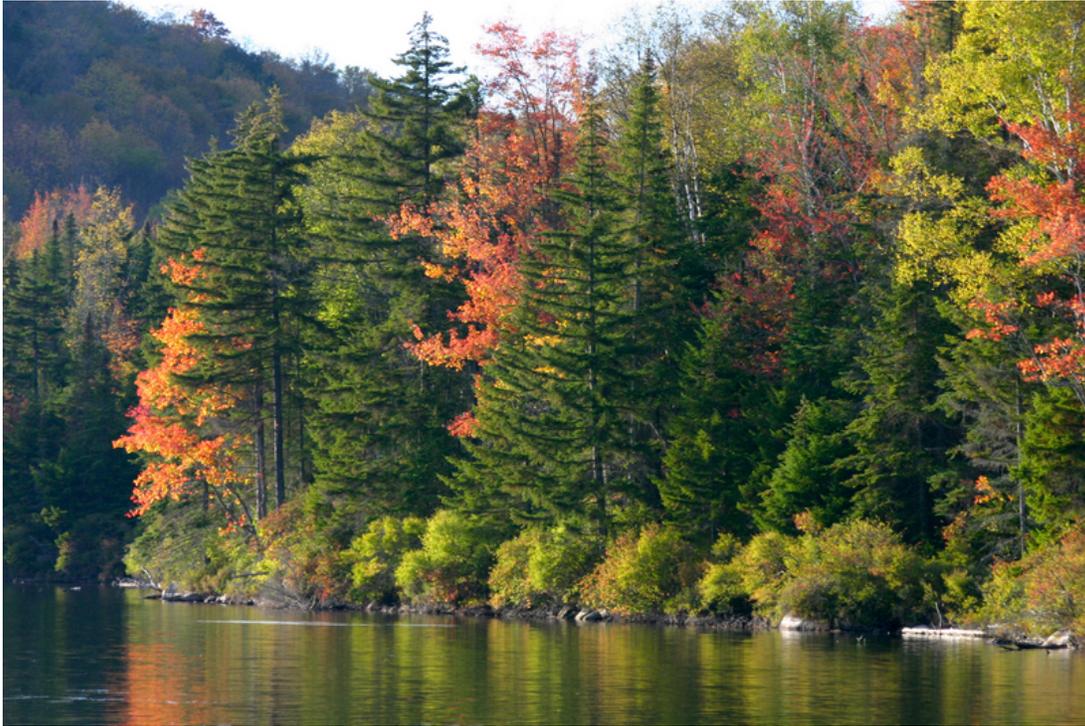


Vermont State Parks Are Your Resource For Autumn Adventures!

- By Jenny Montagne, Vermont State Parks



The air is growing colder and the leaves are changing which means we are transitioning into fall. After a particularly warm and sunny summer, the fall offers a change of pace and a chance to relax, unwind, and play outside in our beautiful state. Half of [Vermont State Parks](#) are fully operational and spending a fall day or night at a park has unique advantages. The parks are quieter after kids have gone back to school, you have a greater choice of sites with less people in the parks, and the cooler nights make relaxing by a campfire a real joy, especially with the absence of bugs.

The cool weather is perfect for recreating outside, so don't miss the opportunity to take a hike in the parks this fall. [Coolidge State Park](#) in Plymouth has amazing views of the Black River Valley and Green Mountains. [Gifford Woods State Park](#) in Killington is on the Appalachian Trail and is well-known for its incredible views of fall foliage. Take a trip up [Mt. Mansfield](#), Vermont's highest peak (4,393' elevation!) while staying at [Underhill](#) and [Smugglers' Notch State Parks](#). The trek up [Mt. Philo](#) is a great family hike, and well worth the view of Lake Champlain and awesome autumn colors. It's also a superb place to observe the fall [hawk migration](#)! If you're looking for a different way to get moving, check out Vermont State Parks' picks for the [best parks to bike in](#).

If you would like to spend the night in the park, but don't want to risk the cold, consider one of the cottages available for rent at [Branbury](#), [Camp Plymouth](#), [Half Moon](#), and [Ricker Pond](#) State Parks. Cottages have multiple rooms, beds, heat and electricity, and kitchen appliances. Another option is to reserve a [cabin](#), available at [Brighton](#), [Button Bay](#), [Gifford Woods](#), [Grand Isle](#), [Half Moon](#), [Little River](#), [Ricker Pond](#), [Woodford](#), and [Wilgus](#) State Parks. Cabins are one-room dwellings with bunk beds and a futon or sleeper couch. More rustic than cottages, cabins are a great way to stay warm and dry while enjoying the parks. If you want to extend your summer, visit [Grand Isle State Park](#) in the Champlain Islands, where the weather stays warmer longer.

[Seyon Lodge State Park](#) offers a unique lodging experience in the [Groton State Forest](#). Open nearly all year long, the Seyon Lodge offers infinite outdoor recreation opportunities. Enjoy Vermont farm-to-table meals and trout fishing on

Noyes Pond, or go explore the park on skis or snowshoes. The Lodge includes a cozy common room where guests can relax by the fire.

Take a look at the [Parks Operation Schedule](#) to see which parks are open after Labor Day. Wishing you a great season of outdoor fun and adventure!