Trails in the Windham Region,
Sources for Information and Maps

This document is a joint effort between the Windham Regional Commission and the Vermont Department of Health, Brattleboro District Office, in support of the “Windham On The Move” initiative.

Last updated April 2020. To report an error, or for more information: jnugent@windhamregional.org

This is list of information resources for many of the public, official trails in the Windham Region of Vermont. It’s not intended to be a trail guide, but to be used as a quick reference to trail information in each town. You are encouraged to look at the official sources listed for more detailed information before you hit the trails.

Many guidebooks available in local bookstores also provide information on trails, hikes, and walks in the area. *Nature Walks in Southern Vermont* includes many shorter walks with great information on the history and short nature essays about the area—perfect for beginners. *25 Short Hikes and Interesting Walks in the Mount Snow & Brattleboro Region* includes many of the trails listed below, while *50 Hikes in Vermont* covers the entire state. The Green Mountain Club publishes numerous guidebooks to Vermont, with *The Long Trail Guide* and *The Day Hikers Guide to Vermont* being the most popular.

TrailFinder is an emerging source for trails information in Vermont and New Hampshire, and is being promoted by the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation as the state’s primary trails information portal. It presents information on many trails in one place in a standardized format. [www.TrailFinder.com](http://www.TrailFinder.com).

**Athens**

Athens is home to many trails which are part of the large network maintained by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association. There are two main access points/hiking areas.

Sleepy Valley Trail - The Sleepy Valley Trail climbs steeply west from Route 35 up to the Athens Dome area. You can also walk east and then south on WHPA trails towards Paul’s Ledges. Trailhead on Route 35 near the Grafton town line.  [http://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org/]

Brattleboro

Brattleboro Area Trails Map and Guide - Most public trails in Brattleboro are in this brochure, which includes a map and trail descriptions. It is available at the town office and Chamber of Commerce, and from the town web site:  [http://www.brattleboro.org](http://www.brattleboro.org), click on Sports and Recreation, then Trail Maps.

Retreat Trails- A system of over 11 miles of trails at the edge of town, many are broad walking paths. Both short walks and long hikes are possible. Mountain biking is allowed. Information at [http://www.retreatfarm.org/retreat-trails/](http://www.retreatfarm.org/retreat-trails/). Maps are available on this site or at any of the five trailheads at the Retreat Farm, Solar Hill, on Cedar Street, or Upper Dummerston Road.

West River Trail - A 3.5 mile multi-use, unpaved, improved surface pathway on an old railroad grade paralleling the West River. Great for a short stroll, longer walk, or bike ride (hybrid bikes/wider tires recommended). The trail is flat and includes a balcony and bench under the new Interstate 91 bridge. Trailhead off Putney Road on Spring Tree Road behind the Marina Restaurant. [https://westrivertrail.org/](https://westrivertrail.org/) (West River Trail in Brattleboro is the Lower Section), or [https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/west-river-trail-lower-section](https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/west-river-trail-lower-section)

Hillwinds Trails – see Brattleboro Area Trails Map and Guide, or [https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/hillwinds-trails](https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/hillwinds-trails)

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center – see Brattleboro Area Trails Map and Guide, or [http://beec.org/?page_id=5234](http://beec.org/?page_id=5234)

Round Mountain – see Brattleboro Area Trails Map and Guide

Living Memorial Park – see Brattleboro Area Trails Map and Guide (note: trail marking and signs are not entirely clear as of 4/2020, but the area is small fine for exploration)

Wantastiquet Mountain – see Brattleboro Area Trails Map and Guide (in Hinsdale, NH)


Brookline

Putney Mountain – An extensive trail network of the Putney Mountain Association is on Putney Mountain. On Grassy Brook Road, the Grassy Brook Trailhead is the start of the Windmill Hill Trail, which climbs steeply one mile to the ridge top. The Pinnacle is 2.4 miles north, and Putney Mountain is
2.3 miles south. The new Radford Smith Trail climbs pleasantly 2.0 miles to The Pinnacle from Grassy Brook Rd. From a trailhead on Putney Mountain Road, trails lead north to the cleared summit of the mountain in less than one mile. The Southern Tier Trails pass through quiet wooded lands south of Putney Mountain Road and north of Holland Hill Road http://www.putneymountain.org

Dover

The Public Library has both adult and children’s snowshoes available for loan to help you get out and moving during the winter months.

