

Townshend State Park

Townshend, Vermont

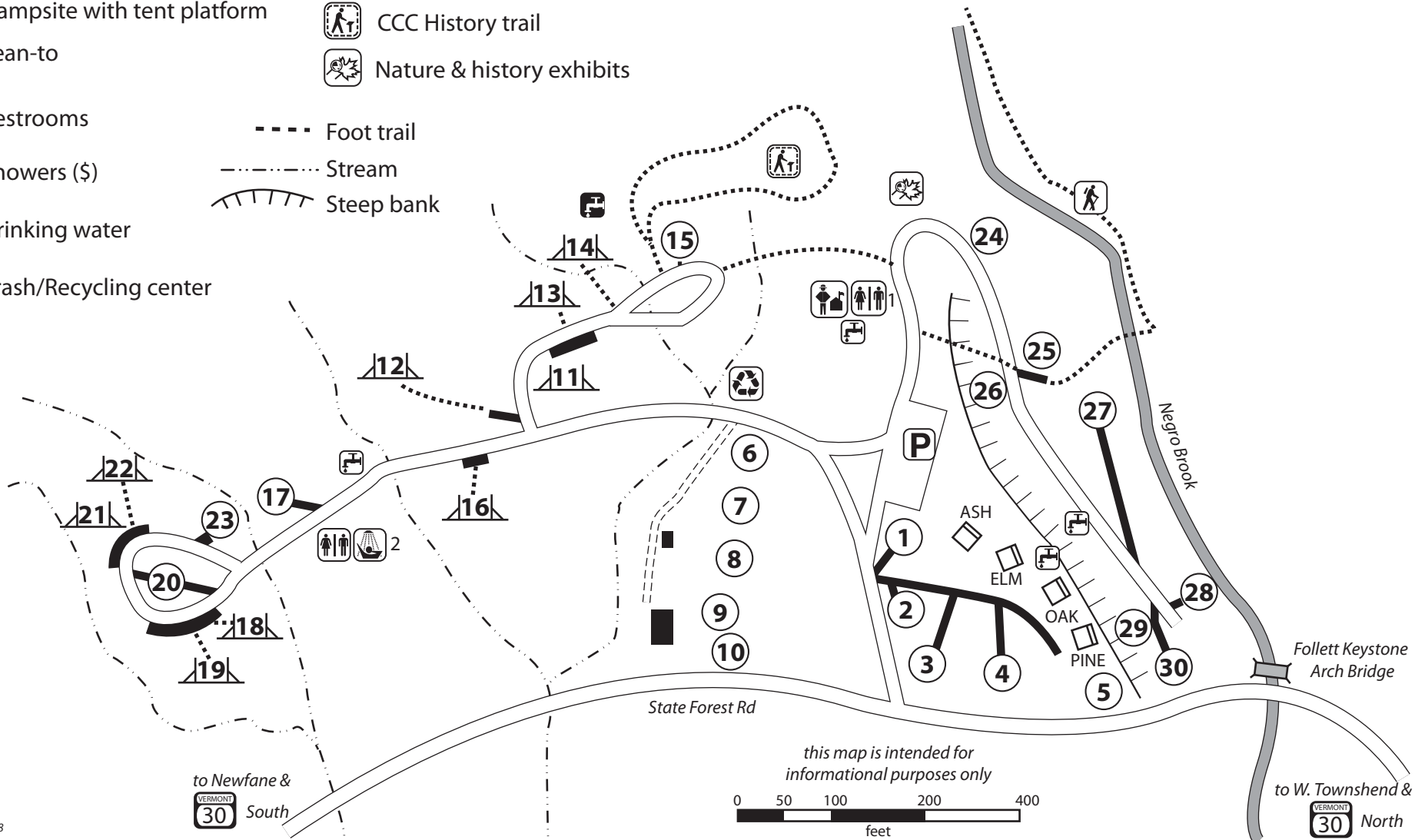


North



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | Park office | | Parking |
| | Campsite | | Bald Mtn Trail: 1.7 mi moderate hike |
| | Campsite with tent platform | | CCC History trail |
| | Lean-to | | Nature & history exhibits |
| | Restrooms | | Foot trail |
| | Showers (\$) | | Stream |
| | Drinking water | | Steep bank |
| | Trash/Recycling center | | |



Townshend State Park

A visit to Townshend State Park, located at the foot of Bald Mountain on a bend of the West River, feels like a step back in time. The park was constructed during the Great Depression by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a public works program aimed at putting young men to work.

Townshend State Park sits in the middle of Townshend State Forest, which was established in 1912 through the interest of Howard Rice, secretary of the West River Valley Association. Initially, the primary objective for this land was timber management with a fire tower being constructed in 1924. In 1925, a picnic area built at Townshend was one of the first two state forest park recreation areas open to the public. Little is recorded prior to 1924, yet records indicate that a small public camping area was available with nearly 1,000 people registering during 1927. The fire tower was removed in 1949.

With history similar to much of Vermont, the lands contained within the state forest once had an agricultural focus. Much of it was cleared for pasture or crops. Stonewalls, cellar holes, and old roads are evidence of such a past.

As visitors enter the park property today, they are greeted by lush green lawns leading to the park office, a CCC-built building constructed with stones quarried from the surrounding forest. The park looks basically the same as it did when constructed between 1934-1938. It includes a picnic area, hiking trails and the only Vermont State Park campground that still has CCC-style tent platforms.

Today the campground is a popular destination for visitors seeking a back-to-basics, rustic experience. Guests staying on the west side of the campground will hear the gurgling of a small brook running down Bald Mountain. Visitors can take a hike up the Bald Mountain Trail, passing various chutes, waterfalls and pools on the way to spectacular vistas to the north, south and east. Those seeking a less strenuous experience can relax in the campground or picnic area and enjoy the tranquility of this natural area.

Townshend State Park amenities:

- 30 tent sites (not recommended for RVs)
- 4 lean-to shelters
- Nature & history exhibits
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Firewood for sale

Recreating and sightseeing in the area:

Townshend

- Picnicking, swimming, fishing and boating at Army Corps of Engineers Townshend Dam Recreation Area.
- Kayaking, canoeing and fishing on the West River
- Scott Covered Bridge State Historic Site

Brattleboro

- Historic downtown shopping and dining
- Brattleboro Museum and Art Center
- Estey Organ Museum

Other Area Attractions

- Windham County Historical Society, Newfane
- Weston Playhouse, Weston
- Lowell Lake State Park, Londonderry
- Jamaica State Park, Jamaica
- Ft. Dummer State Park, Guilford
- Molly Stark State Park, Wilmington

For more information, contact:

Townshend State Park
2755 State Forest Road
Townshend, VT 05353
(802) 365-7500 (operating season)
OR
VT State Parks Reservation Center
(888) 409-7579
Monday - Friday 9 A.M.-4 P.M.
www.vtstateparks.com
any time



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Townshend State Park Map & Guide



Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day
Camping
Hiking

www.vtstateparks.com
