

# J. A. Skinner State Park



390-acre Skinner State Park on top of Mount Holyoke offers breathtaking views of the Connecticut River Valley. The summit is accessible by road from April through November, and by hiking trails year-round.

The park is named after Joseph Allen Skinner, a wealthy industrialist who donated the hotel and land to the state in 1940. There are 20 picnic sites on the grounds, many with fine views and charcoal grills. Restrooms are available.

Hawk watching is popular in spring and fall. Hang-gliding is allowed by special permit. Paths from the Summit House connect with marked trails that traverse the Holyoke Range. Fall foliage viewing is popular in the park, and the masses of flowering mountain laurel present a lovely spectacle in June.

The mountain formed some 200 million years ago when lava flowed from the valley floor, cooled and was upended. More recently, glaciers left their signature, scouring the mountain's jagged edges smooth in some places, exposing bedrock or leaving till, sand, clay or muck in others.

## **How to get there?**

From East or West take Mass Pike (Rte. I-90) to exit 5, Rte. 33 north to Rt 116 north to Rt 47 north approximately four miles. Park entrance is on right.



# Mount Holyoke State Park



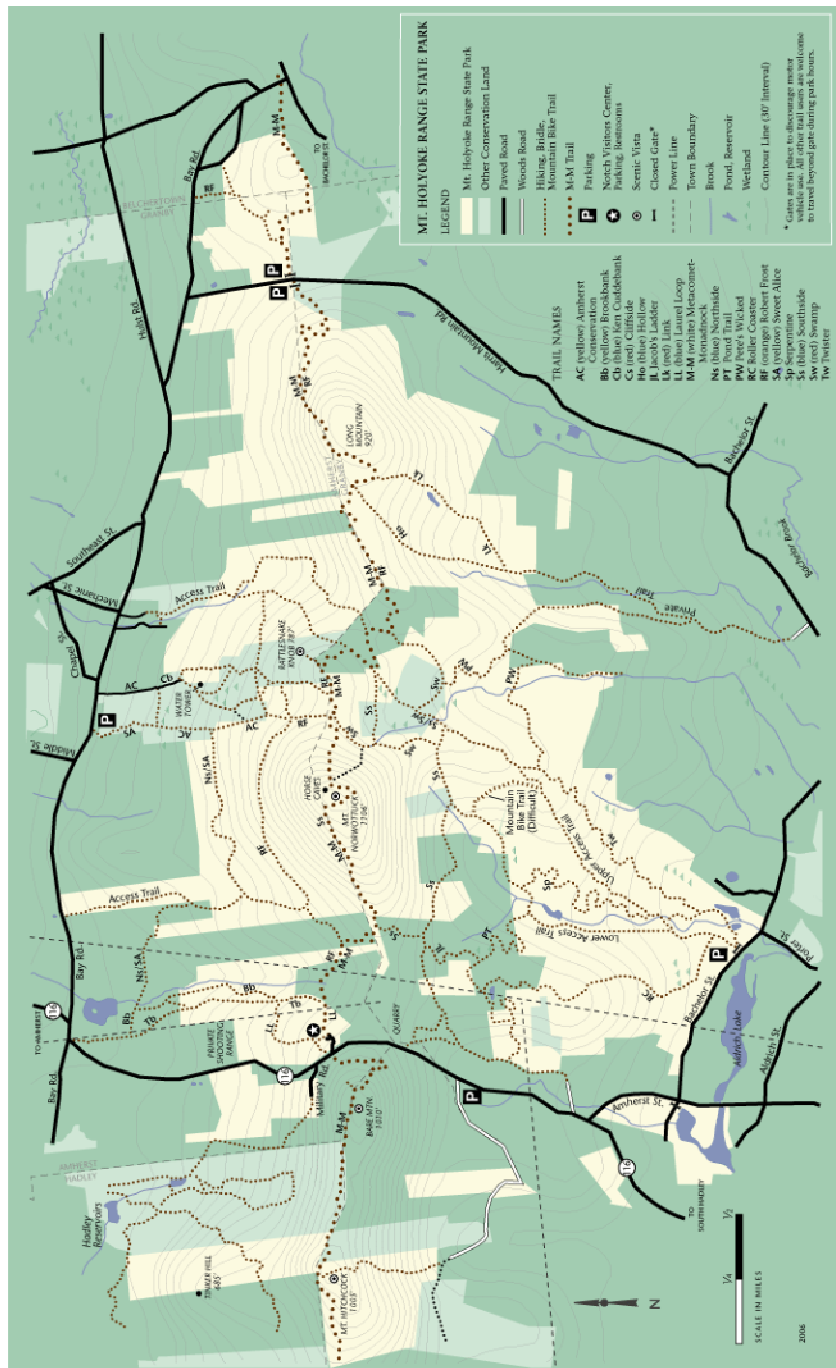
Rising roughly 1,000 feet in elevation, Mt. Holyoke Range State Park straddles the seven-mile ridge that runs from Hadley to Belchertown. The ridge is a patchwork of state, town and private lands. Parcels acquired by the state since the 1970's bring the park to over 3,000 acres.