Crosstown Trails - This trail system is location between Handle and Crosstown Roads. The one-mile Crosstown Trail is a wide and easily followed trail between these two roads. It has many natural history interpretive signs and passes several wetlands. Many other trails, generally narrower and popular with mountain bikers, lead off the main Crosstown Trail, so there are lots of possibilities for exploration. http://www.doververmont.com/trails

Dover Town Forest – A parking lot at the end of Rice Hill Road (off Cooper Hill and Valley View Roads) is the starting point for several trails. You can walk for several miles on the untraveled extension of Rice Farm Road (a former snowmobile trail), or follow a trail which starts in the far corner of the parking lot and loops back to the untraveled road; return to the parking lot for a walk of just over a mile. Fun fact: Rice Hill Road is the highest elevation plowed road in Windham County, so it’s a great place to find snow! http://www.sovta.org/

Valley Trail – there are two sections of the Valley Trail in Dover. One section is a portion of the trail runs from Wilmington Village all the way to Mount Snow, and uses parts of the Crosstown Trails system; it is a combination of a singletrack footpath, snowmobile trail, and improved crushed stone. A separate section is a three-quarter mile paved multi-use pathway along Route 100, and is cleared in the winter of snow. http://wilmingtonvermont.us/about/trails-hiking/, or https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/valley-trail-wilmington-dover

Dummerston

Dummerston Walks and Trails – Several public trails and walks are highlighted in this brochure, which includes a map and description of the trails. http://dummerstonconservation.com/trails/

Black Mountain Natural Area – Black Mountain’s unique (for Vermont) geology and plants make it a popular area for nature enthusiasts. From Rice Farm Road there are now trailheads from which you can follow a fairly steep 3 mile loop, or walk up part way for a shorter hike to a beaver pond. https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/black-mountain-natural-area or https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/vermont/places-preserves/black-mountain-natural-area.xml
**Dutton Pines State Park** - a short walk in this roadside park on Route 5
https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/dutton-pines-state-park

**Grafton**

Grafton is home to several trails which are part of the large network maintained by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association.

**Athens Dome Trails** – This area in the southeast corner of Grafton is accessed from two main trailheads. From the Ledge Road Trailhead, a 0.5 mile trail leads to Creature Rock and a summit viewing area, while the Kidder Hill Trailhead is the starting point for a one mile hike to Bear Hill. A trail through trail connects the two trailheads. http://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org/

**Guilford**

The Public Library has both adult and children’s snowshoes available for loan to help you get out and moving during the winter months.

**Weeks Forest Carriage Trail** – The Carriage Trail is a flat, round trip walk of slightly less than one mile along a brook on an old carriage road that served a mineral springs resort. An interpretive guide to the history of the area is available at the trailhead on Carpenter Road just outside Guilford Center. https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/weeks-forest-carriage-trail

**Sweet Pond State Park** – This undeveloped state park has a one mile loop trail around the former Sweet Pond (which is now an open marshy area), after which one can turn around or walk a half mile on the road back to the start. On Sweet Pond Road. http://vtstateparks.com/sweetpond.html or https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/sweet-pond-state-park

**Halifax**

There are no formal, official hiking trails in Halifax. The Town does have many miles of Class 4 Town Highways and Legal Trails, which are public rights of way of current and former town roads but with little to no maintenance. They may offer walking opportunities. Find them the town road name map: http://www.windhamregional.org/gis/road-name-maps

**Jamaica**

The Public Library has both adult and children’s snowshoes available for loan to help you get out and moving during the winter months.
**Jamaica State Park, including West River Trail and Overlook Trail** – The West River Trail uses an old railroad grade, which means it's flat and therefore very easy walking. You can follow it 2 miles along the West River to a junction. Here you can continue straight along the river another half mile to Ball Mountain Dam, or turn right on a steep 1 mile spur trail to Hamilton Falls. The Overlook Trail is part of a 2.5 mile loop which starts in the campground and returns to the park on the West River Trail. The Overlook Trail is moderately steep in places. [https://vtstateparks.com/jamaica.html](https://vtstateparks.com/jamaica.html), [https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/jamaica-state-park](https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/jamaica-state-park), or [https://westrivertrail.org/](https://westrivertrail.org/) (trail in Jamaica is the upper section)

