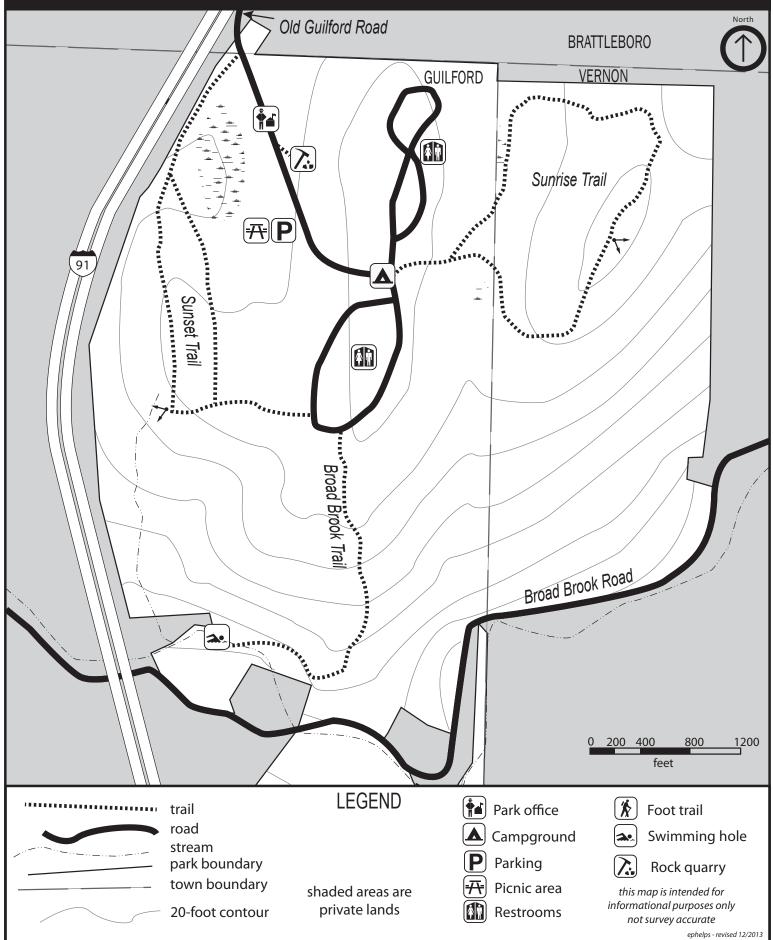
# FORT DUMMER STATE PARK TRAILS



# Fort Dummer State Park Recreational Trails

The namesake of this state park was a British fort constructed along the bank of the Connecticut River in 1724. Situated in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, this was one of the early permanent European settlements in what would be later known as Vermont. The fort was named for William Dummer, Lieutenant Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony at the time. For the first two years, the fort was staffed by 55 men of English and Mohawk descent who fortified the location with twelve guns. The fort was built from native white pine logs which were presumably harvested from the surrounding lands.

Fort Dummer was originally built to defend against attacks on Northfield and Rutland during Dummer's War of 1724. The fort's first seige came on October 11, 1725, when 70 Abenakis attacked the fort and killed several soldiers guarding it. As a result, the palisade was added, enclosing an additional 1.5 acres. It played a prominent role in King George's War of 1744-1748 and in the French and Indian War from 1754-1763. The forts along the northern front, of which Fort Dummer was a part, were frequently attacked during this time period, and it was captured for a time by the French in 1746. It was abandoned in 1763.

The location of Fort Dummer was not where the current park lies, but rather on a site that was flooded with the construction of the Vernon Dam in 1908. There is a granite and bronze memorial on Route 142 about 1.5 miles from the park that denotes the history of the fort. The original fort site underneath the river can be seen from a vista on the Sunrise Trail.

## Trails

#### **Sunrise Trail**

This nearly one-mile loop trail traverses level and gently sloping ground on the eastern side of the park in the town of Vernon. The Old Fort Vista is about midway on the trail. The trail is wooded the entire way.

#### Sunset Trail

The Sunset trail is a 0.5 mile loop trail on the western side of the park, starting near the entrance and looping through the play field. The trail has a western vista of the village of Algiers in the town of Guilford. The trail passes through gently sloping ground and travels for a portion of its length on an old town road that was cut off when the interstate was constructed. The remains of the Boyden Farm, dating form the 1880s, can be seen along this trail. These include stone walls, a small shed and farmhouse.

#### **Broad Brook Trail**

This 0.5 mile trail descends from the campground to a popular swimming hole on Broad Brook. The trail is steep in sections, and therefore is a much more strenuous hike than the other trails. Travel time is 10 minutes to the brook, 20 minutes back.

### Guidelines

This area is maintained by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. Please observe posted park rules and regulations, as well as:

- Overnight camping and campfires are allowed only at designated sites in the developed campground. Inquire at the park office for more information.
- Please stay on marked hiking trails.
- Keep the trails free of litter. Carry out what you carry in.
- Keep pets on a leash at all times.
- Trails are for foot travel only.
- Leave all wildflowers and plants in their natural environment for others to enjoy.

Fort Dummer State Park 517 Old Guilford Road Guilford, VT 05301 (802) 254-2610 (Operating Season) www.vtstateparks.com

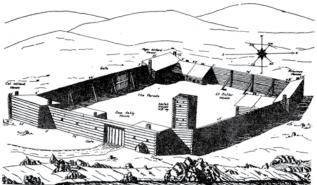


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# Fort Dummer State Park Recreational Trails Guide



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Operating Season: Memorial Day Weekend -Indigenous Peoples' Day

# Hiking Picnicking Developed Camping