

New Hampshire State Parks Mid-Century Modern (1945-1975) Historic Context Study



Prepared by Lisa Mausolf, Preservation Consultant
for the
New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
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Historic Context: New Hampshire State Parks and the Mid-Century Modern Period

Abstract

New Hampshire's State Parks offer a remarkable mix of day use areas, beaches, campgrounds, waysides, and historic and natural areas that are critical to the state's identity, historic and cultural heritage, quality of life and tourism economy. The collection of parks that the state has today, has grown and evolved over more than a century, through purchase and through gifts. The developed areas within the park system as it exists today are largely the result of concentrated periods of modernization in two periods, the 1930s and the 1960s to early 1970s, made possible by significant investment on both the state and federal level.

The state park system's early development grew out of an appreciation for natural resources and gifts of land from publicly-minded citizens that date back to the late 19th century. In 1891 a parcel of land on Pack Monadnock Mountain in Peterborough was the first given to the State and soon others were added by gift or purchase including forest lands, lake shores, vistas and geologic marvels. In 1909 the Forestry Department (later the Forestry Commission) was founded to manage the growing number of significant tracts being acquired by the State.

These parcels of land were not developed in any real sense until the 1930s when there was an infusion of funding on both the federal and state levels. As unemployment increased following the Great Depression, the federal and state governments responded with major public works projects such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) that facilitated the development of a variety of rustic park projects including entrance roads, parking areas, bathhouses, water and sewerage systems, picnic areas, hiking trails, campgrounds and service buildings. There was a new emphasis on public access and on the recreational needs of citizens. This new vision was reflected in the State Forest Commission's name change to the Forestry and Recreation Commission in 1935. At the time there were ten supervised State Parks.

World War II brought new challenges to the park system in terms of funding and staffing. The major public works projects had ended and maintenance was deferred due to a lack of labor and materials. After the war, in 1945 a separate Recreation Division was established within the Forestry and Recreation Commission to administer existing recreation areas and plan the development of new areas in a thoughtful way. Many of the 20+ state park facilities were in need of improvement, and there was a growing realization of the importance of state parks and recreational offerings to the citizens and the state economy. Yet, the parks continued to attract record numbers of visitors. The increased popularity of tent camping and downhill skiing were significant postwar developments, and new facilities were developed in response.

After almost thirty years, the 1960s witnessed a period of new activity and investment in the NH State Parks. In 1961 the Forestry Commission was reorganized into the Department of Resources and Economic Development and an unprecedented \$9 million state bond issue was approved by the 1961 Legislature for improvement and extension of the state park system. This resulted in the creation of new parks including Greenfield, Wallis Sands and Pawtuckaway State Parks and updates of older parks and modern-style buildings at Moose Brook, Wadleigh, Winslow, White Lake, Crawford Notch, and Franconia State Parks, as well as improvements at Mt. Sunapee and Cannon Mountain ski areas. Additional funding on the federal level came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund program which was created in 1965 while the

federal Mission 66 program instituted by the National Park Service brought new design inspiration to the rustic aesthetic that had largely dominated since the CCC and also created what we now know as the “visitor center”.

This document relates in detail the development of New Hampshire’s state parks beginning in the late 19th century and continuing to the present day, with a separate section focusing on the Mid-Century Modern Period and developments of the 1945 to 1975 period. As with other aspects of the built environment of the Post-World War II period, there is a growing need to understand the many factors that affected the development of state parks during this time frame and the interrelated themes including changes in recreation and natural resources management, the rise of leisure time, urban growth, the increasing importance of tourism to the state’s economy and the growing historic preservation and conservation movement. The associated building types, structures, use areas, and landscape features that were common during the period are identified, and the qualities and conditions of existing properties are assessed to determine the characteristics and integrity required for National Register and State Register eligibility. An annotated list of those who were responsible for designing the park improvements of the era is also included.

Many of New Hampshire’s Mid-Century park resources are now reaching the 50-year benchmark for National Register eligibility. By taking a comprehensive look at these resources we are better able to compare them, determine integrity, and inform future planning to ensure that development and management of the state parks protects cultural as well as natural resources.



SCA workers at Campers Beach, Greenfield State Park

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Purpose, Definitions and Methods

This project was undertaken for the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) and the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation, both part of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), in order to prepare a broad overview history of the State Park system and a more detailed examination of the Park system's expansion in the Mid-Century Modern period (circa 1945 to 1975). By identifying and defining the building types, patterns, and characteristics that represent this time period, the study will support future assessments of these facilities for their eligibility for listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

In legal terms, according to state law RSA 227-G:2, State Parks are one category of state lands or "reservations" that fall under the jurisdiction of the DNCR. State Parks are properties with developed or otherwise specific recreation uses available for visitors. Most offer activities such as swimming, hiking, camping, picnicking, etc. There are several subcategories of lands that the Division of Parks and Recreation manages for public recreation: waysides (usually part of a larger State Forest or a small roadside park), historic sites, natural areas, geologic sites, and archeological sites. The other major category of State Reservations other than State Parks is State Forests which are properties associated with undeveloped forest land managed for various uses. This report does not deal with State Forests and is primarily focused on those State Parks that have associated buildings.

In order to prepare a comprehensive history of the State Park system, it was necessary to gather information from many sources. The files, drawings, photographs and library at the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation were critical research sources and I am grateful to Johanna Lyons, Jack Duncan and Jake Lamontagne for their assistance in delving through the Division's records. A special thank you to Johanna for answering endless questions with her vast institutional knowledge. The Division's Building List provides a useful summary of all of the buildings and their estimated year of construction, but it should be noted that the construction dates listed were not always entirely accurate. The Division also has a wonderful collection of black-and-white photographs taken by various photographers to promote the parks in the 1950s and 1960s. Many of these are interspersed through this report, including the cover photo.

Previously written histories that provided useful information regarding various periods of the Park system development include *Our Forest Heritage: A History of Forestry and Recreation in New Hampshire* written by William Robinson Brown (NH Historical Society, 1958) and the typewritten draft prepared in 1985 by Malcolm Thomas entitled "New Hampshire State Parks: the First Fifty Years, 1935-1985" (in the Division files). The Biennial and/or Annual Reports of various state entities were reviewed including the State Planning and Development Commission (1936+), the Forestry and Recreation Commission (1935-1961), the Department of Resources and Economic Development (1961-2017) and filled in additional details. Files at the NH Division of Historical Resources were also reviewed.

There are a handful of issues of *New Hampshire Architect* and *Granite State Architect* that deal with State Park buildings in the Mid-Century Modern period and these are available at the New Hampshire State Library in Concord which also has comprehensive plans for various State Parks in their collection. Tim Smith of the New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services, Division of Public Works, Design and Construction was kind enough to search through his archives and supplied me with electronic scans of a number of drawings of state parks

buildings. Other sources consulted included indexed statewide newspapers such as the *Portsmouth Herald* and *Nashua Telegraph*, as well as the *Boston Globe*, which provided news coverage of important events related to the State Parks.

The focus on associated resources that were common during the 1945-1975 period relied on examination of drawings for buildings and parks of that period, the Division's Building List, and visits to many New Hampshire State Parks.

This project was funded by a grant from the National Park Service to the NH Division of Historical Resources with funds originating from the Storm Recovery and Disaster Planning Grant Program resulting from Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy in October 2012. As a result, the remaining aspect of the report dealing with further analysis of State Park facilities that were either expanded or developed during the 1945-1975 period, is limited to facilities in the six counties eligible for the grant program (Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, Rockingham, and Sullivan). The other counties are also worthy of the same effort in the future.

It should also be noted that this report does not deal in depth with the two major ski areas, Mount Sunapee and Cannon Mountain, nor the historic buildings that are overseen by the Bureau of Historic Sites.

ORGANIZATIONAL TIME LINE FOR STATE PARKS

1893	State Forestry Commission established
1909	Forestry Department established
1935	Forestry and Recreation Commission replaces Forestry Commission
1945	Division of Recreation established within Forestry Department
1961	Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) established, replacing the Forestry Department, Forestry and Recreation Commission and Planning and Development Commission. Parks Division is a section within the Department.
2017	DRED is dissolved; Division of Parks & Recreation becomes part of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources (along with the Division of Historical Resources, Division of Forest & Lands, State Library and State Arts Council).

Overview History of the New Hampshire State Parks System

Writing about the New Hampshire State Park System in 1985, long-time State Parks employee Malcolm Thomas offered the following observation that still rings true today:

A park system is a living, growing thing. Like a tree, a human, or a business, it has its periods of infancy, rapid juvenile growth, and maturity. And, like other growing things, it responds to its environment. It suffers during periods of depression and war; it prospers when the economy prospers; and it changes in order to survive in an ever-changing world.¹

Appreciation for New Hampshire's scenic beauty, a need to preserve natural resources and a desire to get out and enjoy the great outdoors in a variety of ways are themes that have defined the state for hundreds of years. In order to meet these challenges and opportunities the state's citizens have historically worked together in various partnerships to set aside lands for preservation and public enjoyment as well as to protect forests from exploitation. The New Hampshire State Parks have been an important partner in providing resource protection and outdoor recreation opportunities for over eighty years.

Early Efforts to Protect Natural Resources

Although the State Parks System was not formally established until 1935, many of today's New Hampshire State Parks were first set aside or preserved in the latter half of the 19th century. In many cases, the State was given special parcels of land, scenic areas or forests by private citizens. One of, if not the first was the Hannah Duston Memorial on Route 4 in Boscawen which was donated to the State in 1874 after the publicly-funded statue was erected.² (This later became a historic site within the state park system.) The first piece of land to be given was three acres on the summit of Pack Monadnock Mountain in Peterborough. It was donated to the State by private citizens in 1891 for the express purpose of creating a public park. The following year, General Miller State Park was dedicated.³ Today, Miller State Park is New Hampshire's oldest state park.

Efforts to protect forests in the state during the late 19th century were an important impetus to the creation of state parks. Wild lands had passed into private ownership and timber was being cut off at an increasingly alarming rate. The steam donkey or logging engine, invented in the early 1880s, quickly left its mark on New Hampshire forests. In 1881 a Board of Inquiry was appointed through an act of the legislature to investigate the indiscriminate cutting of timber throughout the state. Among its recommendations was the formation of a permanent commission to deal with forestry problems on a long-term basis.

¹ Malcolm Thomas. *New Hampshire State Parks: The First Fifty Years, 1935-1985*. New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation, November 1984 draft. Mal Thomas (1928-2018) worked as a landscape architect in the Division from the late 1950s to about 1988.

² "Hannah Duston's Heroism", *Boston Daily Globe*, June 18, 1874, p. 4.

³ General James Miller (1776-1851) was born in Peterborough and was a hero in the Battle of Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls, during the War of 1812. He was appointed the first governor of Arkansas in 1819 and was a customs collector for many years in Salem, Mass. where he is buried.

The New Hampshire Forestry Commission was created in 1893. The private, non-profit Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) was founded in 1901 and became an active force in favor of forest conservation and an important partner. In 1901 a tract of 118 acres including Cathedral and White Horse Ledges in North Conway was given to the State of New Hampshire by townspeople who had purchased the land to prevent its commercial use as a stone quarry.⁴ A small area at Wallis Sands in Rye was also acquired in 1901. In 1905 699 acres on Mt. Monadnock was added.

The State Forestry Department was established in 1909 through the work of the Commission, and Edgar Hirst was named the State's first forest ranger on May 1, 1909. Under the Forestry Department the state continued to acquire additional land, mostly through gifts. The early emphasis was on forestry, preservation, and public enjoyment of scenic and natural features. Many of these areas included features that were of interest to many people such as lake shores, unusual and spectacular vistas and/or curious geologic formations. At this point, little was done to enhance public access to public lands, and only a few scenic views were maintained along roadways.

The passage of the Weeks Act in 1911 represented another important step toward protecting the state's forests. It extended the National Forest System to the eastern U.S., as well as laying the ground work for cooperation between State and Federal agencies on forestry matters including forest fire protection and forest tree production and distribution. The White Mountain National Forest was created in 1918 as a result of the Weeks Act. Coincidentally, the Weeks Act was sponsored by U.S. Senator John Wingate Weeks, whose summer home on the summit of Mt. Prospect in Lancaster later became a New Hampshire State Park (Weeks State Park) after the property was given to the State in 1941.

Between 1910 and 1920 additional land parcels were acquired by the State, many of which would later become State Parks. In 1913 5,925 acres comprising Crawford Notch in Hart's Location was purchased by an act of the Legislature in an effort led by the officers of the SPNHF.⁵ The reservation was acquired with the express purpose of preserving the Notch's scenic beauty, with active forest management secondary to this goal. In 1912 Herbert Welch of Philadelphia raised funds from residents around Lake Sunapee in order to purchase and preserve 765 acres on the slopes of Mt. Sunapee. (The area was later bought by the state in 1949.)⁶ Other significant acquisitions included the State Forest Nursery in Boscawen in 1914 (887 acres for \$6,000), Bear Brook in 1916 (part gift/part donation), Cardigan Mountain in 1918 (5,500 acres with an acquisition cost of over \$18,000), and Black Mountain in 1919 (699 acres for \$4,132). The first historic building in the park system, the Daniel Webster Birthplace in Franklin, was acquired in 1918.

⁴ Biennial Report of the Forestry and Recreation Commission for the Two Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1935-1936. Concord: 1937, p. 23.

⁵ William Robinson Brown, *Our Forest Heritage: A History of Forestry and Recreation in New Hampshire*. Concord: NH Historical Society, 1958: 48.

⁶ *Ibid*, p. 50

Additional land that would become parks was acquired in the 1920s. Pillsbury was first acquired in 1920; the 3,702 acres were obtained by a gift coupled with \$5,305 in state funds. Part of what is now Pawtuckaway State Park dates to 1923; the 1,384 acres was partly gifted, supplemented by \$6,800 in state funds. An Act of the Legislature in 1928 resulted in the purchase of 5,244 acres in Franconia Notch. By 1929 the Flume Gorge in what is now Franconia Notch State Park was already a popular tourist attraction.



Franconia Notch State Park, Lincoln

For the forested tracts where public recreational use was not a primary factor, the emphasis was on building up valuable stands of timber for the future by selectively cutting low grade wood and supplementing by planting. Miles of forest roads were built to increase accessibility for wood removal and planting.

The 1930s: Public Recreation and the CCC

The 1930s saw the first real development of State Park areas in New Hampshire and the first emphasis on providing for public recreation. These efforts were fueled by the State bond issue provisions of Chapter 150 and Federal funded programs established by President Franklin Roosevelt including the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and, especially, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). One result was the continued acquisition of additional land. State Relief Funds were used to buy land for parks such as \$3,500 expended to buy 44 acres for Kingston State Park in 1933. The following year 87 park acres and an additional 668 acres of surrounding state forest were purchased in Gorham. This became Moose Brook State Park which opened to the public in 1936. Moose Brook was notable for being one of the state's first supervised camping areas.

The presence of the Federal Government in planning New Hampshire's future parks is also seen in publications such as *The Extension of Public Ownership of Land in New Hampshire: A Preliminary Report to the State Planning Board* prepared in 1935 by consultants loaned by the National Resources Board including prominent planners such as landscape architect John Nolen, Justin Hartzog, Geoffrey Platt and Albert LaFleur, a land planning consultant. The intent of the publication was to help shape state policies with respect to future acquisitions of land. The National Resources Board was another of President Roosevelt's initiatives and was the only national planning agency in U.S. history. It was active from 1933 to 1943.



CCC workers, Moose Brook State Park, Gorham

Operating from 1933 to 1942, the CCC program had a more visible and lasting impact on New Hampshire and its parks. The CCC was a public work relief program that put unemployed, unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 25 from relief families to work on conservation and infrastructure projects. A total of 28 CCC work camps were established throughout the state and some 37,000 New Hampshire men served in the CCC during the years it operated.



Lafayette Lodge, Franconia Notch State Park

These programs gave work to thousands of unemployed and made possible the development of a program of recreation as well as forestry within the state parks. For the first time, areas in State ownership were opened for the public for swimming, camping, picnicking, skiing and other activities. Roads and bridges were constructed which allowed the public to reach key destinations, parking areas were laid out and scenic roads were built. The job-creating programs resulted in the construction of bathhouses, caretaker cabins, shelters, sanitary facilities, drinking water, electric lights, picnic tables and fireplaces. Some of the projects completed included the construction of the first outdoor cement pool and a bathhouse at Peterborough State Park (now town-managed); a rest room and Adirondack stone shelter at Miller Park; bathhouses at Endicott Rock Park in Laconia and Forest Lake Reservation in Dalton; buildings at Bellamy State Park in Dover (now city-managed); open fireplaces and a “rustic portal” at Wellington Beach in Bristol and a bathhouse, fireplaces and a picnic shelter at White Lake Park in Tamworth. CCC buildings at Kingston State Park included two bathhouses, a supervisor’s residence and a log shelter. At Wadleigh State Park in North Sutton, the building of facilities was almost complete when the September 1938 hurricane came through and flattened the buildings. They were rebuilt. At Franconia Notch State Park, Lafayette Lodge (previous page) was constructed of spruce logs to provide toilet, bathing, and recreational facilities to the campers.



CCC Adirondack Shelter at Kingston State Park, Kingston

In 1935 a CCC camp was established in the Bear Brook Area in Allenstown and Deerfield. From 1935 to 1938 the 1123rd Co. CCC was here. Later the camp employed World War I veterans. Bear Brook was the last active CCC camp in New Hampshire. Built by CCC and WPA workers from Manchester and surrounding towns, the purpose of the camp unit was to provide camping facilities for low-income and under-privileged groups otherwise unable to enjoy camping.



Bathing Pavilion, Bear Brook State Park, Allenstown

Today, the camp complex at Bear Brook State Park is the only surviving CCC work camp in New Hampshire. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. The CCC Museum opened in the early 1990s.



CCC Museum at Bear Brook State Park, Allenstown

New state land acquisitions during this period included land at Mt. Kearsarge and the Connecticut Lakes Forest Reservation and Park, a gift of land to the State from the New Hampshire-Vermont Lumber Company and the Connecticut River Power Company.

In order to administer these new areas, the Forestry Commission was expanded to include recreation, and renamed the New Hampshire Forestry and Recreation Commission on June 20, 1935. Russell B. Tobey (1903-1978) was hired to administer the first ten supervised parks which opened between 1930 and 1935, oversee the seasonal staff of caretakers, lifeguards and bathhouse attendants, deliver supplies, maintain equipment and plan future needs and

changes. He was paid \$25 per week and had the use of a State pickup truck.⁷ Russell Tobey retired in 1971 after 36 years of service with the State.



Russell Tobey

Source: *NH Forestry and Recreation Commission Biennial Report, 1947-1948*

In 1935, the Forestry and Recreation Commission administered more than 41,000 acres of land in 113 state reservations. The areas ranged in size from one acre to more than 5,000 acres. Most of the areas had been acquired for forestry and conservation purposes but more than three-quarters had some recreational use or development. Sixteen of the areas had been intensively developed for recreation, offering bathing or camping and day picnic use and had seasonal supervision. The Department oversaw more than 35 picnic areas, 12 camping grounds, 12 bathing beaches and pools and many miles of trails, including over 20 miles of ski trails. At the time there was one historic reservation – the Governor Wentworth Farm in Wolfeboro.⁸ The State Parks were located throughout the state. Wadleigh State Park, Wellington State Park, Wentworth State Park and Endicott Rock State Park in the central part of the state offered public access to some of the Lakes Region's finest beaches. The southwest corner had Monadnock State Park and the southeast had Bellamy and Kingston State Parks as well as Hampton Beach State Park which offered 200 feet of ocean frontage and frontage on the Hampton River. Forest Lake State Park in Dalton was the most northerly of the early parks. Although the parks were operated only in the summer months, a statewide system offering various kinds of recreational opportunities was taking shape. There was also Franconia and Crawford Notch which were owned by the State but leased by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. In 1935 the State Park personnel numbered thirteen. In 1937 the State purchased 137 acres in Dixville Notch from the Trustees of the Brown Company, putting into public ownership the last important scenic notch in New Hampshire.

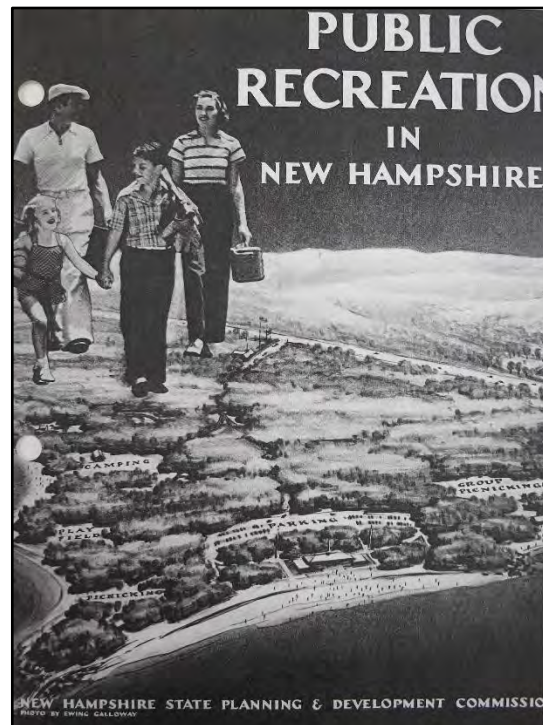
Not surprisingly, New Hampshire's recreation and park resources were not just being used by state residents but by others as well. Of the 300,000 people who used the state's supervised

⁷ Janice Brown, 2008.