**West River Trail, Ball Mountain Dam** - Two parking areas before the dam serve as trailheads for the West River Trail northbound to Winhall Brook Campground. At the end of the access road, you can cross the dam and follow the West River Trail south to Jamaica State Park. [http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Recreation/BML/BMLTrailMap.pdf](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Recreation/BML/BMLTrailMap.pdf) or [https://westrivertrail.org/](https://westrivertrail.org/) (trail in Jamaica is the upper section)

**Londonderry**


**West River Trail** – The trail, which follows an old railroad grade, can be accessed from two locations in town: the Depot in South Londonderry, or the Army Corps of Engineers’ Winhall Brook Campground. [https://westrivertrail.org/](https://westrivertrail.org/) (trail in Jamaica is the upper section)

**Marlboro**

**Hogback Mountain Conservation Area** – Several loops on the north side of Route 9 follow the ridge crest of Hogback Mountain, passing a vernal pool and climbing to the wooded summit. Trails on the south side of Route 9 pass through the former Hogback Mountain Ski Area, where historic ski trails have been cleared, and reach the fire tower on the summit of Mount Olga. Access trails from Route 9 or Grant Road. [https://www.hogbackvt.org/](https://www.hogbackvt.org/), or [https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/hogback-mountain-conservation-area-north-side](https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/hogback-mountain-conservation-area-north-side) and [https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/hogback-mountain-conservation-area-south-side](https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/hogback-mountain-conservation-area-south-side)

**Newfane**
Newfane Town Forest – parking area for this trail network is at the Newfane Town Garage, 269 Depot Road. Maps are available at the trailhead and on the Newfane Conservation Commission web site, https://newfaneconservationcommission.weebly.com/maps.html

Putney

Places to Walk, Hike, Bike and XC Ski in Putney - Most all public trails are on this brochure which includes a map and trail descriptions. Available throughout town or at http://www.putneyvt.org/files/maps/PutneyTrailGuide_2017.pdf

Putney Mountain – An extensive trail network of the Putney Mountain Association is on Putney Mountain. From a trailhead on Putney Mountain Road, trails lead north to the cleared summit of the mountain in less than one mile. The Southern Tier Trails pass through quiet wooded lands south of Putney Mountain Road and north of Holland Hill Road http://www.putneymountain.org, or https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/putney-mountain-association-southern-tier-trails

Putney Central School Forest – a network of trails maintained by the After School Program, behind the Putney Central School. See Places to Walk, Hike, Bike and XC Ski in Putney

Beatrice Aiken Preserve – There is a short nature trail at the edge of the village highlighting the geologic features of the Preserve. See Places to Walk, Hike, Bike and XC Ski in Putney

Bear Hill Conservation Site – This area on Bare Hill Road contains a trail along the edge of a black gum swamp. See Places to Walk, Hike, Bike and XC Ski in Putney

Readsboro

Catamount Trail – Part of the Catamount Trail, a 300-mile long cross-country ski trail (the longest in the US) from Massachusetts to Canada, passes through Readsboro. You can access the trail at trailheads on Route 100 east of the village, on Jarvis Hill Rd, or Harriman Station Road. The trail is maintained primarily for use in the winter; summer maintenance may be lacking. Since cross-country skiers use this trail, so where possible, please try and not walk in fresh ski tracks. An untrampled ski track makes for a safer and more enjoyable skiing experience, especially for beginners.

The Catamount Trail follows the old Hoosac Tunnel and Wilmington railroad bed (affectionately known by locals as the Hoot, Toot and Whistle), so the walking is flat and easy.


Dutch Hill – This abandoned ski trail on Forest Service land has been re-established as a backcountry ski area; snowshoeing and cross country skiing are welcome. While not maintained for summer use,
visitors can still walk the trails and follow the blue markers up to the summit vista.
https://www.dhash4vt.org/maps or https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/dutch-hill-winter-recreation-area

**Rockingham**

Coming soon.

**Searsburg**

*East Branch Trail/Catamount Trail Section 3* – you can access this trail from two locations in town: the end of Lind Lane off Route 9, or from Somerset Road.  https://catamounttrail.org/ski-the-ct/trail-sections/section-3/ (printable) or http://www.catamounttrail.org/CTA_TrailMap/ (interactive)

**Somerset**

*East Side Trail/Catamount Trail Section 4* – at the end of Somerset Road, at the far end of the picnic area, this trail follows the east side of Somerset Reservoir north all the way to Grout Pond.  https://catamounttrail.org/ski-the-ct/trail-sections/section-4/ (printable) or http://www.catamounttrail.org/CTA_TrailMap/ (interactive)

*East Branch Trail/Catamount Trail Section 3* – just before the Somerset Road reaches the top of the dam, starting on the right, this trail follows the East Branch of the Deerfield River south to Route 9.