The Mt. Holyoke Range formed some 200 million years ago when lava flowed from the valley floor, cooled and was upended. More recently, glaciers left their signature, scouring the ridge's jagged edges smooth in some places, exposing bedrock, or depositing till, sand, clay or muck in others.

Over 30 miles of marked trails provide a variety of outdoor experiences including hiking, walking, viewing vistas, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding and hunting. The Notch Visitor Center, located on Route 116 in Amherst, is open daily. Displays and interpretive programs are available in season.

## **How to get there?**

From East or West take the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) to exit 5, Rte. 33 north to Rte. 116 north to the Amherst town line.



# Mount Tom State Reservation



Mt. Tom boasts an unparalleled view of the Connecticut Valley north and south, the Berkshire mountains to the west and the Pelham hills to the east.

This 2,082 acre facility offers 20 miles of hiking and walking trails; picnicking; canoeing and fishing on Lake Bray; and cross country skiing and ice skating in the winter. Mt. Tom also offers a children's play area.

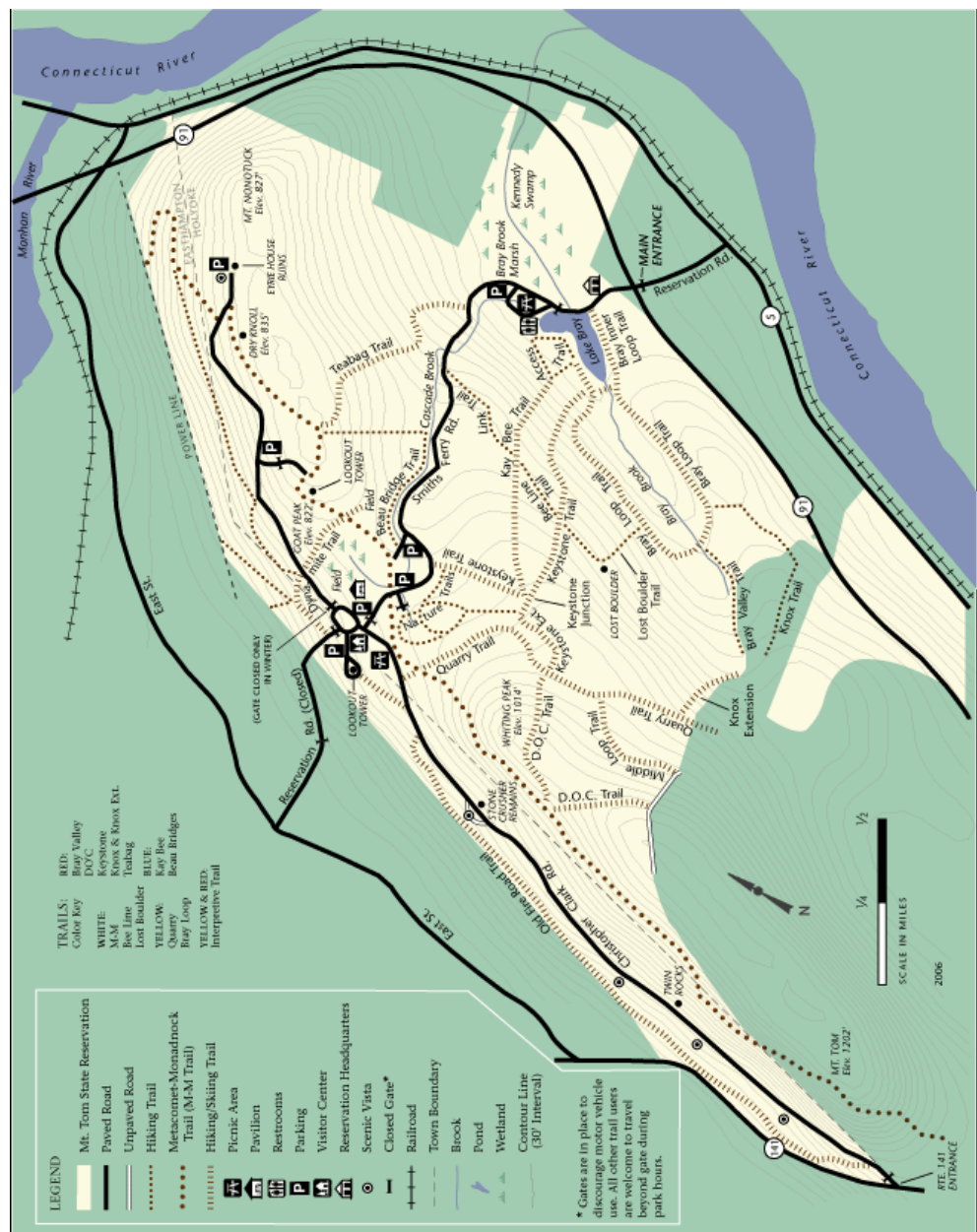
Today the Reservation includes about 47 of the 80 tree species found naturally in Hampshire County. Mt. Tom is one of the premier hawk watching spots in New England. Each fall, thousands of hawks and other birds fly past the mountain.

## **How to get there?**

From the south: Rte. 91 north, take exit #17-B, go 4 miles on Rte 141 west. Reservation entrance is on the right.

From the north: Rte. 91 south, take exit #18, onto Rte 5 south about 1.5 miles, right on to East St. for 3 miles, left onto 141 East (up the hill), reservation entrance on your left.





# Connecticut River Greenway State Park



The Connecticut River Greenway is one of Massachusetts' newest State Parks. It connects open spaces, parks, scenic vistas, and archaeological and historic sites along the length of the Connecticut River as it passes through the state.

There are over 12 miles of permanently protected shoreline, and numerous access points to the river. Like jewels along a necklace, several larger properties such as Mt. Sugarloaf State Reservation, Norwottuck Rail Trail and the Great Falls Discovery Center (located in Turner's Falls) provide added visitor amenities.

## **How to get there?**

From Elwell Recreation Area, Northampton: Damon Road at Route 9 and I-91. Canoe and rowing access only. Paved access ramp to a wheelchair accessible dock on the river. Limited parking.

From Oxbow Ramp, Easthampton: take Rte. I-91 to exit 18 south on Rte. 5 in Easthampton. Thirty-five parking spaces and a paved ramp. Customary use by high powered recreational craft and larger fishing boats.

# Robinson State Park



Robinson State Park serves as a major day use area for its region. Donated to the state in 1934, the facility includes over 800 acres with five miles of frontage on the Westfield River.

