Many areas of state land are available for primitive or “no trace” camping and are open, free of charge, to the public. Primitive camping is done without the presence of developed facilities. The challenge for campers is to leave the area where they camp with no evidence of their visit.

Mollie Beattie State Forest consists of 203 acres in the town of Grafton and has been in state ownership since 1932. The forest is accessed off a gravel town road named Hinckley Brook Road that originates in the Village of Grafton. A forest identification sign is located at the entrance to the forest. State forest boundaries are marked with orange paint.

Primitive camping is allowed within the area designated on the southern portion of the forest (see map). Two gates are located on the gravel access road within the forest. The first gate is open most of the year, being closed only during spring mud season (usually April to mid May). The second gate is closed except during snowmobile season (December through March) when the road is used as a snowmobile trail. A visitor parking lot is located at the second gate. During the summer and fall, campers can leave their car at this parking lot and hike into the primitive camping area. Parking lots and access roads are not plowed during the winter.

Mollie State Forest contains a stone house constructed during the late 1930s by crews from the Civilian Conservation Corps. Camping is not allowed within this building or in the area surrounding the building.

Howe Brook is located in the southwest corner of the property and provides the only year-round source of water on the forest. All water should be treated before use.

Primitive camping is allowed only within designated areas of state land. Within these designated areas, camping must be at least 100 feet from any stream or body of water, 200 feet from any trail or property line, and 1,000 feet from any traveled road. Camping is limited to three consecutive days in any location. Groups of 11 or more individuals must obtain a permit from the district office.

Only dead and down trees or branches may be used for firewood. Remove all evidence of campfires before leaving the site. Human waste should be buried at least 100 feet away from any stream or body of water.

Forest management activities occur periodically on Mollie Beattie State Forest. Contact the District Office to check out scheduled timber sale activity.

Please carry out all that you carry in!

For more information, contact the district office: