

Mt. Blue State Park

A lake, hill and mountain, whose land was once cultivated as farmland and is now covered with sparkling woods, are the scenic heart of Mt. Blue State Park. Visitors of the park will discover myriad four-season outdoor recreational opportunities. Nestled in the western hills of Maine, the park offers activities ranging from a relaxing day spent on the sandy beach at Webb Lake to a strenuous hike up the 3,200-foot summit of Mt. Blue.

Two sections of the park encompass 7,500 acres. Along the lake, on the southwest shore off West Road, is located Webb Beach and a 136 site campground. Northeast of Webb and reached from Center Hill Road in the center of Weld, is the parcel that includes the Center Hill picnic area and Mt. Blue trail network. Mt. Blue State Park is the ideal location for an enjoyable outdoor excursion.

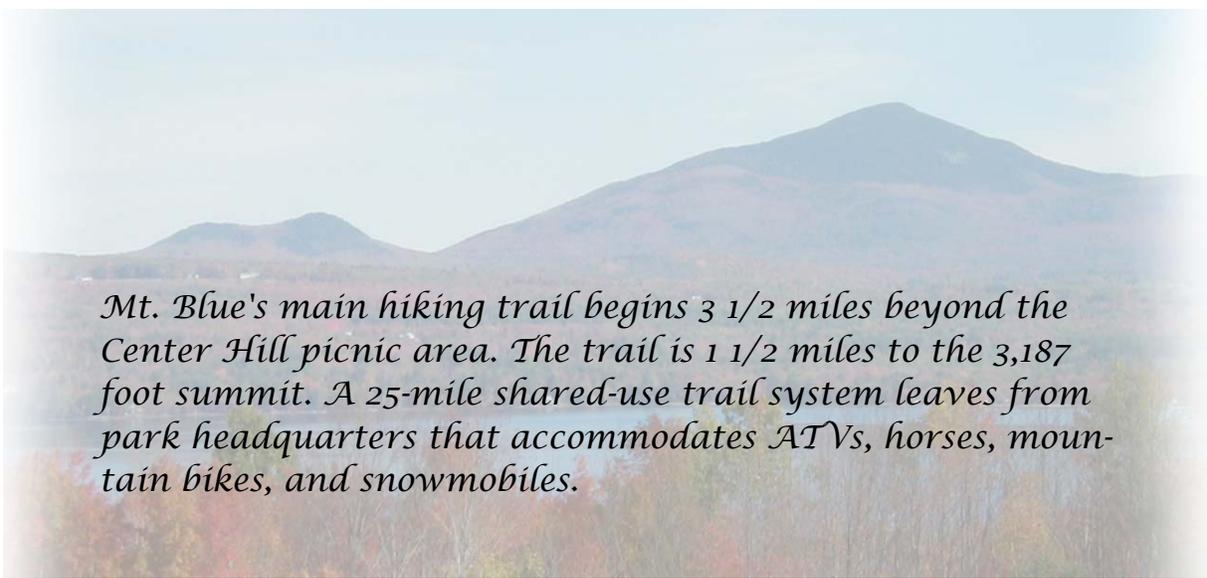


A grass lawn and sandy beach are in the center of an expansive picnic area with numerous picnic tables and charcoal grills. There is a roped-in swimming area for safety, and a building with changing facilities.

Flora, fauna and fun. There's lots to learn about and do while you're visiting a state park and Mt. Blue is no exception. How about panning for gold on nearby Swift River, paddling on a canoe trip or discovering the local wildlife on a nature walk? These are just some of the experiences possible. Evening programs for campers take place in the park amphitheater. Natural history exhibits are on display at the park's Nature Center. A current schedule of events is listed on park bulletin boards.

Center Hill is a more secluded picnic area. A self-guided nature trail around the top of Center Hill provides sweeping views of the surrounding area.





Mt. Blue's main hiking trail begins 3 1/2 miles beyond the Center Hill picnic area. The trail is 1 1/2 miles to the 3,187 foot summit. A 25-mile shared-use trail system leaves from park headquarters that accommodates ATVs, horses, mountain bikes, and snowmobiles.



Wildlife viewing is generally good on many of the roads in the vicinity, dusk and dawn being the best times for sightings. Observers may see moose, deer, bear, coyote and fox as well as a host of birds (including bald eagles and loons) and small animals. The number of moose in the Weld area continues to increase. Sightings of these majestic animals is a popular activity and is common during the summer months.

Swampy, boggy areas are the favorite stomping grounds of moose and the best time for moose sightings are at dusk and dawn. From the common grey and red squirrels to the more elusive black bear and coyote, a host of other animals, big and small, also visit the park.