⁸ First Biennial Report of the State Planning and Development Commission, 1936-1937, pp. 103-104.

recreational areas during the summer of 1936, 70 percent came from out of state.⁹ In 1937 the New Hampshire Legislature implemented nominal entrance and service charges for the use of State Park facilities. In 1938, the CCC completed work to an auto road to the summit of Cathedral Ledge in North Conway. The toll was 15 cents. Toll Gate State Park on Mt. Kearsarge opened the following year. Milan Hill State Park and Cardigan Reservation, with their foot paths and picnic areas, also began operations in 1939.

In 1936 Congressional legislation authorized the National Park Service to cooperate with the states in park, parkway and recreational area planning. Each state was invited by the Park Service to make a study of their parks, parkways and recreational areas and designate an authority to prepare a plan with the understanding that the Park Service would provide the assistance of consultants. In 1937 the Governor and Council designated the State Planning and Development Commission the authority to work with the Park Service to survey recreational facilities to meet the needs near centers of population. After four years of study and research into the history of recreational development in the State, *Public Recreation in New Hampshire: A Plan for the Development of Public Recreation Areas* was published in 1943. It was written by Sulo Tani, Assistant Planner of the State Planning and Development Commission.



Public Recreation in New Hampshire, 1943

The report emphasized the need for recreation and park planning, noting that “the emergency work programs of the depression period, in which were included a program of recreational area development, laid the foundations of New Hampshire’s present system of recreational developments on State parks. However, since the purpose of the program was primarily to fill

⁹ Biennial Report of the Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1937, p. 26.

the need for employment, development took place on lands already acquired without consideration for their relation to population centers and the extent to which they would fill recreational needs. The recognition that public recreation areas are a basic need, opportunities for which should be made available to all people, has developed more recently.”¹⁰

The opening of the new modern bathhouse on Hampton’s South Beach in 1937 was a prime example of the cooperation between the State and National Park Service. In this case, the National Park Service effort assisted by providing preliminary plans. The basic design was the work of David Fried, architect in the Concord office of the National Park Service, while final drawings were executed by Concord architect Harold Holmes Owen who was engaged by the State. Unlike the rustic log buildings which had been favored during the CCC period, the new bathhouse reflected aspects of the emerging International Style being promoted by the Bauhaus architects such as Walter Gropius. Hampton Beach State Park had been established after the State acquired the beach from the town of Hampton in 1933 and dredging the Hampton River channel created a fine bathing beach over a quarter of a mile long. The new bathhouse was the largest of twelve operated by the state and supplemented the state’s eleven fresh water swimming beaches and bathhouses.



Hampton Bath House, constructed 1937
Designed by David Fried and Harold Owen

As described by the local paper, the 338-foot long building “has the beauty of simple lines. Of almost ultra-modern design the long, low structure fairly hugs the sand on which it rests.”¹¹ The central portion of the building had a checking area for 300 patrons, an office, storage, refreshment counter, first aid room, and a spacious observation deck on the roof. On either side of the central section were two wings offering dressing areas for men and women; each had 75 cubicles, shower baths and bathrooms. Construction took a team of 160 men just forty days to complete. The building was dedicated on July 3, 1937. It was ultimately torn down in 1986 and a new, smaller structure was built in 1988.

¹⁰ *Public Recreation in New Hampshire: A Plan for the Development of Public Recreation Areas*. Concord: State Planning and Development Commission, 1943.

¹¹ *Portsmouth Herald*, Friday, July 2, 1937, p. 9.

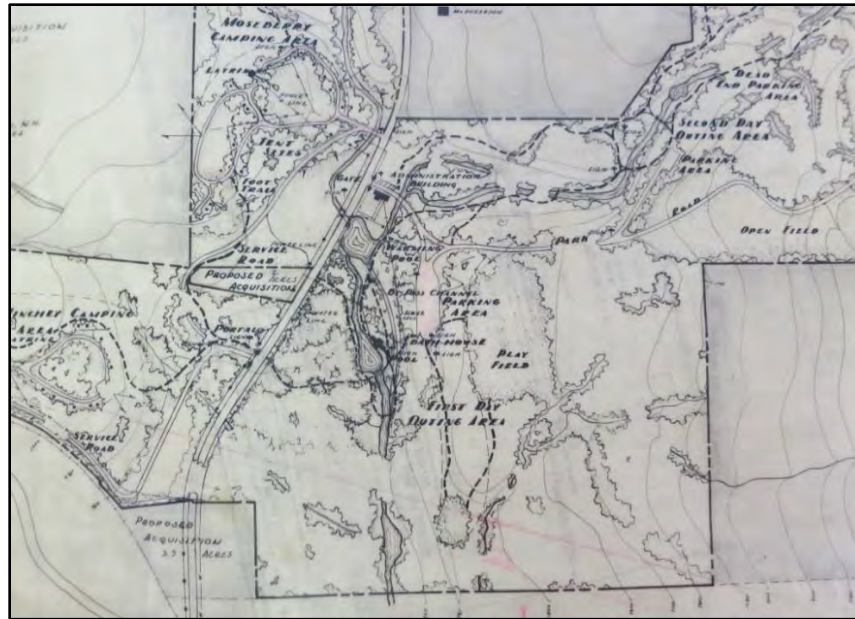


1960s photo of Bath House, Hampton Beach State Park, Hampton

At Moose Brook State Park in Gorham, the swimming area, bathhouse, campground, and administration building were also a cooperative venture between the National Park Service and the New Hampshire Department of Recreation and Forestry, built by CCC workers. In contrast to Hampton Beach State Park, these buildings are excellent examples of the rustic design and construction the CCC is best known for. The Administration Building was designed by W.F. Baker of the National Park Service in 1937. George W. Wilson, Associate Landscape Architect for the National Park Service, was responsible for the layout of the campground.



Administration Building, Moose Brook State Park, Gorham, 1937-8
Designed by W.F. Baker



Detail of Moose Brook State Park Master Plan, 1937
 Drawn by George W. Wilson, Associate Landscape Architect

At Bear Brook which had opened in Allenstown in 1935 as a CCC camp, a recreational demonstration project was developed in 1939. Known as the Second Organized Camp (later Spruce Pond Camp) it was a cooperative undertaking of the National Park Service and the New Hampshire Department of Forestry and Recreation, with the Park Service providing the landscape architect and construction labor and resources being supplied by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and WPA. It was laid out with four separate areas or pods, each originally consisting of eight cabins, one toilet building with three toilets and a large sink and a lodge style building with fireplace and outside grill. The central area included a 150+ seat dining hall with full kitchen, a shower/toilet building, office, two crew cabins, a small storage shed and the infirmary. In later years Spruce Pond Camp was used by the Girl Scouts and 4-H.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPT. OF FORESTRY & RECREATION COOPERATING		PLAN NO. E.B. 10-11 OCT. 1939
DESIGNED BY <i>George W. Wilson</i>	BEAR BROOK RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT THE LAYOUT PLAN SECOND ORGANIZED CAMP PART OF THE MASTER PLAN	SCALE 1" = 80' 5/1/41 DATE OCT. 1939
CHECKED BY _____	SCALE 0 20 40 60 80 100 AREA ACRES UNDED 2236.2 PROPOSED ADDITIONAL ACRES	DATE 11/2/39
RECOMMENDED BY _____	AREA MANAGER <i>George W. Wilson</i>	DATE 11/2/39
APPROVED BY _____	STATE FORESTER <i>Wm. H. Bates</i>	DATE 11/9/39
APPROVED BY _____	REGIONAL DIRECTOR	DATE

Title Block, Plan for Second Organized Camp, Bear Brook Recreational Area, 1939

Three new areas opened in 1939 – Toll-Gate State Park on Mt. Kearsarge, Milan Hill State Park and Cardigan Reservation; the latter two offered foot paths and picnic areas. The New Hampshire State Parks system continued to grow in the early 1940s through several gifts. In 1941 the children of Senator John W. Weeks gifted Mount Prospect in Lancaster to the State. The property included several buildings including the Weeks house, a caretaker's cottage, garage and stone observation tower. That same year, the sons of former Governor Robert Bass also gave the State a significant tract of 76 acres on both sides of the mountain road leading to the summit of Pack Monadnock in Peterborough, greatly expanding General Miller Park. By 1941 the state had twenty supervised parks.



Weeks House, Weeks State Park, Lancaster

In 1943, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) gave the State 300 acres of forest land in the Town of Fitzwilliam. The AMC had been given the property in 1903 by Mary Lee Ware at which time it was an early example of the conservation movement in New Hampshire to protect endangered natural resources and make them available to the general public. The gift became the Rhododendron State Reservation, the State Park System's only designated botanical park. The park includes the c.1800 Patch Cottage near the entrance, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

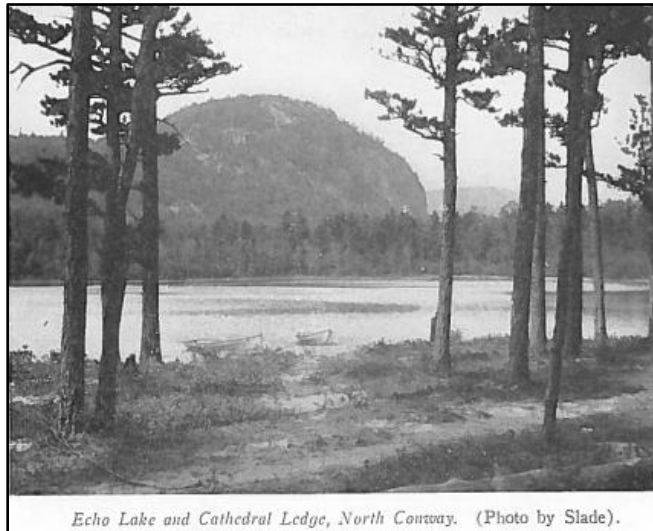
In 1941 there were twenty supervised parks in the state system and the number of state personnel had more than quadrupled in six years to 60. By 1941, parks usage almost doubled from the 1935 figure of 198,000 visits to about 384,000. Soon thereafter, however, travel restrictions during World War II greatly affected the public use of the state's recreational areas. The ban on auto pleasure travel in 1943 reduced civilian usage of state parks to one half of the 1942 levels and one quarter of those in 1941. It was also difficult to find personnel. In 1942 for the first time, women were employed as lifeguards and collectors. Several parks – Cardigan, Clough, Miller, Mt. Prospect and Toll Gate State Parks were either closed or reduced to part time operation.

Bear Brook in Allenstown closed as a CCC facility in January 1942. In March 1943 the U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service deeded the 6,436 Bear Brook Park to the State of New Hampshire. Two months later the State Forestry and Recreation Department assumed control and it became a State Park. During World War II, although services diminished at some facilities, those at Bear Brook were increased and extended to accommodate large groups of military personnel that came from nearby Grenier Field in Manchester. Groups of 100 or more came for weekends and organized camps were also held as rest camps for American and British sailors.¹²



Servicemen at Bear Brook State Park during World War II
Source: Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1945

Echo Lake in North Conway was secured by the state in 1943 with a combination of state funds and funds raised by the North Conway Chamber of Commerce.



Echo Lake and Cathedral Ledge, North Conway. (Photo by Slade).

Echo Lake and Cathedral Ledge, North Conway
Source: Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1944

¹² Biennial Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1945, p. 8.

State Parks in the Post-World War II Period

After the war, in 1945 a separate Recreation Division was established within the Forestry and Recreation Commission to administer existing recreation areas and plan the development of new areas. Russell Tobey was named Recreation Director and was given additional personnel. At the time the Director oversaw twenty-one state parks and recreation areas as well as the Franconia Notch State Reservation. Attendance at state parks and reservations was 225,000 during the summer vacation season in 1945. In 1945 and 1946 attendance at the Bear Brook day-use area was frequently 3,000 to 4,000 persons per day.¹³ The state parks offered opportunities for swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, and camping. Improvements in 1945 included repair of the Weeks Mansion and construction of a new ski slope at Weeks State Park on Mt. Prospect. In 1946 the League of New Hampshire Arts and Crafts remodeled the abandoned railroad station at Franconia Notch for the sale and demonstration of handicrafts.¹⁴

An estimated 300,000 visitors came to the state parks in 1946, not including Crawford Notch and Franconia Notch reservations. Increasing attendance coupled with deferred maintenance due to a lack of labor and materials during the war left many of the state park facilities in need of improvement in the postwar period. The following excerpt aptly describes the state of New Hampshire's state parks in the postwar period:

Future planning is now essential, not only to the Division but also to the state's commercial recreation industry. Public recreation is a relatively new venture in New Hampshire. The facilities we now have came into existence in the early 1930s, when experience was slight and it was impossible to anticipate the broad public acceptance that has occurred. Now in the late 1940s, we are attempting to administer facilities geared to the tastes and needs of 15 years ago. In some cases, park and reservation patronage has increased 1,000 percent.

The majority of our areas cost the state next to nothing for the land or original development. Much of the land came through gifts, and the work of developing it was done by federal and state relief agencies. The point has been reached where the age and capacity of facilities at public recreation areas make them no longer capable of supplying the recreational wants of the people who use them. Many areas are not sufficiently developed to provide optimum financial returns.¹⁵

Parks closed during the war were reopened and much-needed and delayed maintenance projects were accelerated. At Franconia Notch, a work camp was established to build trails, bridges, buildings and improvements at the Lafayette Campground including new campsites with fireplaces. Additional landscaping was completed at the recently acquired Echo Lake frontage in Franconia Notch, and in 1946 Echo Lake opened as a supervised state park. In 1947 the Flume Reservation was transferred to state custody after twenty years of oversight by

¹³ Biennial Report of the Recreation Division, 1945-1946, p. 13.

¹⁴ The Profile House station turned retail store was demolished when Interstate 93 was built through Franconia Notch. The League of New Hampshire Arts and Crafts, later renamed the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, has held its annual Fair at Mount Sunapee State Park since 1964.

¹⁵ State of New Hampshire Biennial Report of the Forestry and Recreation Commission for the Two Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1946, p. 26.

the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. The Rye Harbor State Park was also added to the Recreation Division in 1947-1948.

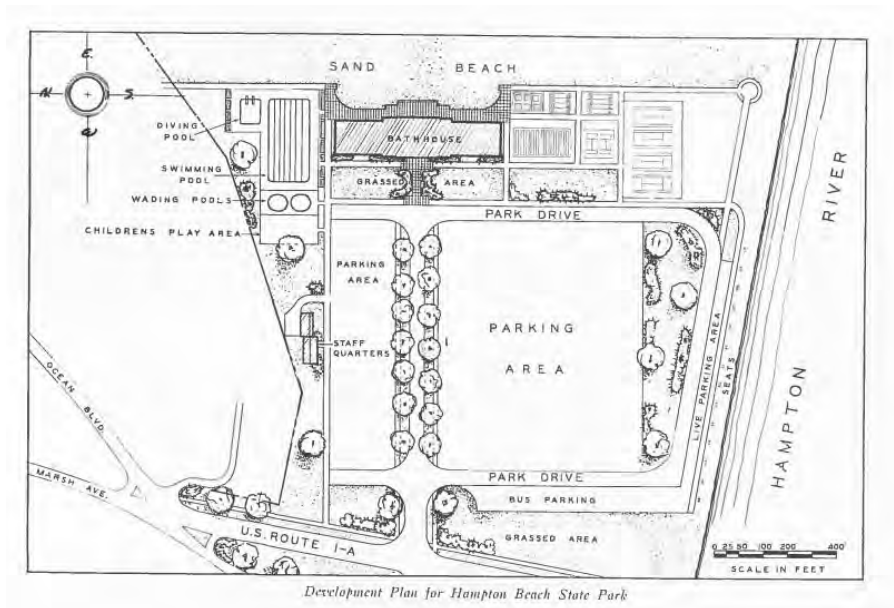


State Parks in 1946



Echo Lake, Franconia Notch State Park
 Source: 1945 Biennial Report

Thanks to a \$20,000 capital appropriation, the Hampton Beach bathhouse was remodeled and landscaped including new plantings and shuffle board and tennis courts.



Hampton Beach State Park Development Plan, 1945
 Source: 1945 Biennial Report

Throughout the state parks, long deferred repairs were made to existing buildings, new picnic areas were laid out, toilet facilities were built and parking areas were constructed. At Bear Brook Maintenance Depot, a small group of skilled men worked in the winter months constructing log picnic tables, log benches, toilet buildings, directional park signs and row boats.

New educational initiatives within the state parks during this period included establishment of youth conservation camps and naturalist programs. The first natural history interpretation center in the state parks was opened at Bear Brook State Park in the late 1940s. It was originally operated by staff from the University of New Hampshire and later became a joint venture of the Audubon Society and the State of New Hampshire. Rhododendron State Park opened in 1947. Donated to the State by the Appalachian Mountain Club, it showcased one of the largest tracts of rhododendron in the northeast. At many state parks, new types of distinctive, naturalistic signs were installed to supplement existing signage.



In 1946 the Kennett family deeded 17 acres in Madison to the State. The land included the so-called Madison Boulder, a glacial erratic measuring 23' x 37' x 85', the largest known glacial erratic in North America and a National Natural Landmark. This is now known as the Madison Boulder Natural Area.

Supplementing the state parks, wayside picnic areas were established on main highway routes for the convenience of the traveling public. More than just a turn off or stopping place on the highway, most of these waysides were related to an outstanding natural or cultural resource. A capital budget of \$5,000 in 1948 provided for the first wayside picnic areas. Four wayside areas were established that year - the Chesterfield Wayside in Spofford, the Fay Wayside on U.S. Rt. 3 in Lincoln, the Honey Brook Wayside on Rt. 10 in Lempster, and the Dixville Notch Wayside on Rt. 26, east of Colebrook.



Camping at Bear Brook State Park, Allenstown

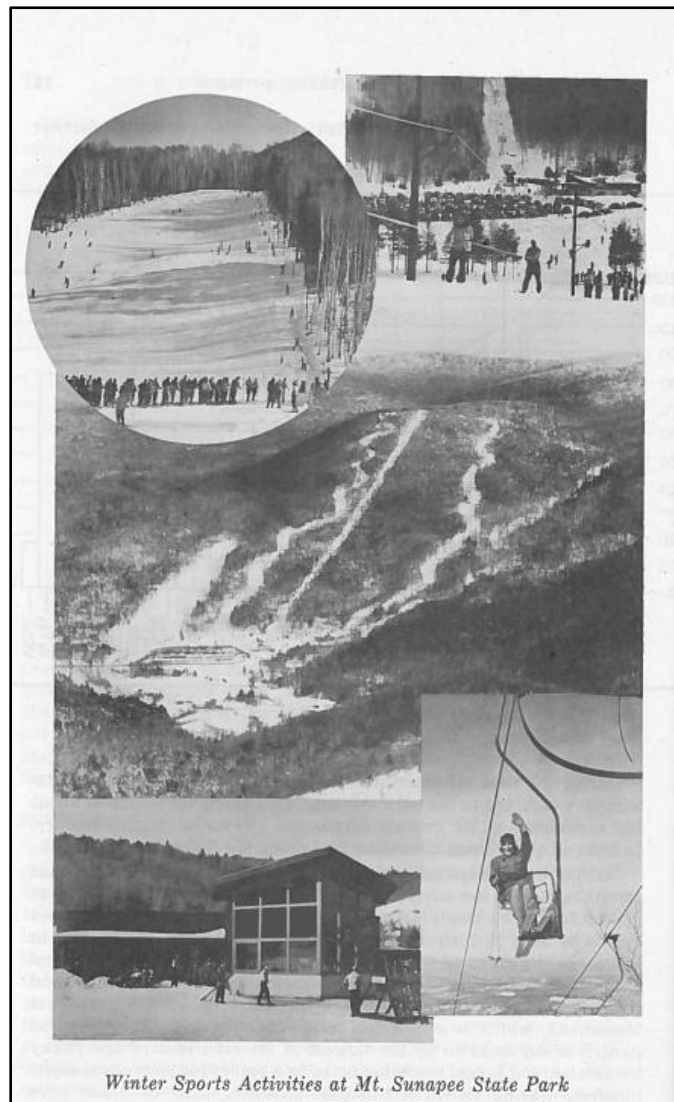
At the end of World War II, there were three major camping areas in the state park system – at Moose Brook State Park in Gorham, Monadnock State Park in Jaffrey and White Lake State Park in Tamworth. Tent camping saw an increase in popularity in the postwar period as did trailer camping which led to the enlargement of existing areas and development of additional campgrounds in the years ahead.