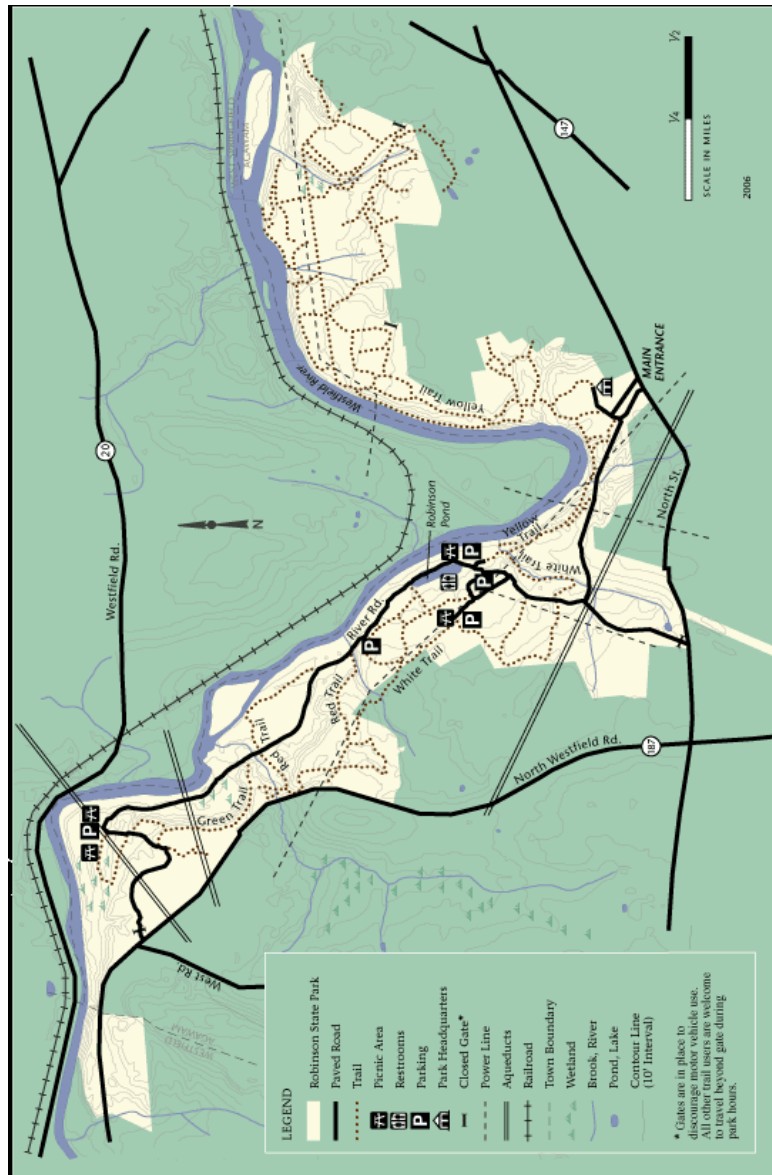
In addition to several good vantage points on the Westfield River near the bend at White Brook, the park offers tables and fireplaces at the Trestle and Proven Mountain picnic areas. The 17 acre island west of the falls at Mittineague is one of the park's most picturesque spots.

The rough terrain of the park is unexpected in the fertile Connecticut River Valley. A small demonstration logging area, located on the site, adds to the diversity and importance of this urban park.

## **How to get there?**

From east or west: Mass Pike (Rte. I-90) to exit 4, Rte. 91 south, Rte. 57 west, Rte. 187 north, to North St. Follow signs.





# Holyoke Heritage State Park



The park's Visitors' Center features exhibits about paper manufacturing and Holyoke's industrial history. A slide show celebrates the city's rich blend of cultures and people. Special programs are offered year-round. The Children's Museum, the restored antique Holyoke Merry-Go-Round and the Volleyball Hall of Fame are also located within the park.

Outside the Visitors' Center, relax and have a picnic in the beautifully landscaped park overlooking Holyoke's three water power canals and several of the mill buildings. The historic railroad is not running at present, but when in operation it takes passengers on a 10 mile route through Holyoke and the surrounding countryside.

## **How to get there?**

From east to west: take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Rte. I-90) to exit 4 to Rte. I-91 north; continue to the second Holyoke exit (Exit 16, Route 202); follow Rte. 202 north for a mile and a half; take a right onto Rte. 141 east (Appleton Street), then continue one-half mile to the park.

