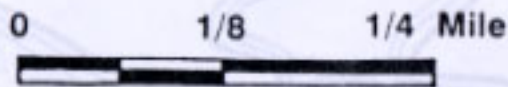


Note: All trails are blazed in blue.



Fort Dummer State Park

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| ① Sunrise Trail | --- Dirt Road |
| ② Sunset Trail | - - - Trail |
| Campground | Scenic Vista |
| | Rock Wall |

b g amsden 03/02

Fort Dummer State Park, located in the Connecticut River Valley, has 217 acres of peaceful forestland just outside of Brattleboro. A campground, 2 hiking trails, and playground are available to visitors.

THE NAMESAKE OF FORT DUMMER

This state park was named after Fort Dummer, the first permanent white settlement in Vermont. Built on the frontier in 1724, it was initially the gateway to the early settlements along the banks of the Connecticut River. Forty-three English soldiers and twelve Mohawk Indians manned the fort in 1724 and 1725. Later, the fort protected what was then a Massachusetts colony from invasion by the French and Indians. Made of sturdy white pine timber stacked like a log cabin, Fort Dummer served its purpose well.



Fort Dummer
From a drawing made in 1747

The state park overlooks the site of Fort Dummer which was flooded when the Vernon Dam was built on the Connecticut River in 1908. This site can be seen from the northernmost scenic vista on the Sunrise Trail. It is now underwater near the lumber company located on the western bank of the river. The monument marker is now at the end of Vernon Road.

THE NATURE OF FORT DUMMER STATE PARK

This area was once a wilderness roamed by black bear, moose, and catamount. Salmon and shad came up the Connecticut River in great numbers. Although not the wild expanse it once was, this forest still contains a fascinating variety of plants and animals.

Located in the southern foothills of the Green Mountains, the forest is more like those of southern New England than like a typical Vermont forest. Southern tree species such as white, red, and chestnut oaks dominate the hardwood forest, which also contains beech, maple, yellow birch, and white birch. Several serene hemlock stands add to the diversity of the area.



Clubmoss, *Lycopodium clavatum*



Trailing Arbutus, *Epigaea repens*

The abundance of oak trees provides food and shelter for gray squirrels, turkeys, and deer. Ruffed grouse also inhabit these woods, attracted by its dense woody cover and open understory. A sudden exploding flapping of wings is a sure bet that one has just been flushed. Unlike grouse who are at home in the understory, red tailed hawks prefer the open sky and soar high above Fort Dummer State Park.

The wide variety of plants growing in the understory will attract the attention of both the avid botanist and curious visitor. Trailing arbutus, with its delicately fragrant flowers, mountain laurel, pipsissewa, and wintergreen are the more commonly seen evergreen shrubs. Carpeting sections of the forest floor are the club mosses and ferns, relatives of the tree-sized species that existed during the dinosaur age.

Connecticut River
(as seen from Fort Dummer State Park scenic vistas)

