continue 4 miles to Webb Beach Road, which leads down to the lake and campground.

Hopping Frog Nature Trail (1 mile roundtrip, 1 hour, easy): This meandering foot path, between the shore of Webb Lake

and Swett Brook, is well-suited to nature study. Start near the Park's nature center and return by the same route.

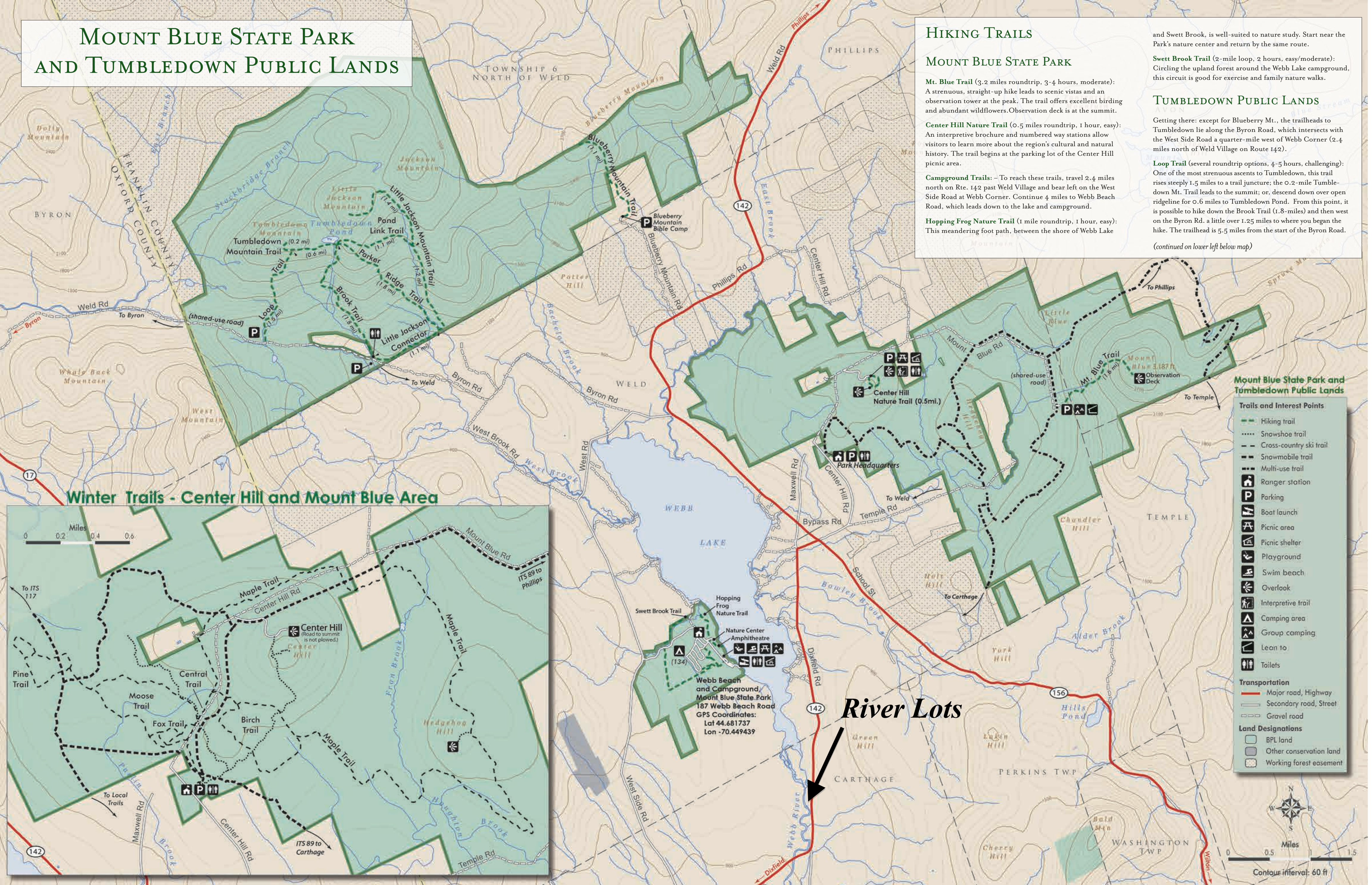
Swett Brook Trail (2-mile loop, 2 hours, easy/moderate): Circling the upland forest around the Webb Lake campground, this circuit is good for exercise and family nature walks.