# Mohawk Trail State Forest



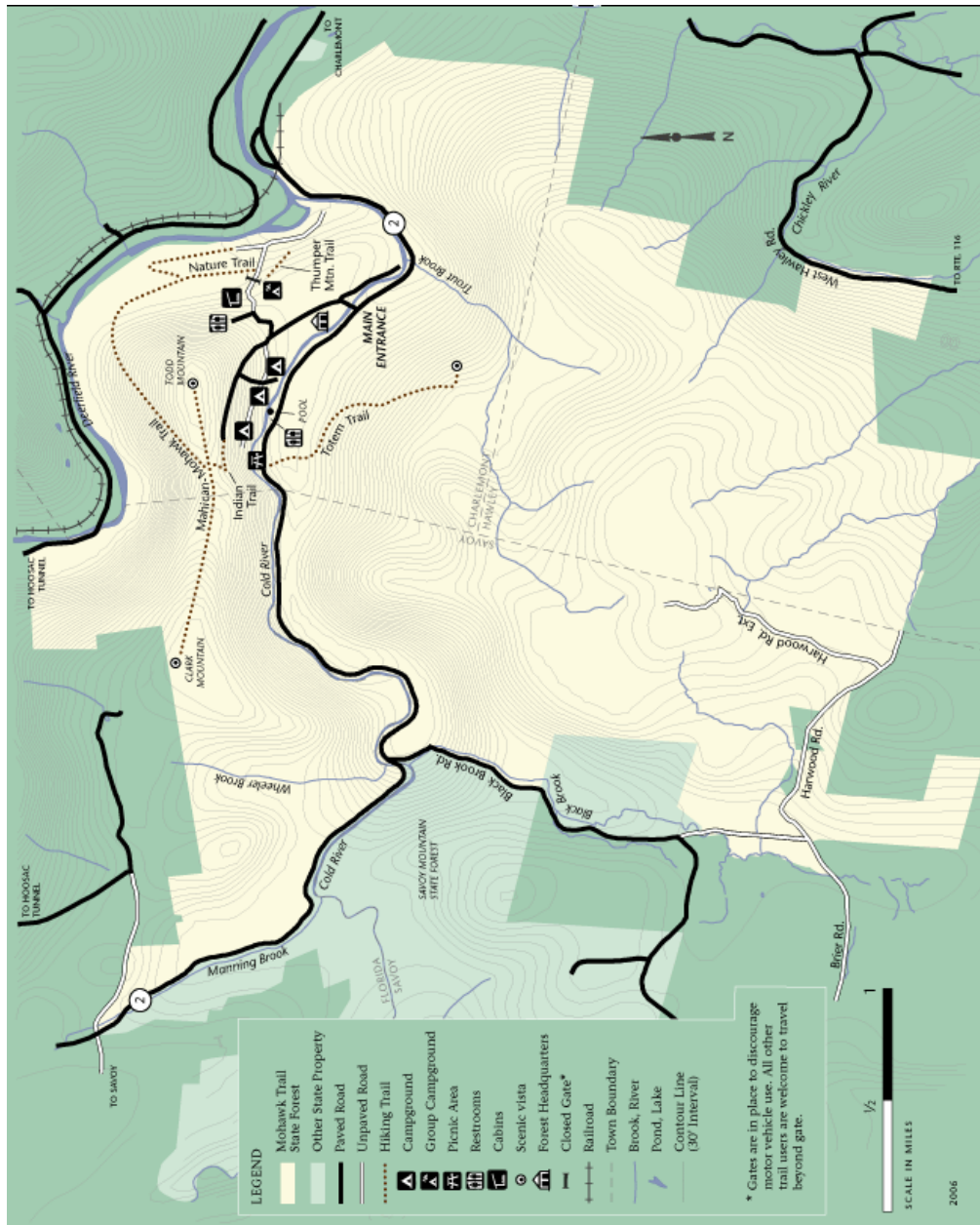
A clear, cold river cascades through Mohawk Trail State Forest along a rocky streambed. One of the most scenic woodland areas in Massachusetts, the state forest offers visitors a taste of real wilderness in a rustic setting.

Over 6,000 acres of mountain ridges, deep gorges and tall old-growth trees support a diversity of plant and animal life. 56 wooded campsites are available seasonally, and six overnight log cabins are available year-round.

Discover miles of rivers and streams for excellent trout fishing, a swimming area, and a day-use picnic area. The state forest is located along and named for the Mohawk Trail a historic Native American foot path that connected the Connecticut and Hudson River Valleys. Sections of this route are open for hiking today as the Mohican-Mohawk Trail.

## **How to get there?**

From North, South and East/I-91: From I-91 take Exit 26 in Greenfield and follow Rte. 2 west for 21 miles. The park entrance is on the right, 4 miles west of Charlemont center.



# DAR State Forest



The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) donated 1,020 acres to the Commonwealth for a state forest in 1929. Since then more than 750 additional acres have been acquired to include Upper and Lower Highland Lakes, which offer a popular swimming beach, shady picnic area and a group picnic pavilion.

