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# WILLOUGHBY STATE FOREST GUIDE



State of Vermont  
Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

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## FOREST INFORMATION

The Willoughby State Forest, established in 1928, was a checkerboard of tracts totalling 1700 acres until the 1960's. The original holdings were comprised of the land north of Route 5A around Mt. Pisgah and an irregular strip along Route 5. Much of this land, once farmland, was planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's, and these plantations are very much in evidence today.

With the purchase of more than 5000 acres in 1969, the state was able to connect the original tracts and gain complete control over development of Mt. Pisgah and Mt. Hor, the twin peaks that rise vertically out of Lake Willoughby, Vermont's "Lake Lucerne". The spectacular cliffs associated with Mt. Pisgah and Mt. Hor have been designated a National Natural Landmark. This area of approximately 1000 acres has also been designated as a natural area by the State of Vermont and is included in the Vermont Fragile Area Registry. Development within the boundaries of the natural area are prohibited.

In addition to the spectacular lake, the Willoughby State Forest offers many pristine ponds which offer good trout fishing. There are 77 acres of water (small ponds) within or forming the boundaries of this forest, including Bean, Vail, Marl, Duck, Blake and Dolloff Ponds. These ponds are annually stocked with brook trout, rainbow trout, or a combination of both. Summer access to most of these ponds is limited to foot travel and four wheel drive vehicles only. A year round trail system connects most points of interest, and the CCC road (built by the CCC in the 1930's) enables the unhurried motorist to take a leisurely drive through the forest.

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## Willoughby State Forest Trails

### Haystack Mountain

Elevation 2712 feet. Three overlooks have been cleared, offering near views of Willoughby Lake, Bald Hill, Newark and Long Ponds, and distant views of the White Mountains.

#### Long Pond Trail

Climb 900 Feet. Hike 1.0 mi. From Long Pond fishing access (see above) go southeast 0.6 mi. to start of trail at the edge of small clearing on left (east).

#### South Trail

Climb 530 feet. Hike 1.0 mi. From Long Pond fishing access travel southeast 1.8 mile. Turn left (north) on logging road and begin hike. 0.5 mile up logging road turn left on marked trail.

### Mount Hor Summit & Ridge

Elevation 2648 feet. Summit offers near views of several ponds in the valley to the west and a distant view of the Green Mountains. From the two Willoughby Lake overlooks, a view of the lake below and distant views of the White Mountains, Owls Head and Mount Orford.

#### Herbert Hawkes Trail

Climb 600+ feet. Hike 0.7+ mi. From beach at south end of the lake, go south 0.6 mi. Turn right through parking area and go uphill 1.8 mi. to start of trail on right. On ridge (0.7 mi.), trail to the left climbs 150 feet in 0.2 mi. and reaches summit, while branch trail on right leads to the two lake overlooks at 0.5 and 0.6 mi.

#### Wheeler Pond Trail

Total climb 1800 feet. Hike 5.0 mi. Parts very rough and not recommended for children or novice hikers.. From Wheeler Pond fishing access travel north on road 0.3 mi. to start of trail on right (east).

#### South Shore Trail

Climb 200 feet. Hike 1.0 mi. From beach at south end of Willoughby Lake, go south on highway (200 feet) to entrance of parking area on right (west). Pass through area along old road for 600 feet to start of easy trail marked with blue paint.

### Bald Mountain

Elevation 3315 feet. The 360 Degree view from the firetower includes parts of Willoughby Lake, Seymour Lake, Lake Memphremagog, most of the Green Mountains and all of the White Mountains.

#### Long Pond Trail

Climb 1450 feet. Hike 2.0 mi. including logging road. Wet in spots. From Millbrook Store, travel east (uphill) past Long Pond fishing access at 2.0 mi. Park at 2.2 mi. To start hike, access logging road on left. Logging road ends at loading area (0.5 mi.). Continue right on marked trail.

#### North Trail

Climb 1570 Feet. Steep and wet in spots. Long pants recommended. From Westmore church travel east (uphill) on paved road. At 2.0 mi. turn right. At 3.7 mi. turn right onto logging road, which is often passable to trail head at 0.6 mi. Trail goes left across Bald Mt. Brook.

### Mount Pisgah

Elevation 2751 feet. There are two overlooks near the summit: one offers a near view of the Passumpsic Valley and a distant view of the southern White Mountains, the other a near view of Bald Mountain and the northern White Mountains. From the overlooks north of the summit, there are partial views of the Green Mountains and Lake Memphremagog, with Willoughby Lake directly beneath.

#### South Trail

Climb 530 feet, hike 1.0 mi. to Pulpit Rock / Climb 1480 feet, hike 1.9 mi. to summit and North Trail. From south end of the lake, go south on highway 0.6 mi. to start of trail on left (east).

#### North Trail

Climb 1530 feet. Hike 2.2 mi. From Millbrook store, go south on highway 1.3 mi. to start of trail on left (east). Joins South Trail.

