

Maine's Lakes & Mountains

DIRECTIONS

The primary trailhead in the Park is located near the New Hampshire border along Route 26, approximately 14 miles north of Bethel. Access is also available along the Sunday River

Road (west off Routes 2/26 about 2 miles north of Bethel);

the Success Pond Road (northeast out of Berlin, NH and is occasionally closed for private logging operations.); the Bull Branch Road (east off Sunday River Road in North Newry); and the East B. Hill Road (west out of Andover).

To reach Frenchman's Hole, take the Sunday River Road north of Bethel for 7 miles to the twin bridges in Ketchum. Turn right and proceed north I mile.

Lat 44.572106 / Lon -70.902701 (Screw Auger Falls parking)

FEES

Park fees are payable at self-service fee stations located at these trailhead parking lots: Appalachian Trail, Screw Auger Falls, Moose Cave, and Spruce Meadow Picnic Area.

View online information for all Parks and Lands sites:

- www.parksandlands.com
- · Camping: www.campwithme.com

SERVICES & FACILITIES

- · 9 remote, primitive campsites and 5 Appalachian Trail lean-tos are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- · Picnic areas at Screw Auger Falls and Spruce Meadow.









SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- · The region's abundant large animals can create hazards: drive slowly on area roads (particularly in low light) and make sure that tents and their contents are free of food and food odors.
- Don't count on your cell phone in an emergency as coverage
- Potable water is not available at the Park so bring your own. Purify water from brooks or ponds
- Winter users can park in the lot off Route 26 or the twin bridges on the Sunday River Road.
- · Expect fast-changing weather, especially at higher elevations. Snow comes early and stays later in the mountains
- Rock outcroppings and rugged terrain are special features of this park and add challenge to hikes. Use extra caution during wet conditions. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Supervise children closely and know your limits. You can
- There may be private holdings within and adjoining the boundaries of public lands. Please respect all landowner restrictions. Public use of these areas is a priviledge, not a

TRAVEL & CAMP ON Durable Surfaces

Many mountainous areas are particularly sensitive to erosion and disturbance: please help sustain the spectacular beauty of

- · Remain on trails at all times;
- · Camp only at authorized sites and keep campsites as small as
- · Walk on bare rock rather than on plants (when on ledges and



VISITOR RULES

- While in the park, keep pets on a leash and under control at all times. Clean up their waste and don't leave them unattended.
- Please carry out all trash.
- · Park rules prohibit use of intoxicating beverages.
- Do not pick or remove anything natural or historical: please leave it for others to enjoy.
- Enjoy wildlife from a distance: do not feed or disturb animals or birds. (See hunting rule below)
- · Camping is not permitted at Grafton Notch State Park. Low-impact camping is permitted only on the Public Lands. Fires are permitted only at designated sites (fires are not permitted at campsites located on private lands along the Grafton Loop Trail).
- · Where grills are provided, build charcoal fires only.
- · Hunting is not permitted between June I and Labor Day at Grafton Notch State Park. Hunting on the Public Lands follows State hunting seasons. For Maine fishing and hunting laws, and license information, visit the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website, www.maine.gov/ifw.
- Discharge of any weapon is prohibited at all times within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, parking area, posted trail or other developed area. Loaded firearms are not permitted at campsites or on hiking trails.
- Bureau of Parks and Lands staff may take custody of any personal property left unattended for more than 3 days (unless advance written permission is given).



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

his land was conserved with support from the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Trust for Public Land, Open Space Institute, U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program, Land for Maine's Future Program, Mahoosuc Land Trust, and many other contributors.

Through a cooperative agreement with the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Appalachian Mountain Club maintains the AT south of Route 26 and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club maintains the stretch north of Route 26.

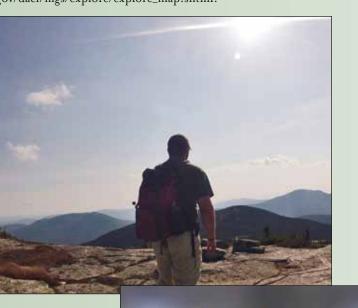
This brochure was made possible in part by funding assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks

PROPERTY HISTORY

rafton Notch State Park and the Mahoosuc Public Lands offer a fascinating glimpse into Maine's geologic history and provide an ongoing demonstration of the power water has to shape the landscape. Metamorphic bedrock dating back roughly 420 million years is evident in some settings (like the summit of Old Speck).