Camping at White Lake State Park, Tamworth

A new focus on downhill skiing in the state parks was another significant postwar development. In 1946 a 1,000-foot rope tow was installed at Mount Prospect (Weeks) State Park. Far more dramatic was the addition of Mt. Sunapee State Park which opened on Christmas Day, 1948. Mt. Sunapee broke new ground as the park system's first year-round and explicitly commercial venture.

The new \$375,000 Mt. Sunapee ski area included a 3,500-foot chair lift capable of carrying 400 passengers an hour, a 1,200-foot rope tow, a newly constructed road leading from Route 103 and a gravel parking area with a capacity of 350 cars. The chair-lift was also designed to operate in the summer as well as winter. There were three ski trails, each over 4,000 feet long and from 50 to 70 feet wide and due to considerable grading, were to be skiable with only a few inches of snow. One trail was for expert skiers, one for intermediate and one for novices.¹⁶



Source: Biennial Report of the Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1947-1948

¹⁶ *Nashua Telegraph*, September 17, 1948, p. 14.

Manchester architects Koehler and Isaak designed two early buildings at Mt. Sunapee in a modern style. The base station was located close to the foot of the chair lift and was equipped with open fireplaces, rest rooms, food and souvenir counters, a ski shop and an emergency room. As described in the press, “the modernistic building will be notable for its glass walls running from floor to ceiling which will enable skiers and non-skiers to have a full view of activities outside”.¹⁷ In the words of the *Nashua Telegraph*: “It will have spacious windows, fireplaces, and plenty of room for skiers to swap yarns”.¹⁸



Base Lodge, Mt. Sunapee

The second building was a flat-roofed, single-story warming shed, located at the upper end of the chair lift. Koehler & Isaak also designed the tramway buildings as well.¹⁹



Warming Hut, Mt. Sunapee
Photos Courtesy of Carolyn Isaak

¹⁷ *Portsmouth Herald*, September 27, 1948, p. 2.

¹⁸ *Nashua Telegraph*, September 17, 1948, p. 14.

¹⁹ Information from Carolyn Isaak, March 2019.

By 1949 the New Hampshire State Parks system consisted of 25 parks and four wayside areas. The State Reorganization Act of 1950 resulted in a number of important changes for the Recreation Division and reflects the post war Recreation boom. As part of the reorganization, Design, Development, and Maintenance functions were shifted from the Recreation Division to the new Public Works and Highway Department. However, there were also newly added responsibilities for the Recreation Division. Three state-owned historic sites – the Hannah Duston Memorial in Boscawen, Daniel Webster Birthplace in Franklin and Franklin Pierce Homestead in Hillsborough – became part of the Parks system.



Franklin Pierce Homestead, Hillsborough

The Recreation Division also was given responsibility for the Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway at Franconia which had been constructed in 1938 and previously administered by the Tramway Commission. On May 28, 1950 Crawford Notch, which had been owned by the state since 1913, opened as Crawford Notch State Park.



Willey Site, Crawford Notch State Park

To meet public demand, improvements were made at many state parks in the 1950s. At Bear Brook State Park, there were increased camping facilities. Work was done near the Willey site at Crawford Notch State Park and throughout Franconia Notch State Park. In 1954 Roy W. Baker of Antrim served as historic consultant at the Franklin Pierce Homestead; the old barn was salvaged and remodeled for public use with water and toilets and Colonial-style signage. A new beach area was developed at Sunapee. For skiers, new T-bars and extended trails were added at both Mt. Sunapee and Cannon Mountain. Several new parks opened in the 1950s. Pillsbury State Park opened in 1952 and a few years later a park office/residence was built, designed by Gustave Bochert. Silver Lake State Park in Hollis opened in 1954 as a small-scale park for residents in the urban area of Nashua, Manchester and other communities in the southern tier. It had previously operated as a bathing beach and day-outing area for many years but was purchased in 1946 by a non-profit organization to prevent it being sold to private interests and lost to public use. In 1949 the 80 acres of land was purchased by the State and the park officially opened in August 1954.²⁰ The bathhouse and vending/first aid buildings erected by the State are simple, modern structures sheathed in vertical boards, designed by Dan Kiley of Charlotte, Vermont. Similar bathhouses were built at Ellacoya State Park, Wadleigh State Park and Sunapee State Park but have been replaced.



Silver Lake State Park Bathhouse, Hollis

The land on Lake Winnepesaukee that would become Ellacoya State Park in Gilford was acquired in 1956 and the park opened in 1958. Seven cottages that stood on the land were sold and removed. In 1956 the State purchased Camp Diamond in Stewartstown from the Coleman family. At the time of the purchase, the 1,200-acre property (renamed Coleman State Park) included about 25 cottages, a farmhouse and farm buildings and various other buildings, most of which were auctioned off, moved or demolished.

²⁰ *Nashua Telegraph*, March 8, 1949; August 21, 1954.

The Annett Wayside Area in Rindge opened in 1951 as a convenience for visitors to the nearby Cathedral of the Pines. The land, part of the Annett State Forest, was a gift from Albert Annett, a conservationist, member of the Governor's Council, and owner of Annett Lumber & Box in 1922. A CCC camp operated here in the 1930s. In 1957 the State Legislature appropriated \$10,000 for five additional wayside parks, mostly in the White Mountain Region. The areas were designed by Malcolm Thomas, then Assistant State Park Technician of the New Hampshire Recreation Division (later State Parks).²¹ Among these was the Fred Gardner Memorial Wayside on Rt. 3 in Shelburne which was dedicated on September 15, 1959 and included picnic grounds and toilet facilities. The wayside area was dedicated to Frederick Gardner who worked for the state highway department for more than 25 years, encouraging the construction of small roadside rest areas. The Sculptured Rocks Wayside Area in Groton was also laid out during this period, consisting of a small parking area and a few picnic areas. What became Wallis Sands State Park opened as a wayside area during the 1950s.



Dedication of the Gardner State Wayside Picnic Area in Shelburne, 1959

In 1958 the State began leasing land in 13 Mile Woods on Rt. 16 in Errol from the Coe-Pingree Heirs and Brown Company. The initial rental terms were just \$25/year. This became the Androscoggin Wayside Area which provides public parking, foot trails, picnic tables and toilets in a spot on the Androscoggin popular for fishing and canoeing.

State Parks also added another historic property in the 1950s when the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion in Portsmouth was given to the State in 1954 by Mrs. J. Templeman Coolidge. Between 1951 and 1961 the number of parks, historic sites and wayside areas increased from 25 to 41.

²¹ Letter from Russell B. Tobey, Director of Recreation, New Hampshire Recreation Division, to Lawrence Philbrook, October 8, 1959.



Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, Portsmouth

Another modern building, a “Mountain Shelter” was constructed at Mt. Sunapee Ski Area about 1957. It appears to have been designed by the NH Department of Public Works and Highways.



Mountain Shelter, Mt. Sunapee State Park

Coping with Growth: The 1960s

By the early 1960s New Hampshire's state park system was stressed by its own success and the combination of increased visitation, overuse and unreliable park financing. The trend toward outdoor recreation was on the rise and fortunately state leaders took action. To increase efficiency through reorganization, in 1961 Governor Wesley Powell replaced the Forestry and Recreation Commission with the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED). Even more important, that same year, an unprecedented \$9 million bond issue (Chapter 263 of the 1961 session) sponsored by then Governor Powell was passed by the legislature in the late hours of the legislative session. The goal of the Park Expansion Project was to improve existing parks and begin looking for new sites and planning new parks for the future. Projects funded by the bond issue included broad improvements of ski facilities including the development of ski lifts, slopes and public buildings at Cannon Mountain and Mount Sunapee, work at Wallis Sands State Park, a service building project (The Sea Shell) at Hampton Beach, improvements at Fort Dearborn (Odiorne Point) in Rye (the federal government transferred Fort Dearborn to the state in 1961), the construction of a boat ramp, docks and parking at Rye Harbor park, an enlargement of Echo Lake Park at North Conway, improvements at the Flume and Lonesome Lake in Franconia Notch, funds to illuminate the Old Man of the Mountain, improvements to the Nansen ski jump in Berlin, a new Lake Winnepesaukee park in Moultonboro, funds for Pawtuckaway State Park, Greenfield State Park and funds to acquire land for Winslow Park in Wilmot, expansion of Bear Brook Barn, Ellacoya Beach in Gilford and Silver Lake Park in Hollis.²² Picnic sites were also laid out at Forest Lake State Park in Dalton which had been developed by the CCC in the 1930s. Additional funds were used to replace obsolete water and sewage systems at several parks. Land was also purchased for the protection and expansion of several existing parks – most notably including the summit of Mount Washington.



Forest Lake Park State Park, Dalton

²² *Portsmouth Herald*, March 13, 1962

The expansion and improvement of existing parks was a priority. Because of this, the 1960s were marked by a dramatic increase in park size and facilities. Between 1961 and 1967 ten of the 40 existing parks, wayside areas and historic sites were enlarged through the purchase of additional lands. At Bear Brook, Coleman, Sculptured Rocks, Wellington and Winslow State Parks, land was purchased as buffers to protect park resources and provide privacy. At other areas such as Ellacoya and Wallis Sands State Parks, the added land allowed for the improvement of facilities. The Nansen Ski Jump in Milan was purchased in 1961. In 1962-1963 feasibility reports and ski site studies were also completed for a number of mountains throughout the state to determine the physical potential for additional ski area development.

The design for many of the 1960s park improvements was influenced by events in park planning and development on the national front. In 1956 the National Park Service had established a ten-year park development program called "Mission 66" to update its facilities. The Mission 66 program resulted in the construction of roads and trail systems and thousands of residential, maintenance, and administrative facilities in National Parks across the country. It also left a legacy of modern architecture in the national parks that also influenced improvements at New Hampshire's state parks as well. The National Park Service introduced new facilities, especially visitors' centers, into a number of parks and most of these were modern in their design. Typically, these buildings were designed to allow views of their surroundings from the interior or outdoor terraces.



Hampton Sea Shell 1962-1963
Source: *Granite State Architect*, August 1964

By the 1960s, modern design had reached New Hampshire state parks as well. The most dramatic of New Hampshire's modern park buildings of the period was the Hampton Sea Shell Complex, completed in 1963 according to designs by Hanover architect W. Brooke Fleck. The cost of construction - \$380,000 - was funded by a combination of federal and state funds. It

was designed to serve a combination of uses including a bandstand, chamber of commerce building, police station and comfort station. Typical of its period, it employed steel, concrete block, glass and enamel panel curtain walls, broad expanses of glass, and sweeping rooflines with overhangs.

In the late 1950s a legislative committee had begun looking at planning for a large multi-use park in the Monadnock Region (southern NH). Originally Spofford Lake was selected but after that site was determined unfeasible, the town beach on Otter Lake in Greenfield was selected. The original appropriation acquired the town property and made limited improvements.



L to R: Parks Director Russell Tobey, Greenfield Superintendent Charles Burrage, and unidentified man (Malcolm J. Chase?) at opening of Greenfield State Park, June 1964

Greenfield State Park reflected a new park philosophy and was designed as a multi-use park, accommodating intense recreational usage while still preserving the area's natural scenic aspects. It is also significant as the first park to be built by private contract under the supervision of the NH Department of Public Works and Highways.²³ Plans for the park were prepared by the New Hampshire Recreation Division. The State Highway Department's special projects division was established in 1962 and headed by Malcolm J. Chase. It coordinated the work of the Parks Division of the Department of Resources and Economic Development. Detailed engineering specifications were made by the State Department of Public Works and Highways which supervised all contract work. The park was built in three stages. Howard Thomas, a long-time Public Works employee reportedly designed the layout of the park after

²³ Greenfield State Park Management and Facility Plan, 2010.

retiring from Public Works. The buildings were designed by Concord architect Guy K.C. Wilson. The layout of the roads (4 ½ miles of blacktop and 4 miles of gravel) made natural beauty a priority, taking advantage of terrain and feature vegetation. Spacing the campsites 100' apart also insured privacy. The larger campsites in wooded surroundings also gave the camper a greater sense of seclusion compared to earlier park campgrounds. Greenfield State Park included 252 family campsites, a youth group camping area and a large day use area with 400 picnic tables and 370 granite fireplaces. Unfortunately, the filling of wetlands as part of the site preparation has posed long term problems years later.

The improved Wallis Sands State Park opened on June 25, 1964, the same day as Greenfield State Park. The Wallis Sands project included construction of a two-winged bathhouse including shower rooms, a first aid facility and a refreshment stand as well as a jetty along the southern edge of the beach, removal of the old rubble wall and construction of a reinforced two-foot concrete sea wall. Wright and Pierce of Portsmouth served as design engineers for the project.



Summit Building with Flying Geese sculpture, Mount Sunapee

The Summit Building at Mount Sunapee was another project funded by the 1961 \$9 million bond issue. Designed by Nashua architects, Carter & Woodruff, the modern building featured broad gables with significant overhangs and was sheathed in natural clapboards accented by dark brown beams at the eaves. The painted trim was in a red-orange shade which was used as an accent throughout the building.



Ceramic mural by Gerry Williams inside the Summit Building, Mt. Sunapee State Park

Art was integrated throughout the project. Outside the building, there was a 20-foot cypress totem sculpture portraying wild geese in various stages of flight and rest, carved by Cabot Lyford (1925-2016) of Exeter.²⁴ Inside, on the main floor there was a 6' x 7' ceramic mural by Dunbarton ceramist Gerry Williams (1926-2014). The total cost of the building was approximately \$207,000 and it opened in 1964.²⁵

Other work at Mt. Sunapee in 1964 included new ski slopes, a double chair lift, T-bar hill, a new entrance road, beach construction, and an addition to the base building.



Addition to Mt. Sunapee base building

²⁴ The sculpture deteriorated and was removed. This was an early work by Lyford who is best known for his granite sculptures.

²⁵ *Granite State Architect*, March 1965.

Elsewhere in the state, in 1964 the special projects division was also in charge of the Nansen ski jump in Berlin, and at Franconia State Park ski trails, two double chair lifts, relocation of Route 16, an addition to the summit building and Lonesome Lake Mountain hut and bunk houses. At Rye Harbor they supervised dredging, docks, parking areas and shelter buildings. There were also forest improvement projects at sixteen of the parks.

Situated in the heart of New Hampshire's most populous area and yet surrounded by wilderness, Pawtuckaway State Park opened for public use in July 1966. With over 5,000 acres Pawtuckaway combined lands formerly owned by the state forestry agency, Water Resources Board and private citizens. Some 800 acres was originally owned by the Newmarket Manufacturing Company and was later acquired by the New Hampshire Electric Company who transferred it to the State of New Hampshire in 1955. In 1962 the land was transferred from the Water Resources Board to the State Parks Division. A Master Plan Report was prepared by Land Planning Associates in 1963. When opened in 1966 the park offered facilities for day users around a beach area and also had 80 campsites. Like Greenfield State Park, Pawtuckaway State Park was designed to make optimum use of land without disturbing the area's natural characteristics.²⁶ In 1967 Gustave A. Bochert, a landscape architect from Ogunquit, Maine, completed a master plan for the development of additional campsites on Big Island. Today, the facility includes an administration building, park store, toll booth and several toilet buildings all dating to the 1960s. According to the drawings at State Parks, the buildings were designed by Wright & Pierce (William B. Pierce and Frank V. Wright, Jr.), Architects-Engineers of Topsham, Maine.



Administration Building, Pawtuckaway State Park
Wright & Pierce, Architect-Engineers, 1966

²⁶ *Manchester Union*, June 24, 1966.

During this period funds were allocated for several historic sites, including the restoration of the historic Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion in Portsmouth. The work in 1966 followed recommendations made by a special committee appointed by the Governor and prominent Boston architectural historian Abbott Lowell Cummings who served as a technical consultant to the Parks Division. Edward Miles of Exeter served as architect for the project. Built in three sections in the years 1696, 1730, and 1750, the mansion represents three very distinct periods in American architectural development. In 1964 the Franklin Pierce Homestead in Hillsborough was restored to its original design under the direction of William Perry of the Boston firm of Perry, Shaw, Hepburn and Dean. Perry had developed Historic Williamsburg in Virginia and also consulted as an adviser to the efforts at Fort Dearborn (later Odiorne Point State Park). The Robert Frost Homestead, built in 1885 and purchased by the Frost family in 1900, was acquired by the State in 1965 for \$45,000; prior to this it had most recently been an auto junk yard. Restoration of the building took place in 1970.

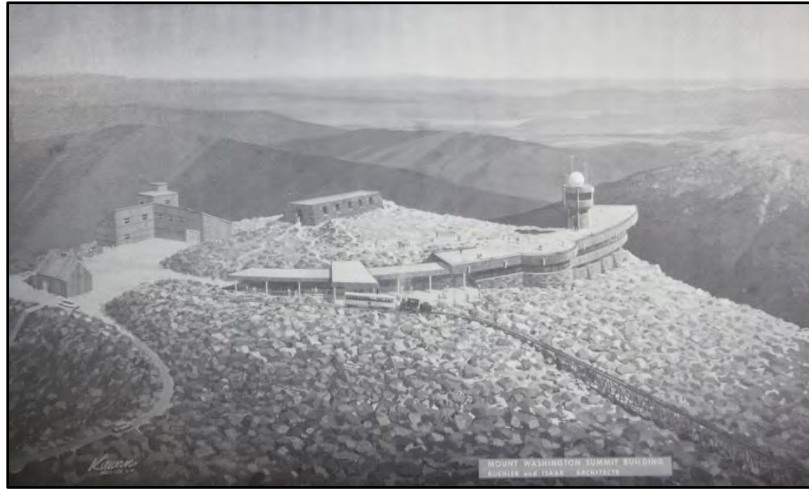
In 1964 the land that is now Clough State Park in Weare was acquired by the State under a lease (initially 25 years) from the Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Hopkinton-Everett Dam Project to fully utilize lands surrounding the new dam. The new park, designed and built by the Army Corps of Engineers, included comfort stations, a picnic shelter, and concrete tables and benches to withstand spring floods. (The comfort stations are no longer extant).



1960s Picnicking at Clough Park (note dam in background and concrete tables and benches)

Also in 1964, the State purchased 59 acres of land at the summit of Mount Washington from Dartmouth College for \$150,000. The transaction did not include the roadway or the Cog Railway but did include the Summit House, the Tip Top House, the Observatory and several service structures that were removed. In 1969 preliminary plans for a new summit structure were submitted by Carter and Woodruff, Architects, of Nashua; Dan Kiley served as site planner. Ultimately, the Carter and Woodruff plan was rejected and Koehler & Isaak of Manchester were retained. Working closely with Sherman Adams, the chair of the Mount Washington Commission, Nicholas Isaak prepared a new plan for a building on a site to the

north of the previous summit house, of wood and stone, curvilinear in shape to integrate with the contour of the mountain. This plan was submitted in September 1970.



Initial Model for Mount Washington Summit House by Koehler & Isaak
Source: *Mount Washington: A Ten-Year Master Plan, 1969-70*

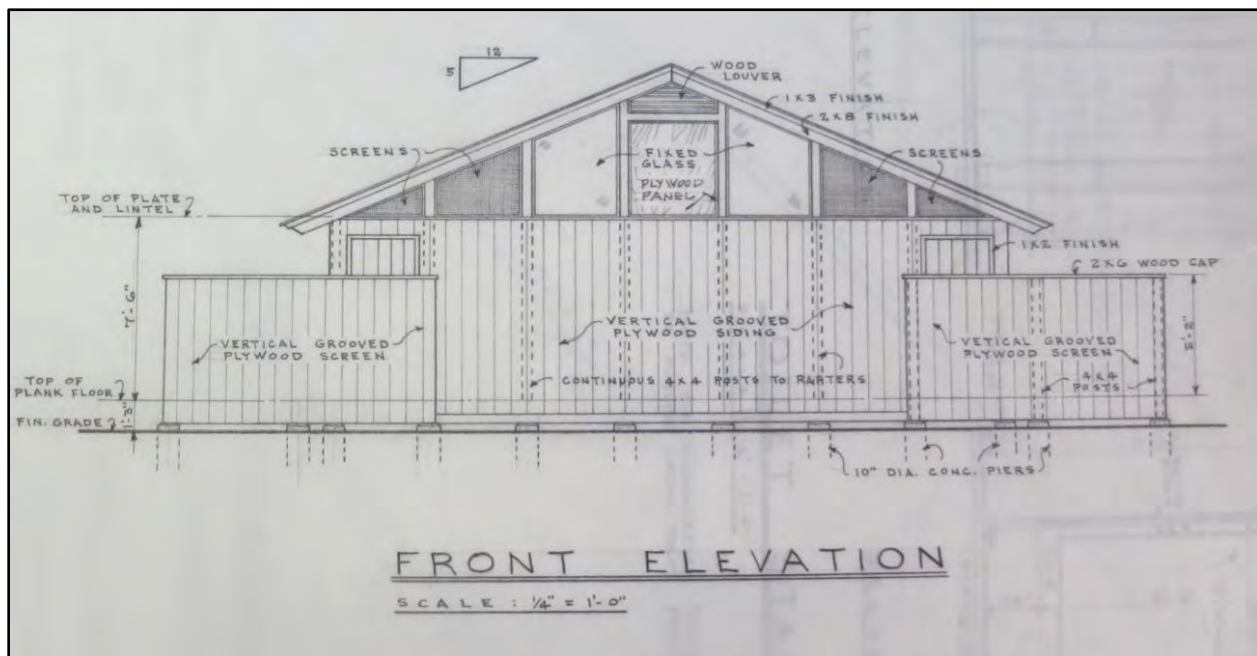
In 1976 \$130,000 was appropriated for detailed plans and specs for the summit building and construction was underway in May 1978. The design of the Sherman Adams Summit Building was completed by the architectural firm of Dudley, Walsh and Moyer after Koehler and Isaak dissolved in the early 1970s and Nicholas Isaak died in 1975.²⁷ The Sherman Adams Summit Building was dedicated on September 5, 1980. The total cost was \$4,000,000.