**Stratton**

*Grout Pond Recreation Area* – A US Forest Service facility with many loop trails surrounding scenic Grout Pond.  Camping and picnic facilities are also available.  https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gmfl/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=64913&actid=50

*Long Trail/Appalachian Trail, Stratton Mountain* – Vermont’s iconic Long Trail, running from Massachusetts to Canada, and coinciding with the famous 2165-mile Appalachian Trail, passes through Stratton.  A popular hike is to the summit of Stratton Mountain, where a fire tower provides 360-degree views.  https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gmfl/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=64983&actid=50

*Stratton Pond* – a 7.8-mile round trip hike to a remote pond, popular with backpackers.  https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gmfl/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=64985&actid=50
Stratton Recreation Area - this town-managed recreation area has several trails, one of which follows an old town road to the historic town center and meetinghouse site. At the end of Old Town Road, off West Jamaica Road. [https://www.townofstrattonvt.com/recreation.html](https://www.townofstrattonvt.com/recreation.html)

**Townshend**

The Public Library has both adult and children’s snowshoes available for loan to help you get out and moving during the winter months.

*West River Trail, Townshend Dam* – From the north end of the large parking lot on Route 30 at Townshend Dam (look for the gap in the guardrail), you can descend to Townshend Reservoir and walk up to two miles north towards West Townshend on an abandoned section of Route 30 along the West River. Note: few signs and markers are present on this section, but the route is easy to follow. [https://westrivertrail.org/](https://westrivertrail.org/) (trail in Townshend is the upper section)

*West River Trail, West Townshend/Townshend Dam Nature Area* – A road about a third of a mile south from West Townshend (marked with a “Townshend Dam Nature Area” sign) leads to a gate and parking area on Army Corps of Engineers land. You can walk south from here on an abandoned section of Route 30 along the West River and Townshend Reservoir 2 miles to Townshend Dam. About 0.4 miles from the gate, a small footbridge on the right marks the West River Trail section that continues to the end of Worden Lane. The trail is currently unmarked/unsigned. [https://westrivertrail.org/](https://westrivertrail.org/) (trail in Townshend is the upper section)

*Townshend Dam Recreation Area* – The Ledges Trail is a steep 1.5 mile loop trail off the recreation area access road that leads to a view. The trail may be difficult to follow in winter. [http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Townshend-Lake/](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Townshend-Lake/)

*Bald Mountain* – A 1.7 mile climb on the trail in Townshend State Park brings you to the summit of Bald Mountain with views of the West River Valley to the east and Stratton Mountain to the west. The trail is steep. [https://vtstateparks.com/townshend.html](https://vtstateparks.com/townshend.html) or [https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/townshend-state-park](https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/townshend-state-park)

**Vernon**

*Vernon Town Forest* – The unique and beautiful black gum swamp is the highlight of the Vernon Town Forest. A series of newly re-opened, marked, and signed trails start at the end of Basin Road, off Huckle Hill Road. A large parking lot, kiosk, and maps are available here. [https://vernonvermont.org/documents/town-forest-brochure-and-map/](https://vernonvermont.org/documents/town-forest-brochure-and-map/) or [https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/j-maynard-miller-municipal-forest-vernon-town-forest](https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/j-maynard-miller-municipal-forest-vernon-town-forest)

**Wardsboro**
There are no formal, official hiking trails in Wardsboro. The Town does have many miles of Class 4 Town Highways and Legal Trails, which are public rights of way of current and former town roads but with little to no maintenance. Mort Davis Way is one suggested Class 4 road. Some roads in town see little traffic and aren’t plowed in the winter; they make for good places to walk. These include Gault Road and the east end of Potter Road and East Hill Road. Find these on the town road name map: http://www.windhamregional.org/gis/road-name-maps

**Westminster**

The Westminster West Public Library has both adult and children’s snowshoes available for loan to help you get out and moving during the winter months.