Grafton Notch itself is a classic example of a U-shaped valley carved out by glacial action during the last ice age. Some higher mountain ledges still carry striations (grooves) left by the glacier, and many places have accumulations of sand and gravel outwash left by glacial meltwater.

The glaciers retreated from this area roughly 12,000 years ago. Today erosion still continues—as water moves stones that scour out potholes and weak spots in the underlying rock. For a guided tour of the region's geologic highlights, see www.maine. gov/dacf/mgs/explore/explore_map.shtml.



TIMBER MANAGEMENT ON

manages its public land units to achieve

multiple sustainable benefits: resource protection,

public recreation, wildlife habitat and marketable forest prod-

ucts (revenues from which help fund public land management)

exemplary forest management fostering the health and viability

of landscape scale ecosystems. BPL's forest practices are green-

certified by two independent auditors —the Forest
Stewardship CouncilTM and the Sustainable Forestry

InitiativeTM. No-harvest zones are regularly established to buffer

sensitive natural resources and recreational areas in addition to

The Bureau employs scientifically based practices to achieve

The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) actively

Public Lands

the Bureau's ecological reserve system.

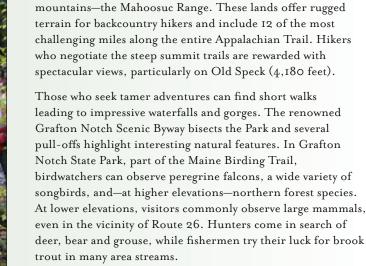


CONTACTS

Mahoosuc Public Lands Maine Parks of Parks and Lands P.O. Box 327 Farmington, ME 04938 207-778-8231 www.parksandlands.com

Bethel Area Chamber of Comm P.O. Box 1247 Bethel, ME 04217 207-824-2282 www.bethelmaine.com





Lands are a premier result amidst some of Maine's most spectacular

rafton Notch State Park and the Mahoosuc Public Lands are a premier recreational destination lying

OVERVIEW

In winter, snowshoers, cross-country skiers and snowmobilers enjoy exploring the lands. The popular snowmobile route ITS 82 runs across this region from Andover to New Hampshire's Trail 18.

The Mahoosuc Public Lands contain a 9,993-acre Ecological Reserve designated by the State to sustain sensitive ecosystems in their natural condition and provide for monitoring of ecological changes over time. The Reserve includes a sub-alpine tarn, Speck Pond, and several rare plant and animal species. The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands manages portions of the Mahoosuc Public Land Unit for timber production (in addition to other benefits). The timber management practices are certified sustainable and help support the costs of maintaining Public Lands.



WHEN TO VISIT

The waterfalls and gorges are often most impressive in late spring, when snowmelt adds to the river volume. Take extra care around cold, fast-moving waters at this time. Hikers enjoy the area through warm-weather months, and many visitors come in fall for the spectacular foliage. During winter, hardy cross-country skiers and snowshoers explore ungroomed trails and snowmobilers enjoy lower elevation

POPULAR STOPS

Screw Auger Falls: A walking path from Route 26 leads to this 23-foot waterfall lying in a narrow gorge along the Bear River. Many visitors enjoy wading in the shallow pools, but supervise children closely and avoid the lip of the falls.

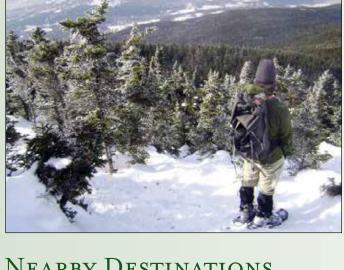
Mother Walker Falls: This V-shaped gorge, named for long-time local resident, is more than 40 feet deep and 980 feet long. It's a short walk from Route 26. Supervise children.

Moose Cave: In this 200-foot-long gorge, lying within a 45-foot-deep canyon in the bedrock, water skirts boulders and disappears temporarily into a cave beneath a huge granite slab. The loop trail to Moose Cave, off Route 26, is a quarter-mile long with some narrow spots and steep slopes.

Spruce Meadow Picnic Area: Lying in the park's northern portion, this picturesque setting offers tables (with grills) overlooking a wildlife-rich marsh and Old Speck Mountain.