Sherman Adams Summit Building

²⁷ Information from Carolyn Isaak, February 2019.

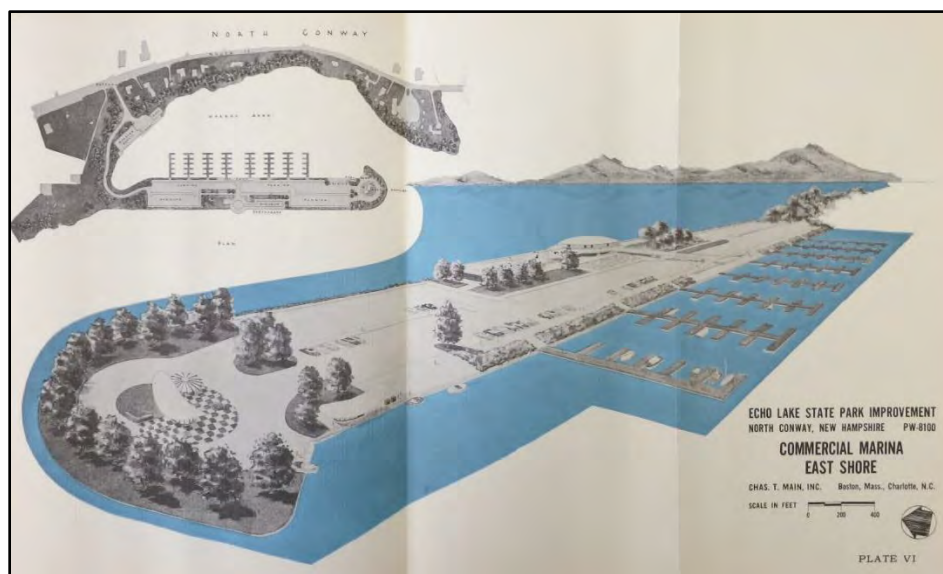
During the 1960s many of the toilet buildings and bathhouses erected in the State Parks tended toward standardized designs which allowed for lower costs and greater efficiency. Who was responsible for the original design is not known. One of the earliest uses of what became the standard toilet building is seen at Moose Brook State Park. The 1964 drawing for the structure bears the stamp of Concord architect-engineer Guy K.C. Wilson although virtually the same design is seen in other drawings packages by Wright & Pierce for Pawtuckaway State Park in 1964, a c.1965 plan for Pillsbury State Park by James W. Sewall Co. and at Monadnock State Park in Jaffrey. Other standardized designs utilized by the Division in the 1960s included bathhouses and combination toilet and shelter buildings. The standard toilet building design was still being used at parks into the 1980s.



Moose Brook State Park, Toilet Building, 1964 (Guy Wilson)

In 1967 discussions began on the need to redesign two older state parks, Monadnock State Park and Wellington State Park. In 1969 a new "park standard toilet building" was completed at Monadnock State Park at a cost of \$23,808. That same year Wellington State Park's old 1935 bathhouse was replaced by a "new standard bathhouse" costing \$49,318. Additional buildings erected at Wellington State Park included a park store, bathhouse shelter and shelter.

During this period the Division began creating master plans for all usable areas. In some cases, these planning efforts were never implemented. These included a 1963 master plan to develop a day use area at Bear Brook State Park by Per Nylén, a landscape architect from Northampton, Massachusetts. Nylén also prepared a feasibility report for Pisgah State Park in 1967 which promoted the construction of a visitor center, public boat launch and nature center. A plan for Echo Lake State Park prepared by Chas. T. Main, Inc. of Boston in August 1962 would have included proposed hotel complex, commercial resort area, marina, and subdivision. The same firm also prepared a Plan for Crawford Notch State Park, Hart's Location, in January 1964 that would have resulted in extensive changes but was never acted upon. Lawrence A. Wing of the James W. Sewall Co. of Old Town, Maine was the author of a park plan for Pillsbury State Park that would have developed the park into a major recreational facility designed for family camping with a day use beach. An array of modern structures are included in the plan including an administration building, bathhouse, toilet building, and camper community building, none of which came to fruition.



Proposed Echo Lake Commercial Resort Area and Marina by Chas. T. Main, Inc., 1962

Master plans and the state's Outdoor Recreation Plan made the state eligible for federal funds beginning in 1965 when the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was created. The matching grant program is intended to support conservation land acquisitions and outdoor recreation development by the states. In the years that followed LWCF was the primary source of funding of state and community outdoor recreation projects.²⁸ New Hampshire's first five projects to benefit from LWCF funding were Mt. Sunapee State Park (chairlift, slopes and parking); Pawtuckaway State Park (acquisition of 2,739 acres and development of beach, playfield and other facilities); Silver Lake State Park in Hollis (acquisition of an additional 5 acres); Franconia Notch State Park (preparation of a master plan by Theodore Wirth and Associates and snowmaking) and the first update of the New Hampshire Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Plan provides extensive data on the status of the State Parks and notes that State park attendance in New Hampshire more than doubled from 1950 to 1966.

The NH Outdoor Recreation Plan made the development of wayside areas – approached by car or by boat - a priority. One such example was the 1967 Plan for the Bedell Bridge River Wayside Area by Stephen H. Foster of Cheshire, Connecticut. The picnic tables and fireplaces were designed by the Division of Parks. The Beaver Brook Wayside in Colebrook was preserved as a state park on July 19, 1967; it incorporates Keazer Memorial Park given in 1961 to the State by the heirs of Joseph Y. Keazer (1840-1932). Another wayside area developed during this period was at Chesterfield Gorge, off Rt. 9, 3 miles west of Keene. This was once part of a private timber tract. It was first acquired by SPNHF, then the State about 1967 and developed with a pavilion, bathrooms, and fireplaces.

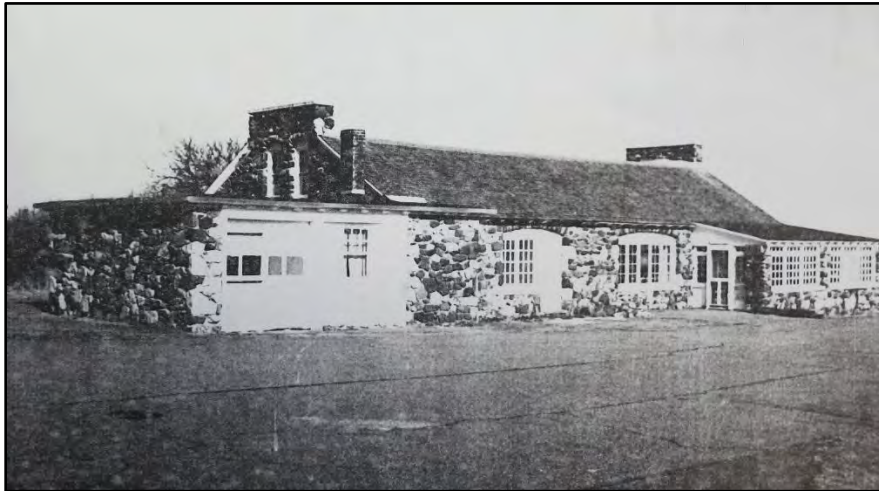
In 1967 the Mt. Pisgah wilderness area encompassing land in Chesterfield, Winchester and Hinsdale became the state's newest park. At 21 square miles, Pisgah State Park is the largest property in the state park system. The 13,300 acres of rough, forested terrain includes seven ponds that are popular for fishing as well as four highland ridges and numerous wetlands. Unlike other parks in the system, Pisgah was to remain relatively unsupervised and undeveloped – a day sanctuary for hiking, hunting, cross-country, skiing and snowmobiling. Snowmobiling in particular was increasing in popularity. Soon snowmobile trails were laid out at Bear Brook and Pawtuckaway State Parks as well as Greenfield and White Lake State Parks.

When Russell Tobey retired in 1971 after 36 years of service with the Division, the state park system consisted of thirty-three parks, five historic sites, ten wayside areas and the Hampton Sea Shell. In 1935 when he started working, about 250,000 people visited the state's recreation areas. By 1970 almost 4 million people were visiting New Hampshire's state parks, historic sites and wayside areas. From a budget of \$11,500 in 1935, the Division's budget was \$3 million in 1970.

The new Peabody Base Shelter at Cannon Mountain was constructed in 1972 according to designs by architect Edward Miles and at a cost of \$328,000. A few years later, in 1976 the Franconia Ski Club moved into its new headquarters, Ernie's Haus, in the Zoomer Area at the bottom of Gary's Trail. The building was donated by the Glaessel family in memory of their son Ernest Glaessel, Jr. and was designed by architect Kenneth DeMay with designer Nancy Moyer.

²⁸ By 1981 New Hampshire had received more than \$20 million for over 400 state and local projects.

After years of planning and discussion, Odiorne Point State Park opened in Rye in 1972 at what had been Fort Dearborn during World War II. Fort Dearborn had been established in 1942 as one of the elements of the Harbor Defenses of Portsmouth and batteries of 6-inch and 16-inch caliber were installed. The Department of the Army stopped using the facility in 1947. In addition to the World War II features, buildings and landscape features on the farm included a c.1800 farmhouse, a barn and greenhouse, an ancient well and cemetery, old farms, salt marsh, stone walls and acres of reforested farmland. Years later, in 1961, 137 acres at Fort Dearborn was transferred from the Federal Government to the State for \$91,000 with the restriction that the land be used and maintained as a public park and recreational area. Due to insufficient funds, little maintenance or improvement was done in the next ten years. In the 1960s horse shows were held here. Local conservationists including Annette Cottrell were instrumental in preserving the park and its varied habitats including salt marsh and rocky shore. Picnic areas and a toilet building were constructed and the park opened in July 1972. In 1973 the first interpretive program was initiated at a new nature center located at the old fire station and operated by the park system in connection with the New Hampshire Audubon Society and Friends of Odiorne. As stated in the Park Master Plan prepared by Per Nylen in 1971: "There is a great demand for, and emphasis on, our outdoor recreation facilities. We fill our parks, playgrounds, picnic areas and beaches. What is also needed are more opportunities where we may learn about our environment." Interpretive programs were also offered at Monadnock and Bear Brook. In 1977 the Odiorne Nature/Interpretive Center relocated to a renovated and modernized building which was formerly the manager's residence (Sugden House).



Early Nature Center at Sugden House, Odiorne Point State Park

Two new parks were opened in the early 1970s. Acquired by the Parks System in 1961, a still unfinished Fort Constitution (also known as Fort William and Mary) was opened to the public in 1973. A reenactment of the raid on Fort William and Mary was held on October 12, 1974. On July 1, 1975 the Robert Frost Homestead (acquired in 1965) was opened, increasing the number of historic sites to five. The Frost site was formally dedicated on May 22, 1977.

In 1976 the annual number of visitors to New Hampshire's state parks approached 4 million, up from 423,000 in 1946.²⁹

²⁹ State Park News, 1976.

In 1976 17 acres of land on Lake Francis in Pittsburg, owned by the New Hampshire Water Resources Board, was transferred to DRED. Utilizing LWCF funds the boat launch was improved in 1978. The campground consisting of 50 primitive campsites, gravel roadways and toilet and water facilities was dedicated in 1981. Lake Francis State Park serves as an ideal base for hunters, anglers and ATV campers. Pillsbury State Park in Washington was expanded in 1976 by the addition of Vickery Pond and part of Frog Pond. That same year the Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests began laying out a four-mile corridor trail connecting Pillsbury and Mt. Sunapee State Parks, a hiking trail that eventually linked Sunapee and Pillsbury to Monadnock State Park with a 51-mile trail.

Between 1979 and 1982 three new waysides were added to the park system. The Nansen Wayside in Milan in proximity to the Nansen Ski jump is a water wayside picnic and boat launch facility constructed on the Androscoggin River and has picnic grounds and restrooms. The Gardner Memorial Wayside in Springfield/Wilmot was dedicated in 1980 and offers parking, picnic tables and pit toilets. The Bedell Bridge Wayside in Haverhill was equipped with picnic tables and fireplaces and a small primitive campground for water travelers. Unfortunately, just a month and a half after the dedication of the Bedell wayside, the bridge itself was destroyed in a freak windstorm.

On September 5, 1980 the Sherman Adams Summit Building was dedicated on top of Mount Washington. The passenger service Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway II was dedicated on May 25, 1980, replacing the original tramway constructed by American Steel and Wire Company of Cleveland in 1938. In 1982 snowmaking was completed to the summit of Cannon Mountain. Snowmaking had been installed at Mt. Sunapee in 1975.

1980s to Present

The early 1980s were lean years and improvements at the parks were limited. The operating budget for FY 1982 reflected a 19% reduction in appropriated funds and a loss in funding was reinstated to a certain degree the following year. As a result of the short-fall programs and personnel were eliminated and routine maintenance was cut back. Despite these problems, Jenness Beach in Rye and North Hampton Beach were acquired in 1980 from the Department of Highways and Public Works and provided with restroom buildings, parking lots and lifeguards. The two new beach areas opened to the public in 1981. Ellacoya State Park saw the addition of a new bathhouse in 1981. The 200-acre Governor's State Park (later renamed Ahern State Park) was created in Laconia in 1983 on land that had been part of the State School. It included 3,500 feet of shoreline on Lake Winnisquam.³⁰ A new Lafayette Lodge, a log-type building, was constructed in Franconia State Park in 1983 to replace the old lodge which had burned.

In 1983 the Division of Parks and Recreation operated 38 state parks, 7 wayside areas and 5 historic sites, involving some 30,000 acres of state land managed for recreation, 65 miles of road, 32 beaches, parking for 15,000 cars, 17 ski lifts, 250 acres of ski slopes and trails, one aerial tramway and 550 buildings.³¹ On the administrative side, in 1984 Parks Director Wilbur

³⁰ This was redesignated as Ahern State Park in 1998. An appropriation of \$750,000 provided for the development and maintenance of the park including a boat launch and rest room facilities.

³¹ Biennial Report, July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1983.

Page broke the New Hampshire State Park system into seven regions. In 1985 the New Hampshire State Parks celebrated fifty years. That year there were 64 persons on the Parks staff. In 1985 the old dairy barn at the Daniel Webster Homestead was renovated into a theater. Fort Stark State Historic Site was formally opened to the public after extensive cleaning and safety measures were undertaken. During this period, many parks buildings were made universally-accessible.

In 1985 sculptor Emile Birch won a competition sponsored by the League of NH Craftsmen and New Hampshire State Parks and funded by Percent for Arts, to design a sculpture celebrating the 50th anniversary of Sunapee State Park. (The League of New Hampshire has held their annual crafts fair at the Park since the 1960s). The cast concrete, clay and granite sculpture incorporates a poem written by Marie Harris in collaboration with Emile.³²



Sunapee Mandala by Emile Birch

In the early 1980s Franconia Notch State Park was, as it had been for many years, the most heavily used state park in New Hampshire with close to 2 million visitors annually. After years of discussion, as mitigation for the park facilities taken or damaged by the construction of Interstate 93, a number of improvements were made in Franconia Notch. In 1984 the Highway Department gave the State Parks 345 acres to replace the land taken and the tram building was modified to include visitor functions, the Profile Gift Shop and information booth. The new \$3.4 million Flume Gorge Visitor Center at Franconia Notch State Park opened in 1985 and the Franconia Notch stretch of I-93 was finally dedicated in 1988. Located near Lafayette Brook bridge and scenic outlook in Franconia Notch State Park is a bronze portrait bust of Governor Hugh Gallen by sculptor Emile Birch. It was commissioned in 1986 but controversy over its placement delayed the installation. It was finally dedicated May 21, 1989 and is located in an

³² <http://marieharris.com/sunapee-mandala/>

area that Gallen had reserved during his tenure as governor to become “Governors State Park” honoring governors of New Hampshire.³³

The Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) was established by the Legislature in 1987. The LCIP resulted from a broadly supported land protection bill that was signed into law at a time of unprecedented development and growth in New Hampshire. Between 1987 and 1993 the LCIP, in cooperation with the Trust for New Hampshire Lands (a private partner), permanently protected approximately 100,000 acres of land, including some of New Hampshire’s finest and most pristine parcels. The State Parks system also reaped benefits from LCIP. In 1990 the Brennick Lochmere Archeological Site in Belmont was acquired by the State through the efforts of the Trust for New Hampshire Land. That same year M. Edward Burt sold approximately 675 acres of land in Northwood to the State who utilized LCIP funds for the purchase. Burt had purchased the first of 14 tracts of woodland in 1967 and over the next 23 years built several miles of boulder-fringed roads for subdivisions that never materialized. The property became Northwood Meadows State Park on U.S. Route 4. A celebration was held on November 5, 1990 and Land Futures of Andover, NH prepared a Master Plan in 1996 for the development of a four-season recreation and education center in a natural setting. In 1992 the State acquired 40 acres to add to Livermore Falls State Forest on the Pemigewasset River in Campton and Holderness using LCIP funds. The area is located within the Livermore Falls State Forest and has a long history of industrial uses. It contains ruins of a former pulp mill and the state’s first salmon hatchery and is located adjacent to an impressive lenticular truss bridge that was built in 1885 and closed in 1959.

In the 1990s there were changes in key personnel affecting the development of the park system. In 1991 Tom Mansfield became the department architect and since that time has been responsible for designing the next generation of park facilities and also modifying the earlier Mid-Century facilities. The 1990s also the departure of Malcolm Thomas who had worked as a landscape architect for DRED for more than thirty years. During that period, he was responsible for the planning and design of several New Hampshire parks.

In 1991 the Division of Parks and Recreation became the first operationally self-funded park system in the country. When the legislation passed, the intention was that the fees collected for the use of the park areas would recover a reasonable portion of the budget expenses but it was not intended that all park facilities be self-supporting. General Funds continued to be appropriated for the facilities through the Capital Budget and since 2008 general funds are appropriated for the management and maintenance of the State Historic Sites. Also helping to meet department needs was the growing statewide corps of volunteers, friends, docents, and park partners. For example, volunteers built a post and beam shelter at Cardigan and over \$10,000 in volunteer contributions resulted in a new visitor center at Chesterfield Gorge.

On the seacoast in 1991, a \$700,000 project to upgrade the visitors center at Odiorne Point State Park was undertaken by the Friends of Odiorne State Park, the New Hampshire Audubon Society, the University of New Hampshire’s Sea Grant Program and state agencies. The new Seacoast Science Center opened in June 1992, designed by architect Dennis Mires of Manchester. The Odiorne Homestead sits on another 64.3-acre parcel of land acquired from Ralph Brown in 1993. In the early 1990s a museum complex was also developed at Bear Brook

³³ Art Inventories Catalog, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS).

State Park offering visitors educational experiences at the Nature Center, Family Camping Museum, CCC Museum, Snowmobile Museum and Allenstown Meeting House Museum.

The former Mollidgewock 13-Mile Woods campground in Errol which was started in 1972, was purchased by the State in 1994 with LWCF funds and opened as a state park the following year. It had been developed over twenty years by Edward and Giselle Damp under lease from James River Corporation. The no-frills campground includes 44 campsites, pit toilets, tables and fireplaces. In 1994-1995 new shower/toilet buildings were constructed at Lafayette Campground, White Lake State Park (2) and Bear Brook Campground while additional facilities saw the completion of ADA compliance projects in the 1990s.