*The Pinnacle* – The Windmill Ridge has an extensive trail network managed by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association in Westminster West. The most popular and straightforward route is a three mile round trip up and back on the Holden Trail to the Pinnacle, where there is a view west to the Green Mountains and a shelter with a picnic table—a great spot to enjoy a snack and warm drink out of the wind. The hike can be made into a 5 mile loop by following the Ridgeline Trail south, then turning on the Headwaters Trail which leads back to the Holden Trail and the parking area. http://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org/

*Bald Hill* – The Bald Hill area has seven miles worth of trails located near the Bellows Falls High School, St. Charles Cemetery, Twin Falls, and Bald Hill itself. There are many interconnected trails, meaning your adventure can be as short or long as you would like. A suggested walk is to start from the parking area and kiosk at the end of Cemetery Road, off Route 5, and visit Twin Falls. The trail system is managed by the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association: http://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org/

**Weston**

*Root Beer Ridge*—This loop trail at the end of Moses Pond Road leads to a view looking west, and passes near Moses Pond. The Beaver Meadows Trail links in with the Root Beer Ridge Trail. https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gmfl/recreation/recarea/?recid=65049&actid=91

*Greendale Trail*—The Greendale Trail follows an old road at the end of Greendale Road along a brook, making for pleasant walking. The trail continues to the end of Jenny Coolidge Road. https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gmfl/recarea/?recid=64961

**Whitingham**

The Public Library has both adult and children’s snowshoes available for loan to help you get out and moving during the winter months.
The Catamount Trail – Part of the Catamount Trail, a 300-mile long cross-country ski trail (the longest in the US) from Massachusetts to Canada, passes through Whitingham. You can access the trail at Harriman Dam.

The Catamount Trail follows the old Hoosac Tunnel and Wilmington railroad bed (affectionately known by locals as the Hoot, Toot and Whistle), so the walking is flat and easy.

From the Dam, you can walk south on Section 1 for three miles to Readsboro through a wild river valley, or cross the dam and walk north on Section 2, which uses a combination of snowmobile and ski trails; you can go as far as seven miles to Route 9 in Wilmington. During the winter, be alert for snowmobile traffic. Cross-country skiers use this trail, so where possible, please try and not walk in fresh ski tracks. An untrampled ski track makes for a safer and more enjoyable skiing experience, especially for beginners.


Wilmington

Wilmington Town Trails Guide - Most public trails in Wilmington are in this guide, which includes a description of the trails and a map. The guide is available at the Chamber of Commerce office on West Main Street, at the Town Office, or on the town web site: http://wilmingtonvermont.us/about/trails-hiking/

Valley Trail – this trail runs from Wilmington Village all the way to Mount Snow. Maps are available at the Chamber of Commerce office on West Main Street, at the Town Office, or on the town web site: http://wilmingtonvermont.us/about/trails-hiking/, or https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/valley-trail-wilmington-dover

Riverwalk, and Hoot, Toot, & Whistle Trail - A series of trails on the edge of the village of Wilmington, suitable for a short stroll along the Deerfield River, or a longer walk out to Harriman Reservoir. The Riverwalk is flat and has interpretive signs outlining the history of the old Vermont Barnboard Factory (now the Moover offices and bus depot). The Hoot, Toot, & Whistle Trail follows an old railroad bed out to the boat launch on Harriman Reservoir at the end of Fairview Avenue.


Molly Stark State Park – A 1.7 mile loop climbs to the summit of Mount Olga, where there are views from the fire tower and a connection to the Hogback Mountain Trail System.

https://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/molly-stark-state-park
**Windham**

There are no formal, official hiking trails in Windham. The Town does have many miles of Class 4 Town Highways and Legal Trails, which are public rights of way of current and former town roads but with little to no maintenance. They may offer walking opportunities. Find them the town road name map: [http://www.windhamregional.org/gis/road-name-maps](http://www.windhamregional.org/gis/road-name-maps)

**Winhall**

*Long Trail/Appalachian Trail, Bromley Mountain and Spruce Peak* – Vermont’s iconic Long Trail, running from Massachusetts to Canada, and coinciding with the famous 2165-mile Appalachian Trail, passes through Winhall. A large, well-marked trailhead is on Route 11/30. A popular hike heads north three miles to the summit of Bromley Mountain, while a quieter option is to hike south 2.4 miles to Spruce Peak. [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MEDIA/stelprdb5317926.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MEDIA/stelprdb5317926.pdf) and [https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gmfl/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=64981&actid=50](https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gmfl/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=64981&actid=50)