- · Frenchman's Hole draws people in hot weather to enjoy swimming and picnicking by the clear waters and interesting
- Step Falls Preserve, owned and managed by the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, offers a pleasant one-hour roundtrip walk alongside a series of cascading pools on Wight Brook with a total drop of 250 feet. The Preserve is a half-mile southeast of Grafton Notch State Park along
- State Route 26 is a State-designated scenic byway from Newry north to the New Hampshire border due to its impressive



NEARBY DESTINATIONS

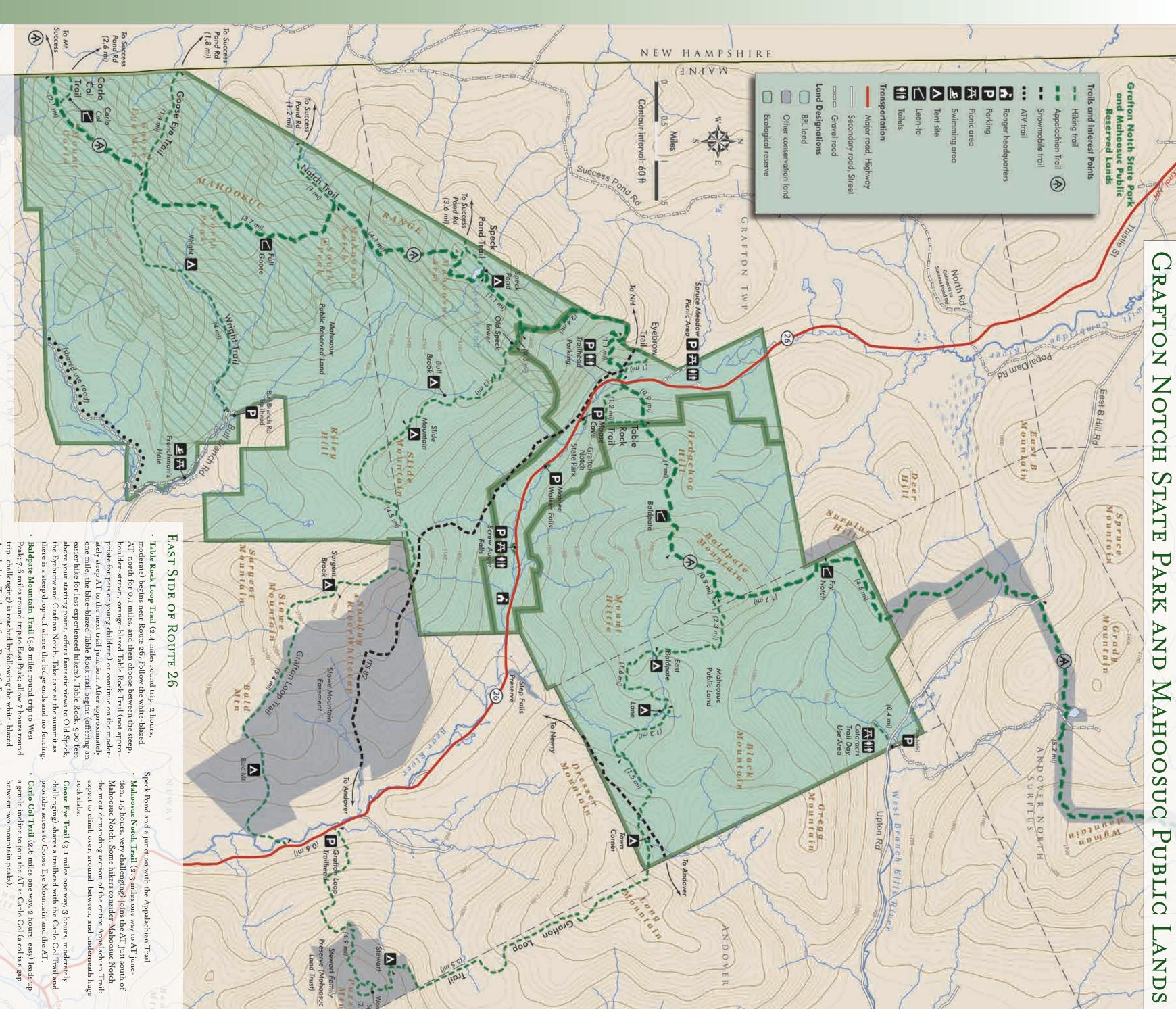
The Grafton-Mahoosuc lands lie in the Maine's Lakes and Region, which encompasses Franklin and Oxford Counties, near the following destinations:

- · Mt. Blue State Park draw visitors to camp, swim in Webb Lake, hike, mountain bike, and ride ATVs and horses.
- Richardson Lakes Public Lands provide a tranquil backcountry setting for paddlers and primitive campsites (managed by South Arm Campground) along 22,000 conserved acres in the legendary Rangeley Lakes region.
- · Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge provides backcountry campsites and spectacular wildlife watching on a 7,850-acre water body lying along the New Hampshire border.



mountains, gorges and waterfalls along the Bear River valley.