In 1994, the Division of Parks and Recreation, the Student Conservation Association (SCA), and the Corporation for National Service partnered and established the SCA NH Parks AmeriCorps Program. The first year of the program was based at Monadnock State Park. During the 1996-1997 biennium it was estimated that the program contributed approximately \$500,000 worth of services to the Division of Parks and Recreation and the relationship is ongoing today. The program is now based at Spruce Pond Camp, Bear Brook State Park. The NH Corps provides valuable service to the park system, municipalities and the White Mountain National Forest to maintain outdoor recreation areas.

In 1996 the Division of Ski Operations which had been established in 1989 was transferred to the Division of Parks and Recreation. The Mt. Sunapee Ski Area was leased by the State to the Okemo Mountain Corporation in 1999. A new base lodge was subsequently constructed to replace the North Peak Lodge. A bond issue of \$6 million was passed to fund capital improvements at Cannon Mountain including new lifts, terrain and snowmaking improvements. Money paid by the Mount Sunapee Resort is applied to the bond payment for improvements at Cannon Mountain.

In 1998 a visitor's center was erected at Pisgah State Park by Benson Woodworking of Alstead. Also in 1998, the State began managing the Umbagog Lake Campground in Cambridge and it was acquired and became part the Umbagog State Park the following year. The cabins were erected in the mid-1940s, shortly after the end of World War II, by a local resident as a summer tourist campground on land owned by a timber company. One of the three historic 1940s cabins had to be removed in 2011. That same year proposed landscape plans were prepared for three seacoast State Parks – Hampton Beach State Park, Ragged Neck (Rye) State Park and Wallis Sands Stands Park as well as Ellacoya State Park.

In 1998 another source of state conservation and cultural heritage funding was initiated with the creation of the NH Conservation License Plate (Moose Plate) Program by the NH General Court. Part of the funds are allocated to the Division for restoration and enhancement of state-owned historic sites. In 2001 the Division used funds at the Weeks historic site and at the CCC Complex at Bear Brook State Park.

In 2000-2001 a number of improvements were accomplished in the parks. A new bathhouse was constructed at Lake Francis State Park with another planned at the Dry River Campground at Crawford Notch State Park and a bathhouse wing was constructed off the dining hall at Spruce Pond Camp in Bear Brook State Park. The New Hampshire Parks AmeriCorps crew assisted in the completion of a number of construction projects including a new shelter building at Ellacoya State Park, the rehabilitation of campsites at Mt. Sunapee State Park and bridge and trail work in Franconia Notch State Park.

In 2001 the Snowmobile Museum began using a building at Bear Brook State Park. A Conservation Civilian Corps National Statue was dedicated on September 29, 2001. A bunker at Fort Stark State Historic Site was also reclaimed. In 2002-2003 a new bath house was built at Coleman State Park to provide services to summer visitors and campers as well as winter snowmobilers.

Since 2000, new types of facilities have been established at various State Parks. Milan Hill State Park was originally a CCC camp and is notable for its 55' fire tower erected in 1932. In recent years the park has seen the addition of primitive campsites, housekeeping yurts, and a camper shelter.

New Hampshire's newest State Park, Jericho Mountain State Park in Berlin, was created in 2007. In 2006 DRED purchased 7,200 acres of land in Berlin from the Dillon Company to create a high quality, off highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) riding area. There are 50 to 60 miles of trails and the trail system is operated and supported by the Androscoggin Valley ATV club and by the White Mountain Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club. The municipal Jericho Lake Park, which had opened to the public in 1975, was added to the purchased land. A new bathhouse was opened in 2016, designed by Kyle Barker of Warrenstreet Architects.

In 2008 the Bureau of Historic Sites was established within the Division of Parks and Recreation. Today the Bureau oversees the sixteen state-owned historic sites listed below.

- Bedell Bridge State Historic Site, Haverhill
- Daniel Webster Birthplace, Franklin
- Endicott Rock Historic Site, Laconia
- Fort Constitution Historic Site, New Castle
- Fort Stark State Historic Site, New Castle
- Franklin Pierce Homestead Historic Site, Hillsborough
- Governor Wentworth Historic Site, Wolfeboro
- Hannah Duston Memorial Historic Site, Boscawen
- John Wingate Weeks Historic Site at Weeks State Park, Lancaster
- Nansen Ski Jump Historic Site, Milan
- Robert Frost Farm Historic Site, Derry
- Taylor Mill Historic Site, Derry
- Tip Top House at Mount Washington State Park, Sargent's Purchase
- Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, Portsmouth
- White Island Historic Site, Rye
- Willey House at Crawford Notch State Park, Hart's Location

The year 2010 saw two major Parks projects – the \$14.5 million Hampton Beach Redevelopment project and \$3 million for the Mittersill Expansion at Cannon Mountain. As part of the former, the 1963 Seashell Complex was demolished and replaced by a new structure designed by Samyn-D'Elia Architects. A new bathhouse at North Hampton Beach was built two years later, replacing a c.1980 structure. Samyn-D'Elia again served as architects. Also during this period, several of the state historic sites saw repairs and Forest Lake State Park and Clough State Parks were reopened.



North Hampton Bathhouse

In July 2010 the Gilson Pond Area campground at Monadnock State Park opened, replacing a 21-site campground built at the park headquarters area on Poole Road in 1935. This area was historically a campground. The State bought it with LCIP funds and renaturalized the site. The new campground utilized some of the roads and campsites. Gilson Pond was the first campground built by the Division in forty years and includes 35 car camping spots, 5 remote walk-in sites and a bathhouse. A total of eight buildings were sold and removed at the time including a lodge, cabins, ski tow building and toilet building. Saucier & Flynn, landscape architects of Lebanon, planned the layout of the new campground.

Over the years some parks reverted to different owners and operators. The former Elm Brook State Park in Hopkinton is operated by the Army Corps. Otter Brook ceased operation as a state park in 1976 due to low attendance and was also returned to the Army Corps. The facilities at Annett Wayside have been closed for at least a decade. The Bear Hill Pond Camp at Bear Brook State Park was predominantly a 4-H camp for seventy years until it closed in 2008 but is now open for public camping.

Small projects are undertaken annually. In 2014 Wellington State Park saw the redesign of its entrance and repairs to the managers house. At Sunapee the toll booth was replaced. In 2018 the Division renovated the cabins and washhouse at Bear Hill Pond Camp and reopened the Oaks Unit for public camping. Also in 2019, the 1980 Jenness bathhouse was demolished and replaced by a new building designed by Samyn-D'Elia Architects who also designed similar structures at Hampton and North Hampton. Other projects include a toilet addition to the 1969 building at Monadnock State Park and a new bathhouse at Umbagog Lake State Park in Cambridge.

On July 1, 2017 the Department of Resources & Economic Development (DRED) was dissolved and the Division of Parks and Recreation became part of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources (along with the Division of Historical Resources, Division of Forests & Lands, State Library and State Arts Council). Today, the Division manages 92 properties including campgrounds, beaches, natural areas, waysides, historic sites and recreational trails.

Focus on the 1945-1975 Period

Themes and Events

A variety of themes and events influenced the siting, design, and appearance of the state park facilities in the 1945-1975 time frame. In New Hampshire, as across the country, the period after World War II was a time of economic prosperity for the typical family. Americans generally had more money to spend. Many also had more vacation/leisure time thanks to union-negotiated holiday pay and the fact that paid vacations were being included in many employee packages. The number of retired people with pensions also increased. New levels of automobile ownership and increased accessibility on improved roads made it easier for families to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Population was also on the rise and low-density urbanization was beginning to encroach in the more populated parts of the state.

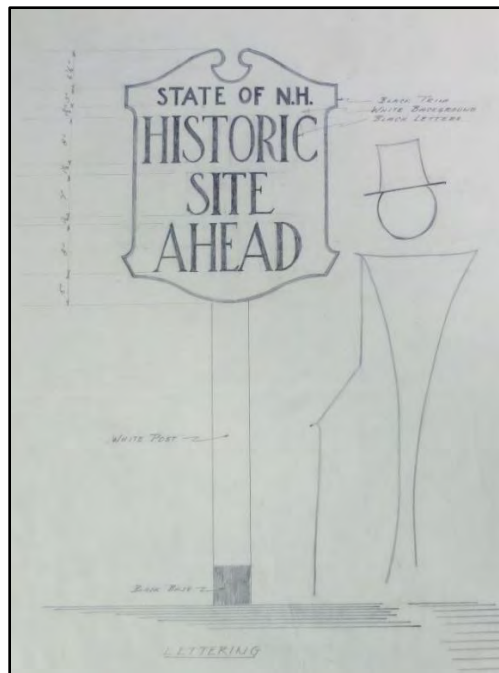


Cars at private park at Silver Lake in Hollis prior to establishment of Silver Lake State Park in 1954

At the same time, New Hampshire's state parks were stressed and underfunded in the period after World War II. Deferred maintenance during the war years due to a lack of materials and workers coupled with increasing numbers of visitors left the existing parks in need of refurbishment and repairs. The five parks that had closed or operated part-time during the war to reduce operations costs were reopened. In many cases state parks were sited in a given locale due to a specific gift. The distribution of parks throughout the state was not optimal. In addition, the parks developed in the 1930s did not necessarily satisfy new recreational trends such as camping and downhill skiing.


The establishment of the Division of Recreation within the Forestry Department in 1945 marked a beginning in a new period of park planning and improvements were made at many state parks. For the first time parks and recreational offerings were planned with an eye to what was needed or missing in various parts of the state. For example, Silver Lake Park in Hollis was established in response to the need for a park within distance of urban centers such as Nashua and Manchester. Downhill skiing with a chairlift was installed at Mt. Sunapee in 1949 as the Park's first commercial ski venture. Increased camping facilities were made available at Bear Brook and a new beach area was introduced at Sunapee State Park. Additional ski improvements were also made at Cannon Mountain.

In the 1950s Historic Preservation was another new theme in park planning as the mission of the State Parks expanded to include stewardship of state-owned historic properties including the Franklin Pierce Homestead, Daniel Webster Birthplace, Hannah Duston Memorial and the Wentworth Coolidge Mansion. Well-known experts in the field including Abbott Cummings and William Perry and others were brought in to assist in evaluation and restoration efforts.



Historic Site Warning Sign – Painting and Construction Details
G.A. Bochert, Recreation Division, 2/15/1952

In response to the increasing influence of the automobile on everyday life, the Recreation Division developed new types of parks – wayside areas – that were small and attractive scenic areas located for the most part along roadways or at some point of scenic interest. The small parks offered parking, toilets, a water pump if possible, picnic sites and trails. As manufacturing contracted in the state in the first half of the 20th century, the tourist industry became an increasingly important contributor to the state's economy. The State began to promote the State Parks and outdoor recreation on a much larger scale including maps, ads in newspapers and press releases.



**WALLIS SANDS
on the SEACOAST**

Planning a swim? Try Wallis Sands, at Rye, one of your newest State parks, Route 1-A, South of Portsmouth. There's a fine sandy beach, 800 feet long, 150 feet wide even at high tide, a brand new bathhouse, lifeguard and first aid services, easy parking and refreshments. Wallis Sands is near enough to historic Portsmouth for a pleasant after-swim drive. Swim at Wallis Sands today. 50c per car includes use of bathhouse all day.

enjoy your state parks
New Hampshire Division of Parks
Concord, New Hampshire

Portsmouth Herald, July 30, 1964

The influence of the National Park Service (NPS) and planning and design professionals on state planning efforts was also a theme in the postwar period. Although the National Park Service did not undertake a major state park initiative in the 1950s as it had in the 1930s, it did continue to have an impact on park design. A technical bulletin, *Grist*, was distributed by the NPS in cooperation with the National Conference of State Parks and included design sheets, specifications, and landscape design suggestions for state and local park agencies.³⁴ The Mission 66 Park Initiative instituted by the NPS in 1956 to update its facilities in advance of its 100th anniversary also would have been known to professional designers and landscape architects working in the state. The Mission 66 Park Initiative is also notable for introducing the concept of the Visitor Center.

³⁴ Ethan Carr. *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2007, p. 206.



Moose Visitor Center, Grand Teton National Park – an example of the Mission 66 Initiative
Source: NPS Historic Photography Collection



Degnan's Store, Yosemite National Park, 1958

During this time period there was also an increase in the number of design professionals involved in the New Hampshire state parks and these entities would have also helped usher in the latest in modernist design. As noted by one scholar, “a postwar practice of landscape architecture was...taking shape in the United States, and it was a modernist design discipline”.³⁵ The name of influential landscape architect Dan Kiley of Charlotte, Vermont who had a national reputation, is seen on the drawings for the Silver Lake Bathhouse in Hollis in 1954. Gustave Bochert was an engineer/landscape architect working on a variety of parks projects in the 1950s. The Recreation Division hired its own landscape architect, Malcolm Thomas in the 1950s. Increasingly the designs of state parks like other complex projects demanded larger practices with more employees trained to undertake a variety of design and engineering tasks. In the 1960s the private consulting firms working on New Hampshire state parks included Northeast Planning Associates with an office at 98 North Main Street in Concord and including Guy K.C. Wilson, architect; Garfield Langworthy, landscape architect; and Lloyd Brown,

³⁵ Carr, p. 214.

engineer. Wright & Pierce of Portsmouth was another firm which combined civil engineers with practitioners of other disciplines.

For building design, the State contracted with a number of private firms for architectural services although it also relied on the services of the State Bureau of Public Works and Highways for the designs of lesser buildings. Among the noted New Hampshire architects who designed larger buildings for the Parks in the 1960s were Koehler & Isaak of Manchester and Carter & Woodruff of Nashua.

The modern-style buildings that were constructed at the new state parks in New Hampshire and that replaced worn buildings at older parks reflected the influence of contemporary trends in design. The rustic aesthetic that had been popular in New Hampshire in the CCC period gave way to new forms. The use of waney or live edge siding continued to be seen on some buildings such as toilet buildings. The stark flat-roofed box like bathhouses erected at Silver Lake State Park and Ellacoya State Park in the 1950s suggest the influence of the International Style and Bauhaus although these were the only buildings built in this style in the State Parks. More numerous are the Mid-Century Modern toilet and shower buildings and bathhouses constructed throughout the Park System in the 1960s and 1970s that display common features such as low-pitched gable roofs with overhangs, exposed rafter tails and an absence of decoration. In some cases, the gable overhang juts out to a point and sometimes there are folded plate, repetitive gables. Clerestory and slit windows emphasize privacy and in almost all cases the buildings are sheathed in vertical board siding. For buildings such as visitor centers walls of windows are commonly used to blur the line between building and landscape. In terms of landscapes, there was a new emphasis on making optimum use of the land without disturbing the area's natural characteristics and this resulted in buildings that blended into the land with a hierarchy of unpaved paths and paved roads that follow the contours of the land.

While all these trends and themes were important, the event with the largest impact on the future of the park system was the passage of the \$9 million bond by the State Legislature in 1961 which provided funds for improvements to the existing State Parks and the means to acquire new sites and develop new parks. The funding allowed for significant acquisitions such as Mount Washington, provided for planning studies for new parks and paved the way for the development of new modern state parks - Greenfield, Wallis Sands and Pawtuckaway State Parks. A few years later the state funds were supplemented on the federal level by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program which was created in 1965.

State Parks of the 1945-1975 period also reflect the latest trends in recreation. Camping increased in popularity and there were various improvements that made camping easier. In 1959 Eureka developed a free-standing, easy to use tent and there were also hard top campers. Youth groups continued to seek places to camp. Downhill skiing also surged in popularity in the post-World War II period. Mount Sunapee Ski Area opened in 1948 with a single chair, three trails and two rope tows. A T-Bar was added in 1953 and in 1957 a poma lift was installed. Between 1960 and 1963 the Elliot T-Bar, Summit double chair, Duckling double chair and J-Bar were installed. A base lodge and summit lodge were both built in 1963 and a double chair was introduced. In 1966, the summit double chair was converted to a gondola for summer rides. Cannon Mountain also saw various improvements during the same period.

Associated Building Types

The following section describes the associated building types, structures, use areas, and landscape features that were common during the 1945-1975 period. In order to be eligible for the National Register, a state park would need to retain key components of its historic park landscape and historic resources. Depending on the park, these features might include roads, a visitor center, cabins, residences, picnic shelters, toilet and/or bathroom buildings, park stores, maintenance buildings, toll buildings, gates, landscaped areas, campgrounds, roadways, trails, forests, waterbodies and structures such as bridges, pump houses, etc. The landscape may have changed as vegetation has matured or died, but the original design intent should still be discernible. Vistas are an important associated feature of the landscape. Ideally, the spatial relationships between buildings, structures, and landscape features are still intact, as is the historic circulation system.

Resources constructed in the state parks in the post-World War II period are potentially eligible as part of a district under Criterion A, Community Planning and Development, for associations with the development of a state park system. These state parks would also likely be eligible under Criterion C, Architecture, as the building potentially embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction.

Eligible resources will be fifty years or older and retain physical integrity to the period of significance including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Alterations to contributing buildings should typically be limited to changes in roofing material, limited door or window replacements, and the addition of ramps and other ADA renovations. Substantial additions, changes in material, new facades or removal of sections of buildings may constitute significant impacts to integrity. Noncontributing resources may be either of recent construction or historic resources that have lost integrity due to alteration but hopefully do not overall seriously detract from the park's overall design and feeling.

The following presents character-defining features of the most common building types.



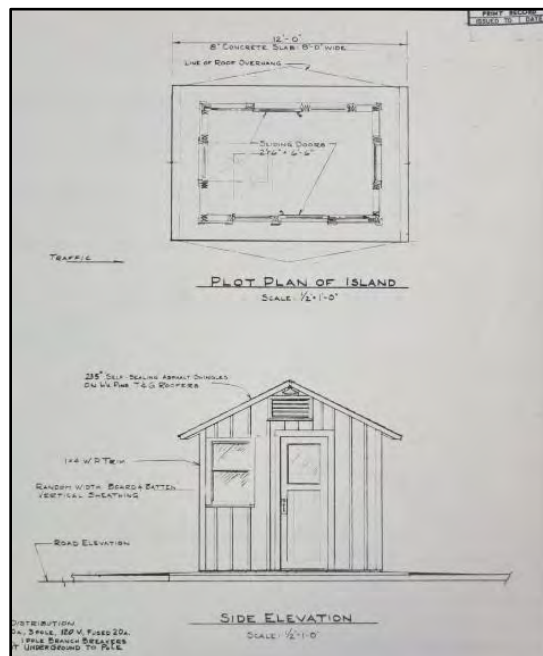
Wadleigh State Park, 1960s

▪ **Toll Booth**

Also known as the Contact Station, this small building at the park entrance welcomes the visitor, provides shelter for an attendant to collect fees and may have an adjacent gate to form a barrier when the facility is closed to the public. Toll booths were not constructed in a specific style but tend to have a rustic appearance, resembling a small shed with a door and one or more windows. The small, utilitarian building lacks ornamentation and is usually just large enough for a single attendant to stand. There is an entrance door on one end and an elevated opening facing the pedestrian or vehicular access. These low-cost buildings are almost always wood-frame and are typically clad in board-and-batten or vertical siding with gable, shed or flat roofs.



Pawtuckaway State Park Contact Station, 1966



Drawing for Pawtuckaway State Park Contact Station, 1966



Toll Booth at Silver Lake State Park, Hollis, 1951



Toll Booth at Monadnock State Park, Jaffrey, c.1973

- **Visitor Center/Park Office**

The term “visitor center” was coined by National Park Service “Mission 66” planners to describe a new building type they developed to serve the increased number of people who began visiting America’s national parks following World War II. The Mission 66 program was initiated by the Park Service in 1956 and was to be completed by the 50th anniversary of the agency in 1966.³⁶ The “visitor center” concept was applied on a much smaller scale in New Hampshire State Parks developed or expanded during the 1960s. The building type was also related to earlier prototypes such as park administrative offices.

The visitor center is typically a centralized facility that includes multiple visitor and administrative functions within a single building. Depending on the size of the park, it may include information or displays of interest to park visitors. The visitor center was typically sited in relation to the overall circulation plan of the park, often at park entrances, in close proximity to a particular resource, and near parking lots.

Architecturally, the visitor center/park office typically falls into two styles – traditional or modern. In the former, the visitor center design takes inspiration from early rustic park and CCC wooden or log structures. In some cases, older, rustic buildings were repurposed into visitor centers/park offices.



Chesterfield Gorge Visitors Center, 1966

There is a variety of windows including picture windows, skylights and elevated windows. Most of the traditional rustic visitor centers are sheathed in vertical wood boards.

³⁶ Sarah Allaback. *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2000.



Monadnock State Park Visitor Center, Jaffrey, 1969

The modern style visitor center was constructed of standardized or prefabricated building wood components with pitched roofs, overhangs and window walls that provided generous views of adjacent landscapes. The buildings were stripped of decorative elements and painted in earth tones that minimized a visual contrast with their natural setting. The modern-style visitor centers were typically designed by private architects/engineers under contract with the State. The Administration Building at Greenfield State Park was designed by Concord architect Guy K.C. Wilson in 1963.