#### Mount Pisgah East Trail

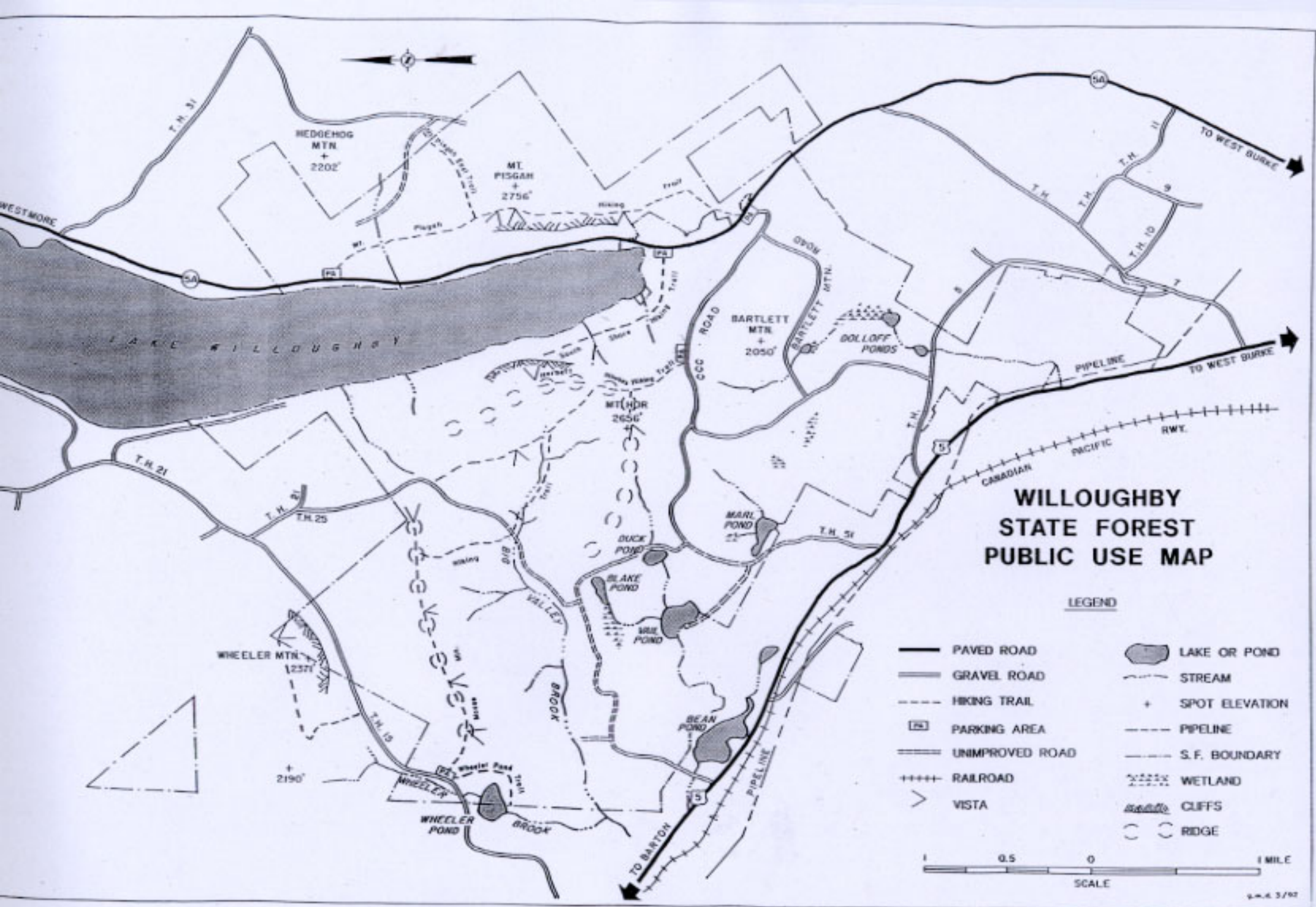
Climb 900 feet. Hike 2.2 mi. (including state right-of-way). From Millbrook store go east (uphill) 1.8 mi. Turn right on private logging road and park at gate. Hike 1.2 mi on private road and turn right on branch road.



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## The Willoughby State Forest Trail System

- Hiking/Snowshoeing trails are shown as a **single dashed line** on the map and are marked with **blue paint**.
- Multi-purpose trails are shown with a **double dashed line** and are marked with orange reflectorized diamonds. They are intended for almost any use, including cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the winter (trail bikes and all-terrain vehicles are prohibited anywhere on state land).
- The forest boundaries are blazed in orange, please respect private property.
- Willoughby State Forest is being managed for multiple use by the Department of Forests and Parks in an attempt to provide maximum recreational, wildlife, water and wood product and use benefits while protecting the ecological uniqueness of the area.



# WILLOUGHBY STATE FOREST PUBLIC USE MAP

## LEGEND

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| PAVED ROAD      | LAKE OR POND   |
| GRAVEL ROAD     | STREAM         |
| HIKING TRAIL    | SPOT ELEVATION |
| PARKING AREA    | PIPELINE       |
| UNIMPROVED ROAD | S.F. BOUNDARY  |
| RAILROAD        | WETLAND        |
| VISTA           | CLIFFS         |
|                 | RIDGE          |