ROUTE 26 (APPALACHIAN

West Side of Route 26

- Old Speck Trail (7.6 miles, 7 hours, challenging) affords spectacular views from an open observation tower at the summit. Follow the white-blazed Appalachian Trail south along Cascade Brook. The trail crosses many streams then ascends the north shoulder, rising out of the woods and offering frequent views of the Notch. The summit and tower are reached via a 0.3-mile spur reached approximately 3.5 miles from the trailhead. The Grafton Loop Trail continues on from the summit, descending southeastward.

 Eyebrow Loop Trail (2.2 miles round trip, 2-3 hours, challenging) rises steeply to an "eyebrow" shelf/overlook on Old Speck Mountain at 2,900 feet. Follow the white-blazed Appalachian Trail south for 0.1 miles to the start of the orange-blazed Eyebrow Trail. Passing through magnificent ds and tower tand tower nately 3.5 continues

easier hike for less experienced hikers). Table Rock, 900 feet above your starting point, offers fantastic views to Old Speck, the Eyebrow and Grafton Notch. Take care at the summit as there is a steep drop-off where the ledge ends and no fencing.

Baldpate Mountain Trail (5.8 miles round trip to West Peak; 7.6 miles round trip to East Peak; allow 7 hours round trip; challenging) is reached by following the white-blazed Appalachian Trail north from Route 26. Entering the Mahoosuc Public Lands, the trail ascends steadily across the north slope to the open summit of West Baldpate (elevation 3. 680 feet). Turning north, the trail loses only 240 feet in altitude before climbing nearly a mile to East Peak (elevation 3. 812 feet), which offers outstanding views in all directions.

Appalachian Trail (20+ miles, 4 days, challenging) tends to be steep and boulder-strewn as it follows ridgelines through the Mahoosuc Range, providing some of its most challenging sections within Grafton Notch State Park and the Mahoosuc Public Lands. The most difficult stretch lies between Full Goose Lean-to and Speck Pond Lean-to. Hikers who attempt this stretch should be well conditioned and equipped. Refer to the AMC Maine Mountain Guide and/or the Maine Appalachian Trail Club's Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine for more details on hibing the stream of the Maine Appalachian of the Maine Appalachian of the Maine Appalachian of the Maine Appalachian hibing the more details on hibing the Appalachian Trail in Maine for more details on hibing the stream of the Maine Appalachian of the Maine Appalachian trail of the Appalachian Trail in Maine for more details on hibing the stream of the Appalachian Trail in Maine for more details on hibing the stream of the Maine Appalachian trail the stream of the Maine Appalachian trail to the Appalachian trail in Maine for more details on hibing the stream of the Maine Appalachian trail to the Appalachian trail in Maine for the Maine Appalachian trail to the Appalachian trail to the Appalachian trail mpt er pa-ine ine

SUCCESS POND ROAD TRAILHEADS

BULL BRANCH ROAD TRAILHEAD

• Wright Trail (8.5 miles round trip, 8 hours, challenging) leads hikers through mature forests to the bald east peak of Goose Eye Mountain, where stunning views unfold in all directions. Expect a rigorous hike on this rugged trail leading first along Goose Eye Brook then up to the AT and open summit area.

EAST B HILL ROAD TRAILHEADS

• Cataracts Trail (0.4 miles, 0.5 hours, easy) leads up to where the waters of Frye Brook cascade over several falls in the gorge between Baldpate and Surplus mountains. A dayuse area adjoining the falls makes for a pleasant lunch stop. Note: the Cataracts Trail does not provide official, maintained access to the AT/Baldpate Mt. The AT does intersect the East B Hill Rd., approximately 2.5 miles north of the

MOTORIZED TRAILS

The ITS 82 snowmobile trail runs through the western half of the property. ATV riders can use a section of shared-use road off the Sunday River Road in the Riley TWP portion of the Mahoosuc Unit. For more information:

Parks and Lands Off Road Vehicle Office, 287 Local clubs and www.mesnow.com -4957