Administration Building, Greenfield State Park
Guy K.C. Wilson, Architect, 1963



Façade, rear and interior of Administration Building, Greenfield State Park

At Pawtuckaway State Park, Wright & Pierce, architect-engineers, designed a modern shed-roofed visitor center that combined wood clapboards with stone accents and lots of windows. This is an excellent example of a modern park building harmonizing with its setting through massing, color and materials as well as terraces, walls, etc.



Pawtuckaway State Park 1966 (Wright & Pierce, architect-engineers)



Monadnock State Park

- **Manager's Residence**

Larger or remote state parks may have a cottage or small dwelling providing housing, often on a seasonal basis, for a resident manager/ranger. The small, 1 to 1 1/2-story utilitarian dwellings exhibit little in the way of ornament. The choice of materials (wood) and earth tones demonstrate a desire to blend into the natural surroundings. The modest dwellings are typically capped by a gable roof with a chimney, an indication of the need for a heat source for cool nights.

The designs of most of the modest cottages are not unlike those for any small dwelling of the postwar period.



Manager's Cabin, Crawford Notch State Park, c.1950/1959 add.



Manager's Residence, Rollins State Park, Warner, 1950

The modest cottage at Winslow State Park reportedly dates to 1950. It is rectangular in plan, sheathed in shiplap siding and is set on posts rather than on a foundation.



Manager's cottage, Winslow State Park, 1950



Historic view, Manager's cottage, Winslow State Park

The structure built at Pillsbury State Park in Washington in 1956 is a unique building combining park office and residence. It was designed by Gustave Bochert who also designed several other “combination” buildings including the White Lake State Park shelter-vending station. The building is sheathed in rustic style “waney” clapboards and the registration window is sheltered by a prow roof overhang supported by triangular trusses.



Park Office/Residence, Pillsbury State Park, 1956

The modernistic manager’s house/office at Greenfield State Park appears to have built with prefabricated panels for the walls, floor and roof. It displays a rectangular plan, vertical board sheathing, overhanging eaves and expanses of glass filling the gable ends.



Manager’s House, Greenfield State Park, 1963

The Cape Cod style dwelling at White Lake State Park was designed by Lee R. Belanger of the NH Bureau of Public Works in 1970. A breezeway connects the house and one-car garage which is original.



Manager's Residence, White Lake State Park, Tamworth, 1970

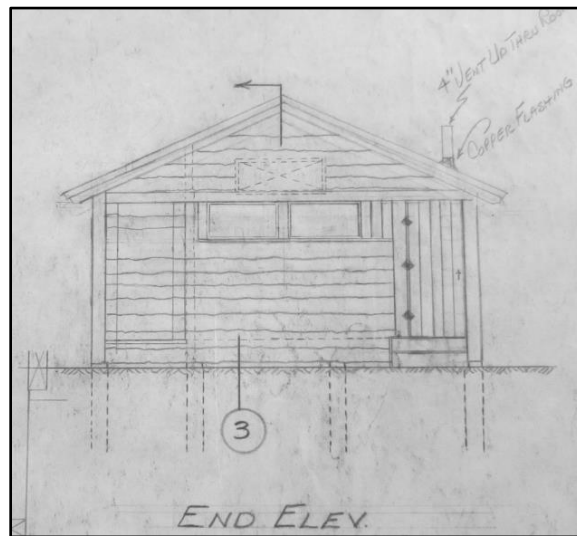
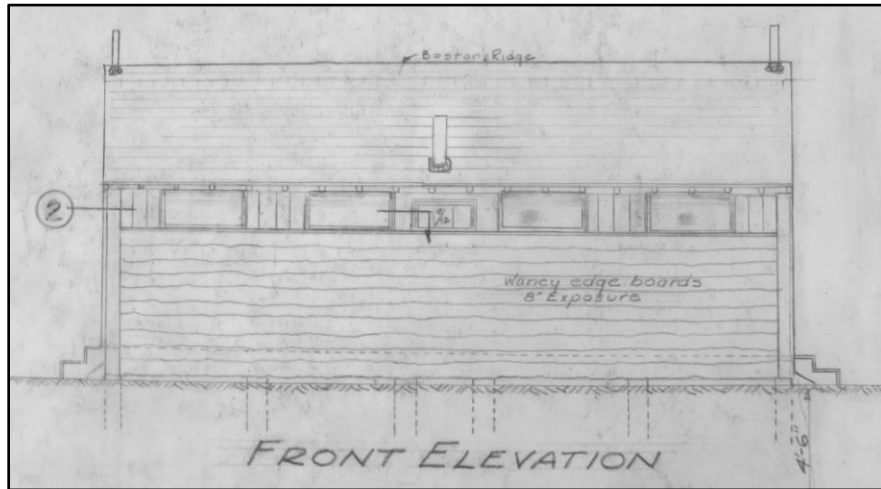
Other examples of residential buildings built in the State Park system between 1945 and 1975 include several rustic crew cabins.



Crew Cabin, Crawford Notch State Park, c.1950

- **Toilet Building**

From at least the 1940s into the early 1960s, the standard toilet building being constructed by the Forest and Recreation Commission was a rectangular, gable-roofed building clad in waney edge boards with a band of horizontal windows tucked under the eaves. Most of these appear to have been replaced by new, more modern buildings.



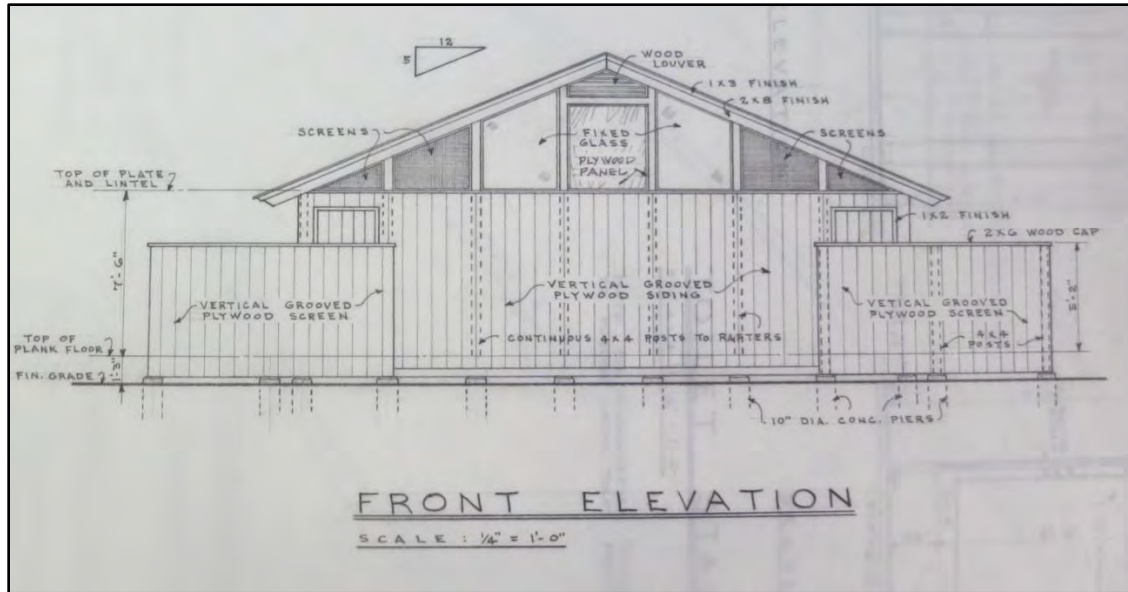
Drawings for Toilet Building, Bear Brook State Park Campground, 1949

Drawings indicate that this design was used at various state parks including White Lake Camping Area #1 in 1940, Bear Brook Campground in 1949 and Crawford Notch State Park in 1959. One of the few examples to survive appears to be this very intact example at Wellington State Park. According to the Division's Building List, it was constructed in 1962. It displays all of the character-defining characteristics including waney-edge wood siding and elevated horizontal windows tucked under the eaves.



Toilet Building, Wellington State Park, 1962

Beginning in the 1960s, many state parks saw the addition of at least one larger toilet building and most of these were slight variations on one standard modern design. The original designer is not known but it was being used by 1964 and is seen on drawings by various architects and engineers. The simple, wood-frame, gablefront building has a 5:12 roof pitch (roof rises 5" in a length of 12") and was sheathed in board-and-batten or vertical boards. Wooden walls act as vision barriers to shelter/screen separate entrances on the façade for men and women. The front gable clerestory has a central panel flanked by glass on either side and screens on the outer, smaller openings.



Moose Brook State Park, 1964 (Guy Wilson, Architect)



Greenfield State Park, 1965

At campgrounds, multiple toilet buildings of the same design were often constructed. For example, at Pawtuckaway State Park, nine similar toilet buildings were added between 1966 and 1975. Eleven toilet buildings with slight variations in design were constructed at Greenfield State Park when it was created in 1965.

While most of the “standard” toilet buildings had a gable roof, a hip-roofed version was constructed at Odiorne Point State Park in 1972.



Odiorne Point State Park, 1972

There were very few toilet buildings that broke from the new modern mold. The design of the toilet building constructed at Crawford Notch State Park in 1970 takes its inspiration from the adjacent Restaurant Building and Tourist Info Center/Gift Shop which were constructed in 1924.



Crawford Notch State Park, 1970

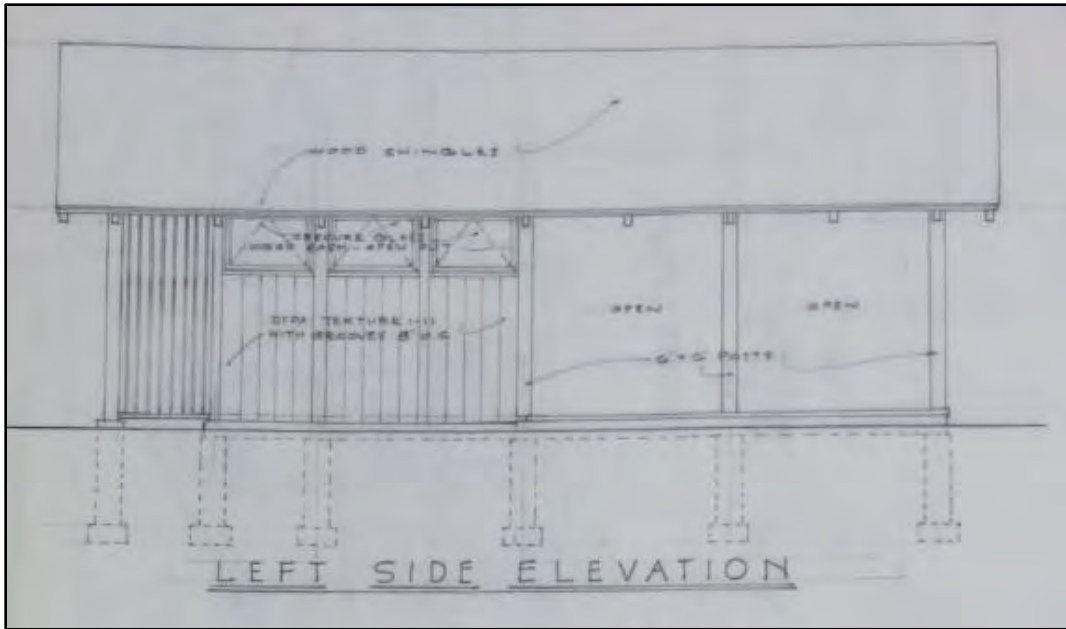
Sometimes, the State constructed multi-purpose buildings that combined toilet facilities with an attached shelter. These included examples at Ragged Neck/Rye Harbor, Winslow State Park and Annett Wayside (1969).



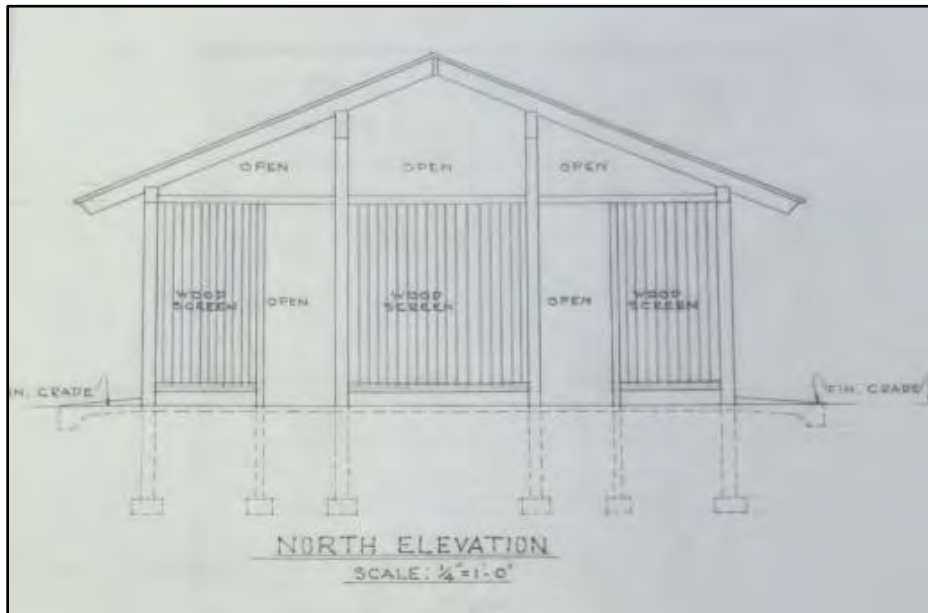
Toilet Building/Picnic Shelter, Ragged Neck Picnic Area, Rye Harbor State Park, 1965



Toilet Building/Shelter, Winslow State Park, 1965



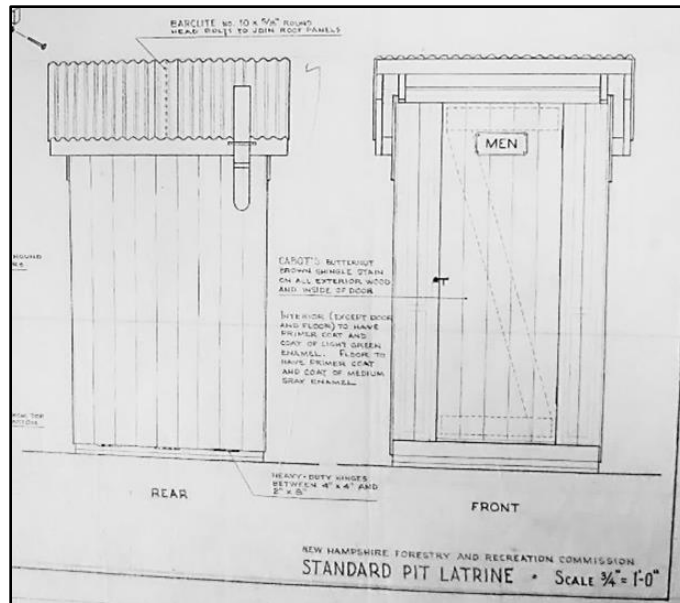
Drawing for side elevation of Winslow State Park Combination Toilet/Shelter
Henry Erickson, Architect, 1965



Drawing for front of Annett Combination Toilet/Shelter, 1969

▪ **Pit Toilets**

The design of pit toilet shelters has changed little over the years. This undated drawing shows the standard pit latrine design used by the New Hampshire Forestry and Recreation Commission.



Undated drawing for Standard Pit Latrine

The examples shown below were constructed at Crawford Notch c.1965.



Wiley House Site, Pit Toilets
Source: PAL, 2013

- **Shower Building**

Shower buildings did not exist until c.1960 when they were introduced in response to the growing popularity of camping. Beginning in the 1960s, new and existing campgrounds were improved by the addition of shower buildings based on the same plan as the toilet buildings but with only one toilet on each side. Like the toilet buildings, the simple, wood-frame gablefront buildings were constructed with a 5:12 roof pitch (roof rises 5" in a length of 12") and were sheathed in board-and-batten or vertical boards. Wooden walls act as vision barriers to shelter/screen separate entrances on the façade for men and women. The front gable clerestory again has a central panel flanked by glass on either side and screens on the other edges. The same design continued to be used into the 1980s.



Greenfield State Park, 1976?



White Lake State Park, 1979 (alt.)

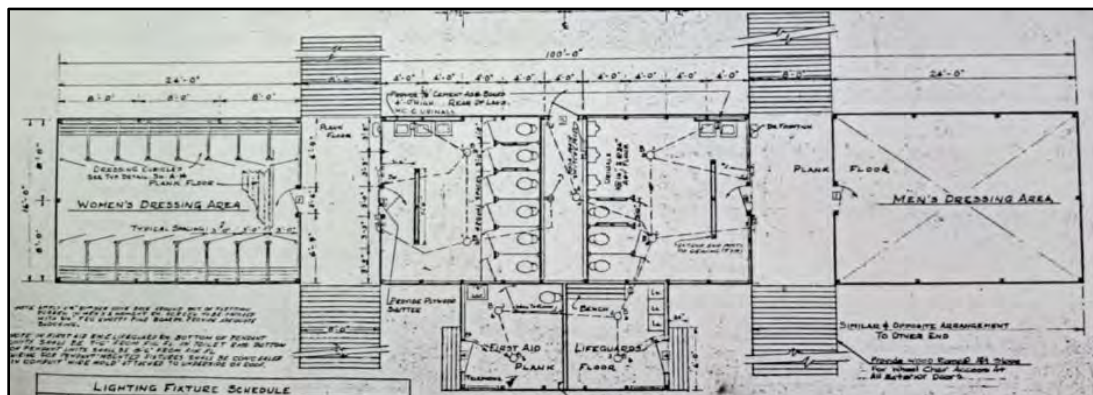


Moose Brook State Park, 1973 (renovated in 2018)

▪ **Bathhouse**

Bathhouses, or buildings containing dressing rooms for bathers, were being constructed in New Hampshire’s state parks in the 1930s and continued to be fixtures at parks with swimming in the post- World War II period. The designs of the buildings evolved over the years with changes in taste although all are utilitarian buildings with no ornamentation and are divided into separate sections for men and women. They are usually sheathed in wood siding and often have elevated window openings or skylights that bring in light but allow for overall privacy.

Although detailing differs, most of the bathhouses share the same basic plan with a central section containing men’s and women’s rest rooms. On either side of the central blocks are open passageways (sometimes roofed) with plank floors and dressing areas are located in lesser wings on either side. In some cases, there are appendages off the central section for first aid and lifeguard spaces and/or snackbars.



Plan for White Lake State Park Bathhouse, 1968

In the early 1950s a flat-roofed bathhouse was constructed at several locations including Silver Lake State Park in Hollis, Wadleigh State Park, and Ellacoya State Park in Gilford (the latter was demolished in 1992).



Silver Lake State Park Bathhouse, Hollis, 1951

In the 1960s the standard bathhouse plan was constructed in a gable-roofed version with the same broad gables with clerestory windows being utilized in toilet buildings and shower buildings. Small repetitive gables brought light into the adjacent dressing areas.



Bathhouse, Pawtuckaway State Park, soon after construction in 1964 (demolished 2008)

An example at White Lake State Park survives today and retains the small gables on the outer wings.

At Wellington State Park and Sunapee State Park, the bathhouse buildings included snack bar and lifeguard/first aid room appendages. At Wellington State Park, the small gables that once crowned the flanking wings have been removed.



Wellington State Park Bathhouse, 1969



Wellington State Park Bathhouse, 1969

The 1972 bathhouse building at Mount Sunapee State Park has seen more extensive alterations including the loss of the original clerestory windows, the addition of skylights and the removal of the gables on the side wings.



Mount Sunapee State Park (lakeside elevation before alterations)



Mount Sunapee State Park, (parking lot side after alterations)

In other cases, such as at Greenfield State Park, the flanking dressing rooms have been removed, altering the original design.



Greenfield State Park Bathhouse, 1965 (altered)

Bathhouses in the Seacoast area featured different designs from those built elsewhere in the state. At Wallis Sands State Park, the main building, constructed in 1964, is a flat-roofed, concrete block building. The bathhouse functions are placed closest to the parking lot while the snack bar is accessed from the beach side. As on the other bathhouses, elevated window openings in the bathhouse insure privacy.



Original Drawing for Wallis Sands State Park Main Building, 1964



Wallis Sands State Park, Rye, 1964 (bathhouse portion is at left in photo)

To the south in Hampton, the North Beach bathhouse at Hampton Beach State Park is a small wood-frame bathhouse constructed in 1963 with vertical board siding and elevated windows.



Hampton Beach State Park, North Beach Bathhouse, Hampton, 1963

- **Park Store/Concession Stand**

Some of the parks have small buildings that contain stores with basic supplies or snack bars/concession stands. In almost all cases the commercial use is combined with some other use – office, shelter, showers, etc. Like the other buildings in the park, these are single-story buildings with minimal ornamentation, sheathed in wood siding and intended to blend into the landscape. For the snack bar/concession stand, there are usually large service window openings that are partially sheltered by a canopy or overhang.