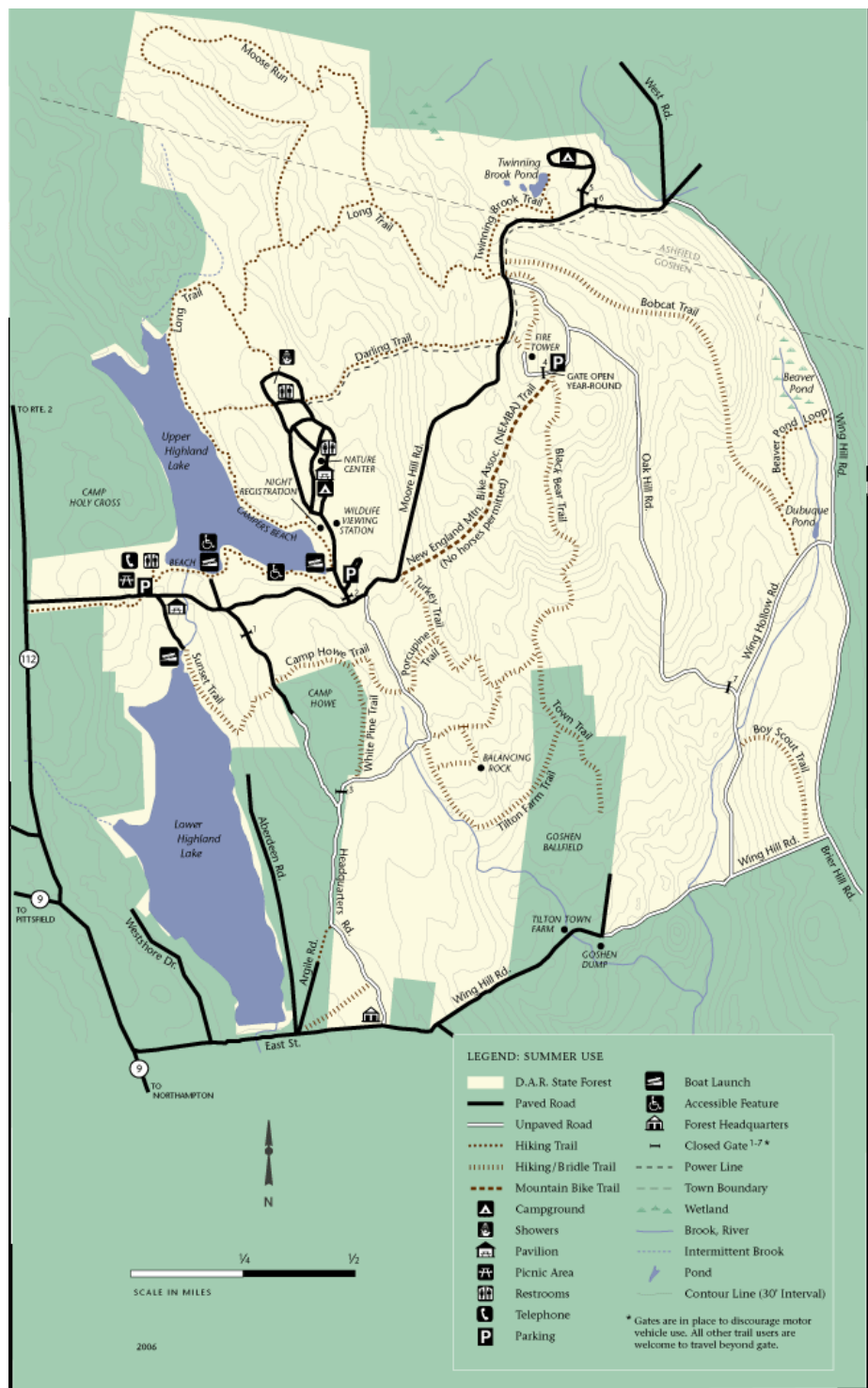
Located in the eastern foothills of the Berkshires, discover 15 miles of mixed-use trails through northern hardwood-conifer forest. Climb the Goshen fire tower for spectacular views of the Connecticut River Valley and into five states. The campground offers 51 wooded campsites featuring modern comfort stations with showers and a private beach. Wheelchair accessible campsites are also available.