TUMBLEDOWN PUBLIC LANDS

Getting there: except for Blueberry Mt., the trailheads to Tumbledown lie along the Byron Road, which intersects with the West Side Road a quarter-mile west of Webb Corner (2.4 miles north of Weld Village on Route 142).

Loop Trail (several roundtrip options, 4-5 hours, challenging): One of the most strenuous ascents to Tumbledown, this trail rises steeply 1.5 miles to a trail juncture; the 0.2-mile Tumbledown Mt. Trail leads to the summit; or, descend down over open ridgeline for 0.6 miles to Tumbledown Pond. From this point, it is possible to hike down the Brook Trail (1.8-miles) and then west on the Byron Rd. a little over 1.25 miles to where you began the hike. The trailhead is 5.5 miles from the start of the Byron Road.

(continued on lower left below map)



Winter Trails - Center Hill and Mount Blue Area

TUMBLEDOWN PUBLIC LANDS

(continued from above)

Brook Trail (3 miles to pond and back, 3 hours, moderate): Following Tumbledown Brook, this trail provides the quickest, most direct route up to Tumbledown Pond. The trail ends at the alpine pond where it meets the Loop, Parker Ridge, and Pond Link Trails. The trailhead is 3.7 miles from the east end of Byron Road by a large parking area just uphill from a brook crossing.

Parker Ridge Trail (5.8 miles, to pond and back, 5 hours, moderate): This trail is accessed via a cutoff from the start of the Brook Trail. The one-mile Little Jackson Connector trail covers gentle ground before linking with the 1.8-mile Parker Ridge Trail, which provides an attractive route to Tumbledown Pond, including a section of open ridge with far-reaching views.

Little Jackson Mountain Trail (7 miles roundtrip, 6 hours, challenging): This trail with good birding, attractive brooks, and splendid views can be reached via the Little Jackson Connector trail from the start of the Brook Trail. Follow the connector trail for 1.1 miles then bear right past the junction of the Parker Ridge Trail to Little Jackson Mt. Trail, on left.

Pond Link Trail (1.1 miles one-way, 1 hour, moderate): The Pond Link Trail connects Tumbledown Pond with the Little Jackson Trail. This trail segment enables loop hikes using the Little Jackson Trail and the Brook Trail or the Loop Trail.

Blueberry Mountain Trail (2.2 miles, roundtrip, 3 hours, moderate): This trail begins in back of the Blueberry Mountain Bible Camp, which is accessed by a 2-mile dirt road off Route 142. The Blueberry Mountain Trail has steep pitches, including near the beginning, but overall offers a modest hike with rewarding vistas. Note: Please respect the private land this trail crosses. Park next to the camp lodge - not at the sports field beyond.

MULTI-USE TRAILS

The multi-use trail consists of approximately 18 miles. It starts at park headquarters and connects to the State-wide interconnected trail system. Those exploring by mountain bike, ATV, horse, or on foot will encounter varied terrain: old unimproved roads and some wooded sections that offer challenging riding. To reach these trails, follow the Center Hill Road from Weld Village to park headquarters' ample parking area.

ATV and multi-use trail information and maps are available on-line at www.parksandlands.com or call (207) 287-2751.

WINTER TRAILS

Cross-country ski trails at Mount Blue State Park provide an opportunity to experience the park's more remote areas in winter's splendor. Six trails traverse forests, fields, and old farmlands. Fifteen miles of ski trails with a set track range in length from a 1/2-mile to 10 miles.

Snowmobile trails wind through the park, connecting the Maine ITS system and local trails. Additional information about snowmobiling and the ITS system is available on-line at www.parksandlands.com or call (207) 287-4957.