The Park Store at White Lake State Park, designed by Gustave Bochert in 1955 is a long, narrow, post and beam building that is enclosed on one end to contain a vending stand and storage area with the other half consisting of an open area sheltered by the low pitch roof which is supported by wooden posts and rafters.



White Lake State Park, store/shelter (end elevation), Gustave Bochert, 1955

The Neal's Cove Store at Pawtuckaway State Park has multiple gables like those seen on other Mid Century buildings and is also sheathed in vertical wood boards.



Historic view, Neal's Cove Store at Pawtuckaway State Park

At Wallis Sands State Park, the concession stand is located in the rear portion of the bathhouse building, closest to the ocean and picnic tables.



Wallis Sands State Park Concession Stand, 1964

The most unusual of the state park stores is that erected at Wellington State Park in 1969, a butterfly-shaped concession stand/snack bar with broad, cantilevered roof and a mix of vertical and horizontal board siding. Attached to one end is a slightly-taller shed-roofed building that now houses first aid and lifeguard spaces.



Wellington State Park Store, 1969



Snack bar at left with shed at right, Wellington State Park, 1969



Snack Bar at Wellington State Park in the 1960s

At Silver Lake State Park, the combined office/concession stand originally had a flat roof profile, like the nearby bathhouse. At some point, the present hip roof was added.

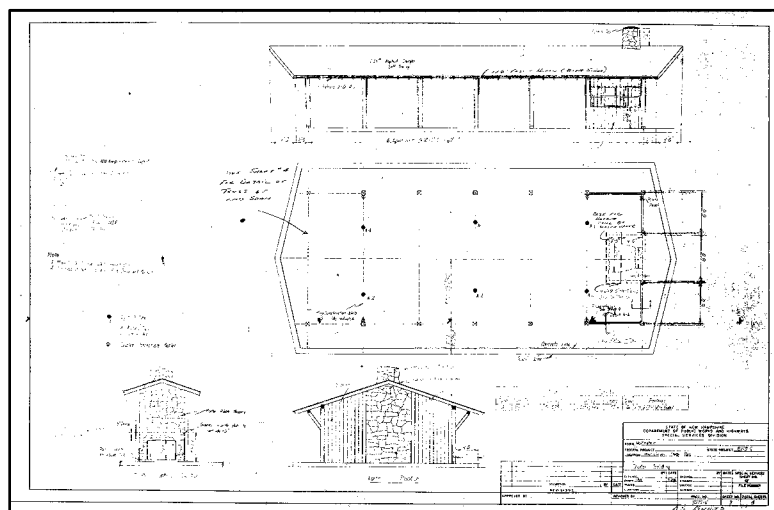


Silver Lake State Park, Concession Stand/Office, 1951

▪ **Picnic Shelter**

There are a few extant picnic shelters in the state parks that were constructed between 1945 and 1975. These include a shelter at Winslow State Park dating from 1950, two at Wellington State Park constructed in 1969 and another at Pawtuckaway State Park, built in 1966.

The Pawtuckaway Shelter is the most elaborate shelter of the period. The 80' x 24' building is of post-and-beam construction and partially sheathed in vertical boards. One end was originally partially enclosed and contained restroom facilities but these have been removed. The other end incorporates a rubble fireplace and chimney. The 1964 drawings are stamped by Frank V. Wright, Jr. (professional engineer) of the firm of Wright & Pierce.



Pawtuckaway State Park Shelter, 1966



Fireplace in Pawtuckaway State Park Shelter

The picnic shelters at Wellington and Winslow State Parks are simpler hip-roofed structures.



Wellington State Park, 1969

- **Cabins**

Only a few state parks include cabins and none appear to have been constructed in the 1945 to 1975 time period. The cabins that do exist in the state parks are most often associated with older 1930s CCC facilities such as Bear Brook State Park or were already standing in areas that were later acquired and became state parks such as Umbagog and Coleman State Parks.

- **Garages, Pump Houses, Storage Buildings, etc.**

Each of the state parks includes support buildings that were constructed in the 1945-1975 period. Examples include, but are not limited to, storage sheds, garages, and pump houses.



Wellington State Park, Pump House, 1949



Wallis Sands State Park, Pump House, 1964

Use Areas



Pawtuckaway State Park

The State Parks that were expanded or developed during the 1945-1975 period offered varying levels of recreation opportunities based on their location, size and focal point and this translated into a range of use areas available for the public.

▪ **Day Use Areas**

Some parks were intended to be strictly Day Use Areas. Silver Lake State Park in Hollis was created to provide respite for nearby urban residents and included more than 100 picnic sites in picturesque pine groves as well as swimming and boating. Wellington State Park on the west shore of Newfound Lake offers a half mile beach with swimming and fishing and shady picnic sites in secluded coves. On the west shore of Lake Winnepesaukee, Ellacoya State Park in Gilford was initially a Day Use Area but in 1990 its offerings were expanded to include recreational vehicle (RV) camping as well.

Typically, waterfront Day Use Areas have picnic sites shaded by tall pine trees, playground areas for children, shoreline beaches, toilet facilities, dressing rooms and perhaps a small snack bar. Parking lots are usually sited near the entrance with paths leading to the waterfront.



Silver Lake State Park



Wellington State Park



Mt. Sunapee State Park

▪ **Campgrounds**

The campgrounds of the 1945-1975 fall into two categories. Moose Brook State Park and White Lake State Park are examples of older campgrounds dating back to the CCC period that were updated with new toilet buildings replacing earlier latrine buildings and new bathhouses and/or shower buildings added to the facilities.



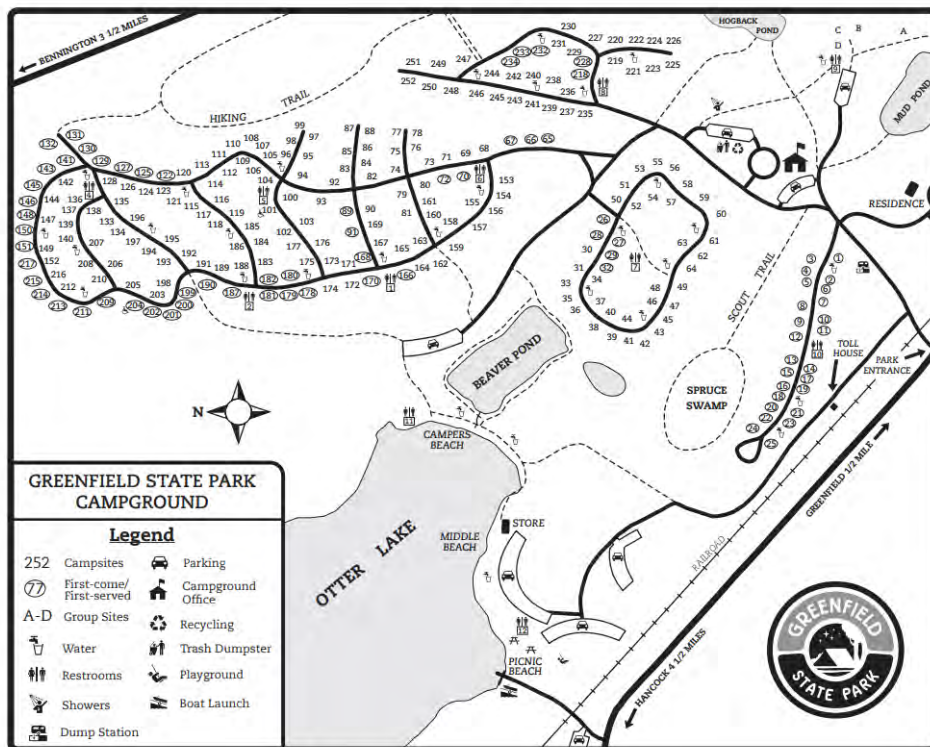
Entirely new campgrounds were established at Greenfield State Park and Pawtuckaway State Park. Both were designed to make optimum use of land without disturbing the area's natural characteristics. At Greenfield State Park campers could reserve one of 285 new campsites.



Greenfield State Park

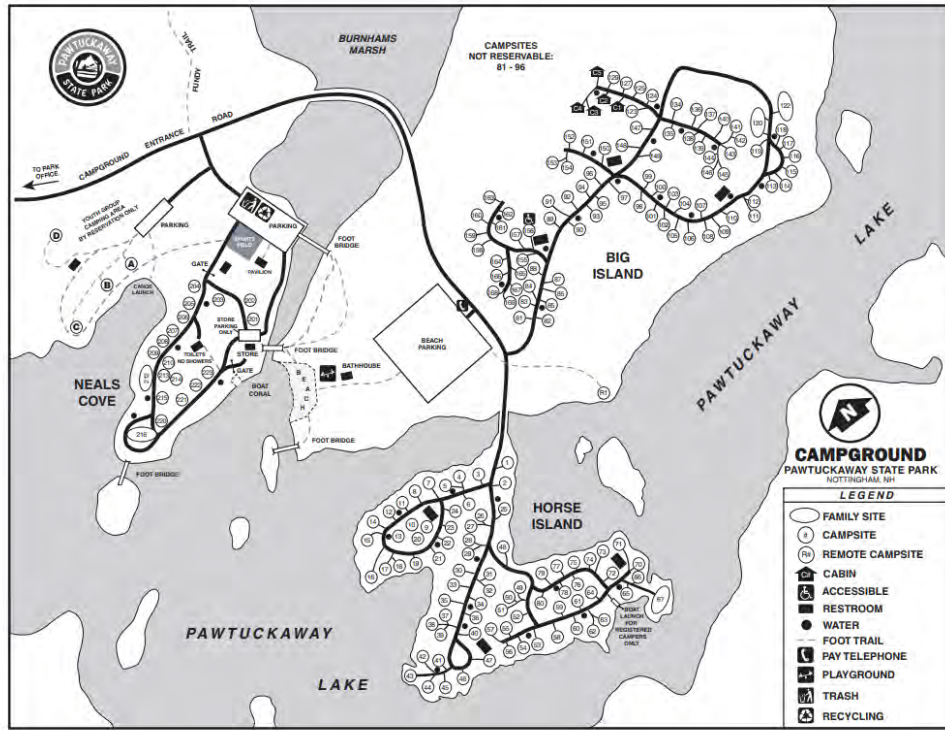


Registration Board, Greenfield State Park, 1964-1998



Greenfield State Park Campground Map

There are 192 sites at Pawtuckaway State Park.



Pawtuckaway State Park Campground Map

Landscape Features

▪ Gates

Within the New Hampshire State Parks, rustic gates were erected in a number of parks in the 1945-1975 period in order to bar visitors during certain hours. An article appearing in the January/February 1968 issue of *Grist*, a publication of the National Park Service and National Conference of State Parks provides interesting documentation on the construction of the gates at Ellacoya State Park.



Wellington State Park Gate, c.1960

The article details the construction of the gates using native materials for the posts, turn posts, rails and bracing and handwrought strap iron for fittings.



Ellacoya State Park Gate, *Grist*, Jan./Feb. 1968



Gate at Pawtuckaway State Park

- **Signage**

Standardized rustic signage is a character-defining element common to all New Hampshire State Parks.





Greenfield State Park

- **Bridges**

Simple wooden bridges are located in a number of parks.



Pawtuckaway State Park



Pawtuckaway State Park

- **Walls**

In some cases, the walls found in State Parks were constructed as part of the park design. Other state parks incorporate older walls from previous uses.



Pawtuckaway State Park (wall built by park)



Odiorne Point State Park (wall is a remnant)

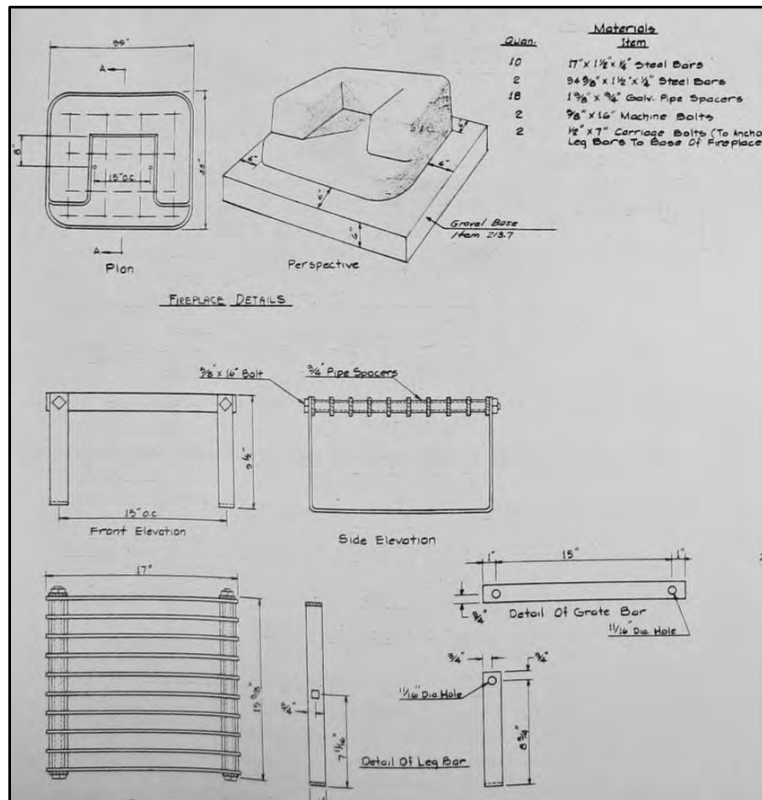


Crawford Notch State Park, Willey House (wall built by park)



Odiome Point State Park (wall is remnant from homestead)

▪ Picnic Tables/Grills/Fireplaces



Concrete Fireplace details, Pawtuckaway State Park, 1964



Picnic/Barbeque Area at Pawtuckaway State Park



Picnic/Barbeque Area at Pawtuckaway State Park

- **Playground Equipment**



Typical Playground, Silver Lake State Park



Rustic Playground, Wadleigh State Park

Overview of Facilities in Selected Counties Expanded or Developed 1945-1975

Ellacoya State Park, Gilford (Belknap County)

Located on the southwest shore of Lake Winnepesaukee, what is now Ellacoya State Park was acquired by the State from Fredda Page in 1956 at a cost of \$75,000. At the time of the acquisition, seven cottages that stood on the land were sold to Iola Dugas and removed. One remaining cottage now serves as the park office and was reportedly constructed in 1935. With the exception of this cottage, all of the buildings that stand at Ellacoya State Park today were constructed in 1980 or later.



Ellacoya State Park Office, 1935

The Park includes a 600-foot sand beach. Originally this was strictly a Day Use facility. In August 1958 bids were opened to develop a recreation park and Ellacoya State Park opened to the public in 1959. The facility included a bathhouse that closely resembled the bathhouse erected at Silver Lake Park in Hollis in 1951.



Ellacoya State Park bathhouse (demolished May 1992)

Initially the park contained 54 acres. Funding from the 1961 \$9 million state bond resulted in the acquisition of additional land for the park south of Lake Shore Drive. The total acreage was 89 acres in 1967 and is now 107 acres.

Although the Park does not retain any 1945-1975 buildings, the entrance gate to the day use area appears to date to the 1960s.



An article appearing in the January/February 1968 issue of *Grist*, a publication of the National Park Service and National Conference of State Parks provides interesting documentation on the construction of the gates at Ellacoya State Park. The article details the construction of the gates using native materials for the posts, turn posts, rails and bracing and handwrought strap iron for fittings.



Ellacoya State Park Gate, *Grist*, Jan./Feb. 1968

Other landscape elements include a small wooden bridge over Poor Farm Brook which has been rebuilt over the years. The parking lot areas are unpaved and the RV lot is clear except for a cluster of trees. On the day use side, there are paths leading from the parking lot to the beach and this area is heavily shaded by mature trees.

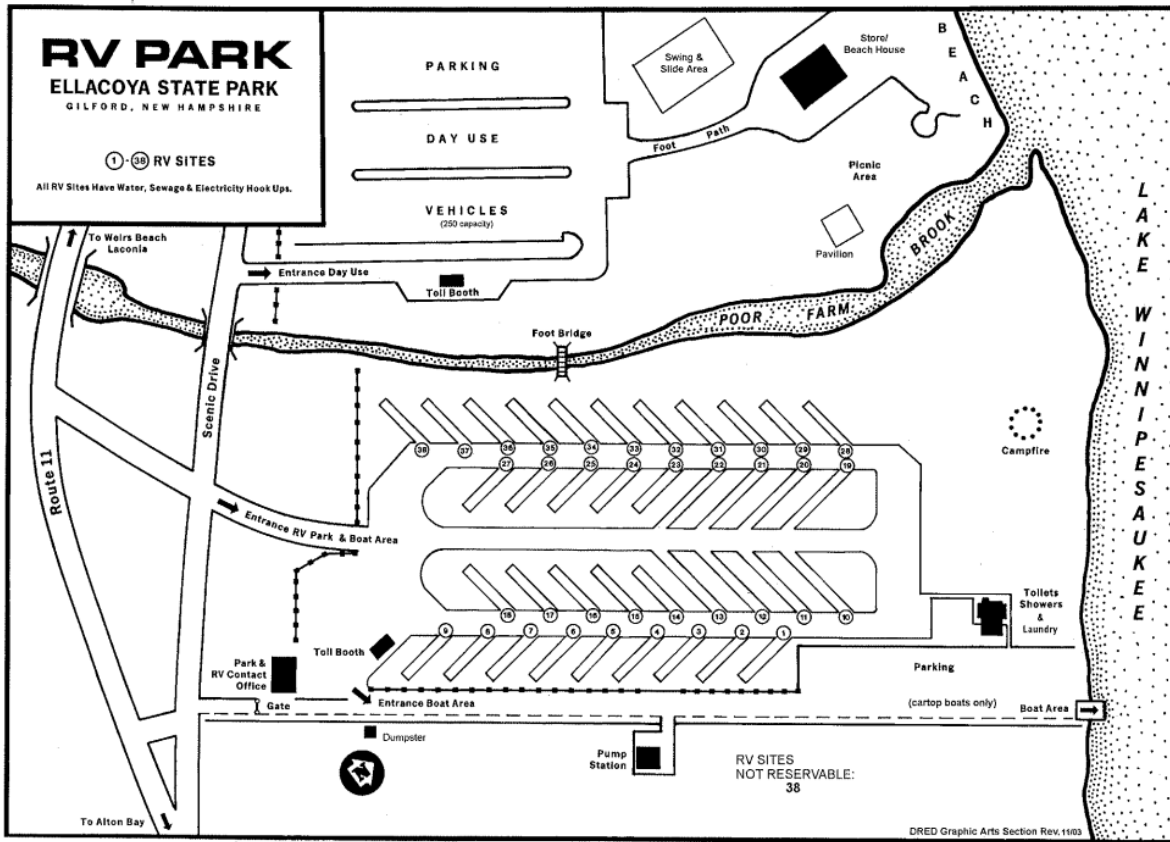


Footbridge over Poor Farm Brook

Various improvements were made at the park in the early 1980s including new ticket booths and sheds. A Beach Bathhouse was erected in 1981. In 1990 the land east of Poor Farm Brook was converted to a RV Campground with 37 sites. The Laundry/Bathhouse serving the campground area was constructed in 1992. The Kristofer Klefos Memorial Picnic Shelter was erected on the day use side in 2000.



Ellacoya State Park Laundry/Bathhouse, 1992



Map of Ellacoya State Park

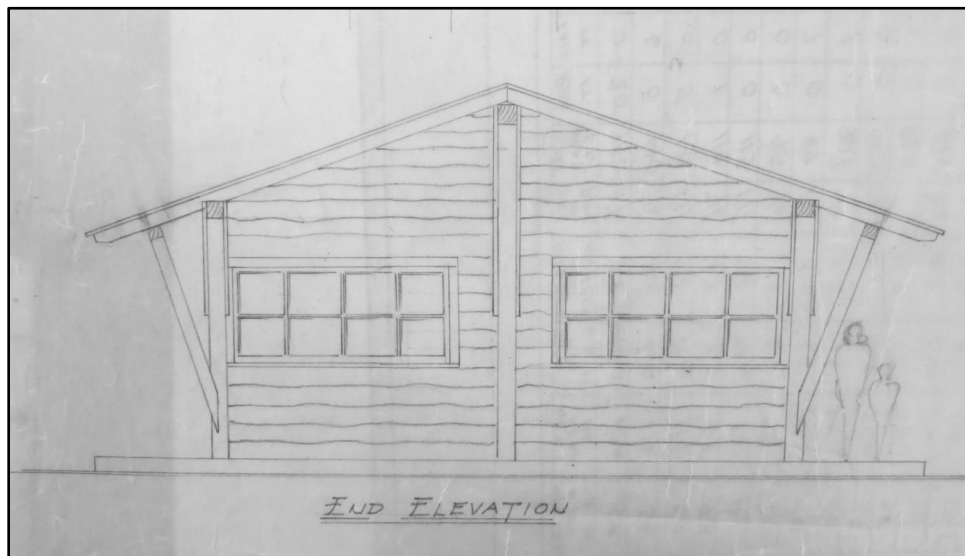
White Lake State Park, Tamworth (Carroll County)

Established in 1933, White Lake State Park is a relatively early park but was heavily updated in the 1945-1975 period. Today, it consists of 903 acres with the lake itself comprising 130 acres of those acres. The park began with the purchase of 259 acres from Frank O. Lord in September 1933 for \$6,500. This land corresponds with what is now the beach area and extending to Rt. 16 and Depot Road.