In summer other activities include: non-motorized boating, hiking, fishing, and horseback riding (bring your horse), and mountain biking. In winter ice fishing, skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling are popular.

## **How to get there?**

From South/Rte. I-91: Take Exit 19 in Northampton and follow MA Rte. 9 west for 15 miles to Goshen. Turn right onto MA Rte. 112 north and continue for 0.7 miles. Park entrance is on the right.







# Windsor State Forest



Deep in the rolling hills of the Berkshire highlands, Windsor State Forest's cascading waterfall at Windsor Jambs stands out for its spectacular beauty. Windsor Jambs Brook plunges through a 25-foot-wide gorge, with 80-foot-high granite walls rising on either side; a beautiful and refreshing place to visit.

The popular day-use area along the Westfield River offers a 100-foot sandy beach for swimming with wooded picnic sites. 24 limited-service campsites are also available (no showers or flush toilets). Trails and old dirt roads that wind through the "The Bush" are favored by hikers, cross-country skiers and snowmobiles. Fishermen and hunters are also welcome.

## **How to get there?**

From the East/Mass Pike (I-90): Follow I-91 north to Exit 19 in Northampton. Follow MA Rte. 9 west to for 27.8 miles to West Cummington. Turn right onto West Main Street, continue for 0.1 mile then take an immediate left onto River Road and follow for 2.9 miles to the day-use area entrance on the left, or campground on the right.



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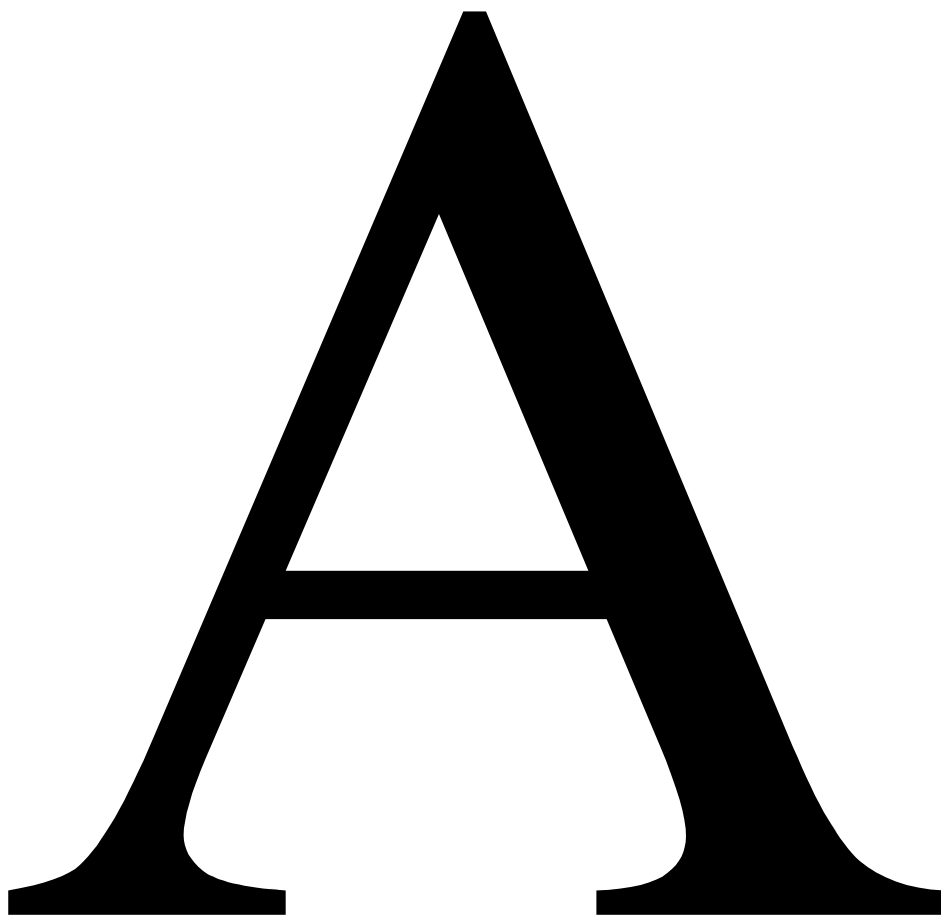
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