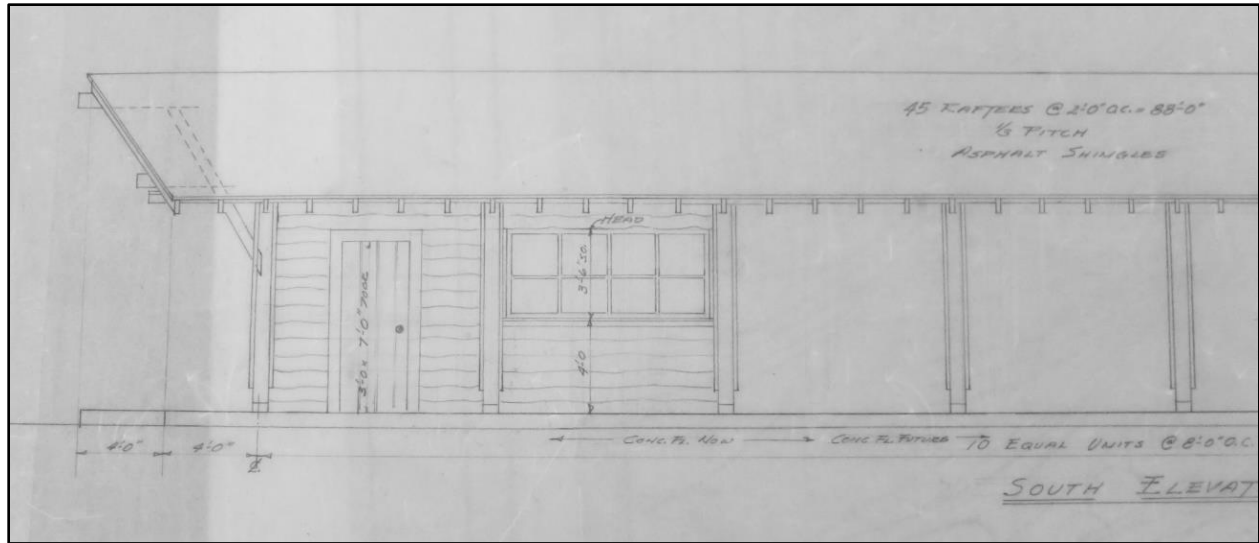
In the 1930s the park provided for campers, picnickers, and bathers. Improvements by the CCC included a bathhouse with refreshment concession, a camp ground and area for trailer campers. A life guard was first provided in addition to the caretaker in 1935 and he lived in a tent which the Forestry and Recreation Commission provided together with utensils and equipment. It has been one of the state's most popular camping areas since the 1930s.

In 1950 an additional 344 acres to the north of the Lake and extending north to Turkey Street were purchased from Addie Lord and Jeremy P. Waldron for \$33,000. Also, in 1950 the shelter building was moved from a location on the hill to campground playfield. The supervisor's cottage was enlarged and converted to year-round and an ice house and toilet building were constructed. Rustic playground equipment was also installed.

In 1955-1956 a new type of public shelter/vending stand measuring 24' x 90' was erected at White Lake State Park. It was designed by Gustave Bochert and built by the maintenance crew. Set on a concrete pad, it was enclosed on its west end with "waney" (wavy) clapboards; the remainder was open to the elements but covered by a low gable roof. That same year a two-mile foot path was built around the lake.



Drawing for White Lake State Park Shelter and vending building by Gustave Bochert, 1955



White Lake State Park Shelter Portion of south elevation showing enclosed and open sections



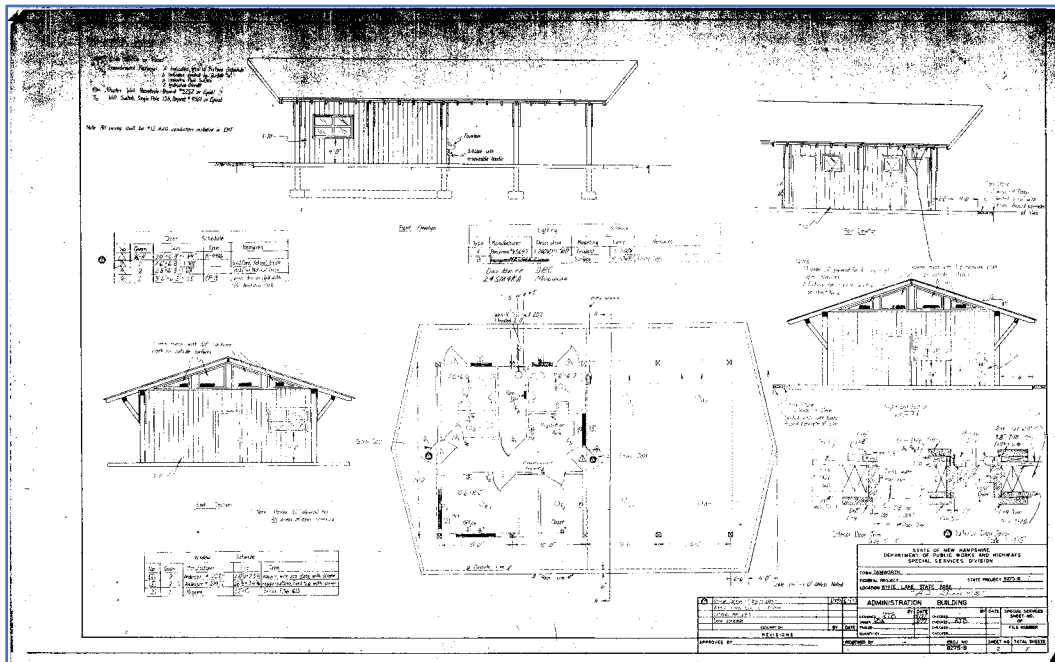
White Lake State Park, Shelter and vending building

White Lake State Park saw a number of improvements in the late 1960s. In September 1968 bids were opened for the construction on a bathhouse, wood shed, sewage dumping station, new well, manager’s residence, new parking lot and maintenance road. The simple, wood-shingled Cape Cod manager’s residence was designed by Lee R. Belanger of the Bureau of Public Works. It still stands today.



White Lake State Park Manager's Cottage drawing by Lee R. Belanger
(see page 65 for current photo)

In 1977 a park office was constructed as well as a new shower building and maintenance garage. As originally constructed the park office was partially enclosed with the remainder without walls but covered to provide shelter. Inside there was a small office, registration area and bathrooms. About 2015 the building was entirely enclosed with log siding, replacing the original vertical board siding.

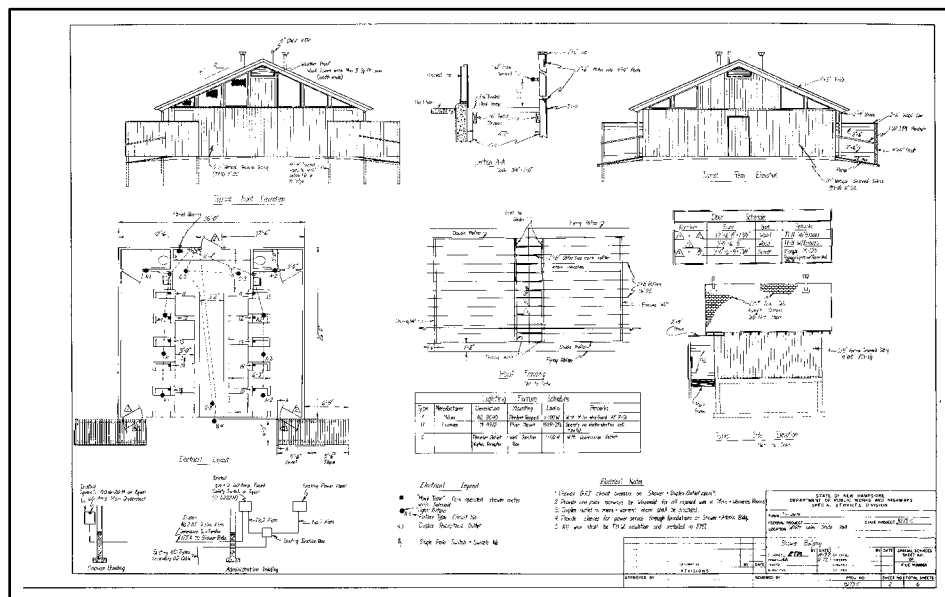


Original drawing for White Lake State Park Office, 1977



White Lake State Park Office, as seen today. End closest to camera was originally open.

The shower building built in 1977 near the park office was a standard design with a low pitch gablefront and privacy screens in front of the men's and women's sides, echoing the design that had been used in state parks since the 1960s. Small changes have been made to the building over the years including sheathing the screens in horizontal boards rather than the original vertical and infilling some of the clerestory glass.



White Lake State Park, Shower Building, 1977



White Lake State Park Shower Building, 1977

Built near the Manager's cottage, the 1977 Maintenance Building is a basic utilitarian building combining garage storage and office space.

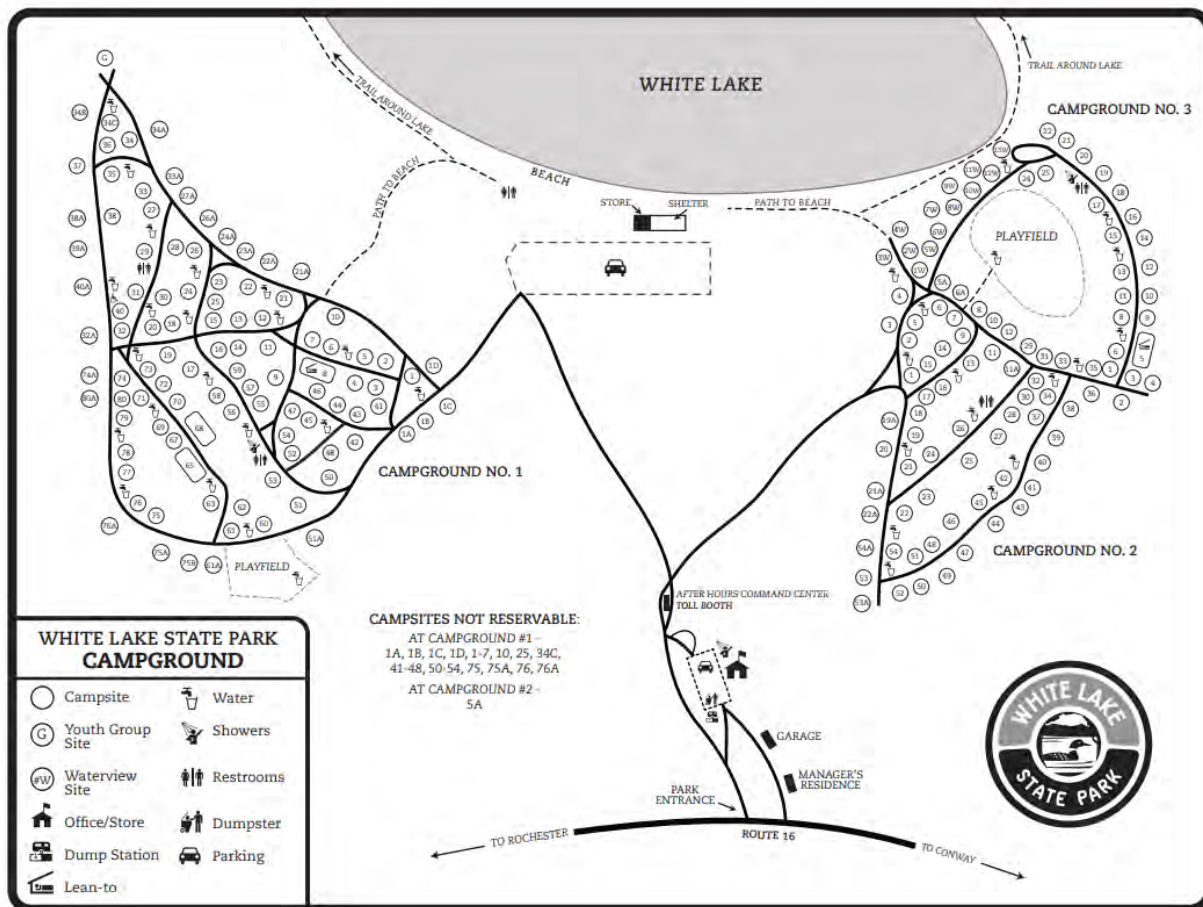


White Lake State Park Maintenance Garage, 1977

The Park continued to grow and improve in the 1980s. In 1982 approximately 20 acres were purchased by the State from Lawrence and Rita Frost at the north end of the park, using Land and Water Conservation Funds. The Reed property of 149 acres was purchased by the LCIP in 1988 and transferred to White Lake in February 1989. This property extends west of the park and includes Black Spruce Pond Road.

In 1987-8 new toilet buildings were constructed in Campground Area 1 and 2 and a Shower and Toilet Building was built in Area 3 in 1995. The year 2009 saw the construction of a well house, ADA pit toilets in the beach parking area and a new toll booth.

Today, the park has 186 campsites in three campgrounds including a campground with family campsites as well as youth group sites. The park also offers a day-use area, two play fields, a 660' long swimming beach and boat rentals. A path around the lake is two miles in length. The Pitch Pine Trail passes through a 72-acre stand of pitch pines that have been designated as a National Natural Landmark.



White Lake State Park map

Moose Brook State Park, Gorham (Coos County)

What would become Moose Brook State Park was begun in 1934 with the purchase of 755 acres (87 park acres and an additional 668 acres of surrounding state forest) in Gorham for \$9,475. It included land once owned by the Berry and Perkins families. The area was developed for recreational use by CCC workers who cleared land for picnic grounds, constructed shelters and installed picnic tables and outdoor fire places. The Moose Brook CCC Camp was open from 1935 to 1939. In 1936 the Moose Brook State Park opened to the public and a picnic area, bathing pool, bathhouse, and parking area were ready for use.



CCC Outdoor fireplaces, Moose Brook State Park

At the junction of Moose Brook and Perkins Brook, the CCC workers constructed a two-pond system with dams. The upper pond is a warming pool that mitigates the cold water coming down from Ice Gulch. It drains into the lower pool that is a deeper swimming pool with bathhouse.³⁷

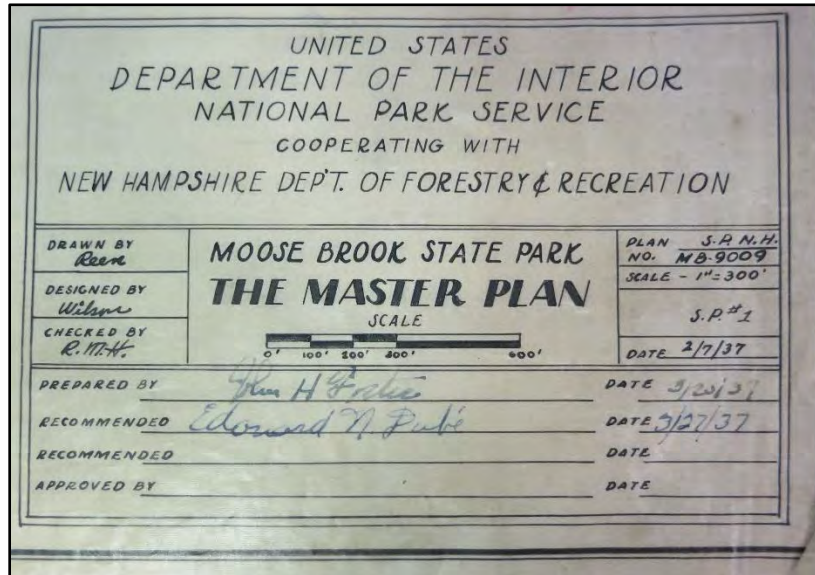


Undated postcard of Bathhouse, Moose Brook State Park

In the first year of operation (1936) the total estimated attendance was 17,000. Swimming classes were held by the lifeguard and a refreshment concession was let to his wife. The

³⁷ Debra Thornblad. "CCC left a legacy for outdoorsmen today", *Berlin Reporter*, September 5, 2012.

following year further improvements were made by the CCC including the development of camping sites and trails.



A Master Plan for Moose Brook State Park was developed by the National Park Service, working with the New Hampshire Department of Forestry & Recreation. George W. Wilson, Associate Landscape Architect for the National Park Service, was responsible for the layout of the campground. The rustic style Administration Building was designed by W.F. Baker of the National Park Service in 1937.



Administration Building, Moose Brook State Park, Gorham (1937-8)

Forestry and Recreation Commission annual reports indicate that in 1950 a new sign was installed at Moose Brook State Park and the campground bridge was rebuilt. In 1955-6 the bathhouse at the swimming area was completely rebuilt.



Moose Brook Main Camping Area, 1937 Master Plan

Moose Brook was notable as one of the state's first supervised camping areas and the layout of the Main Camping Area has not changed since 1937. (The 1937 plan calls this the Moseberry Camping Area.) Originally the camping area had a single latrine.

In the 1960s and early 1970s a new modern toilet building and a toilet/shower building were constructed, using the standard designs for each. Both of these are still visible today but have been slightly altered. The toilet building has lost its front screen walls and the shower building has seen the addition of new washing facilities outside under a new gable.



Shower/toilet building, Moose Brook State Park, 1973

Today, there are 59 campground sites including a youth group camping area.



Typical individual camp site, Moose Brook State Park

A maintenance shop was constructed at Moose Brook State Park about 1980 and a pump house in 1993. Several shelters were added in 1994 and 2014.

Located in the White Mountains just north of the Presidential Range, Moose Brook State Park is an excellent base for hiking, mountain biking and fishing.

Wellington State Park, Bristol (Grafton County)

Located on Newfound Lake, what was to become Wellington Beach State Park (later Wellington State Park) began with a 97-acre gift of land in Bristol to the State in 1931. The land was given as a memorial to Aaron A. Wellington of New York by his daughter, Miss Elizabeth R. Wellington. The family were summer visitors. The deed specifies that the land is “to be forever kept as a public forest reservation, to be used for the development of a bird sanctuary, for public recreation...and for any purpose tending to the promotion of forestry”. Other parcels were later granted or purchased and added to the initial reserve. In the 1940s, two nearby islands were granted to the state. Belle Island was acquired from Camp Mowglis and Cliff Island was from Camp Pasquaney. In 1961 the State purchased an additional 88 acres for \$41,000, funded by the \$9 million state bond issue.



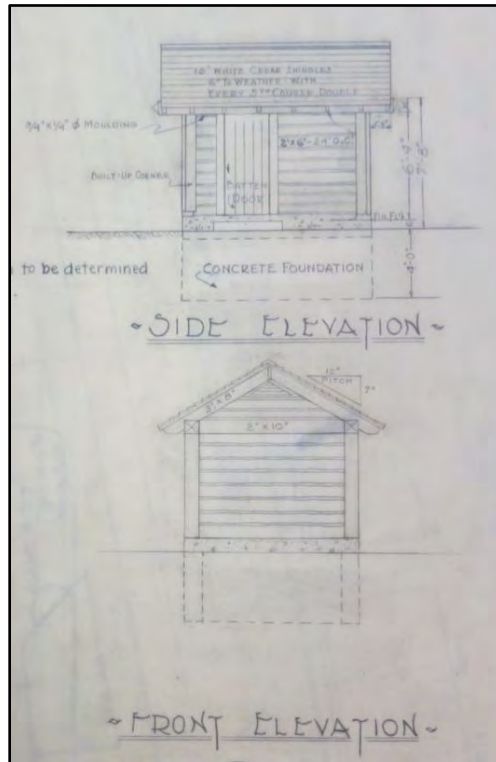
The manager's residence at Wellington State Park, located in Alexandria, dates to 1883.



Manager's Residence, Wellington State Park

The beach, picnic areas and the original buildings at Wellington State Park were built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which was created by President Franklin Roosevelt in an effort to bring an end to the Great Depression. The buildings constructed include a 1935 tool room/work shop. In the late 1930s a 12' x 24' cabin was built to house the lifeguard.

In 1949, a pumphouse was constructed that survives today.



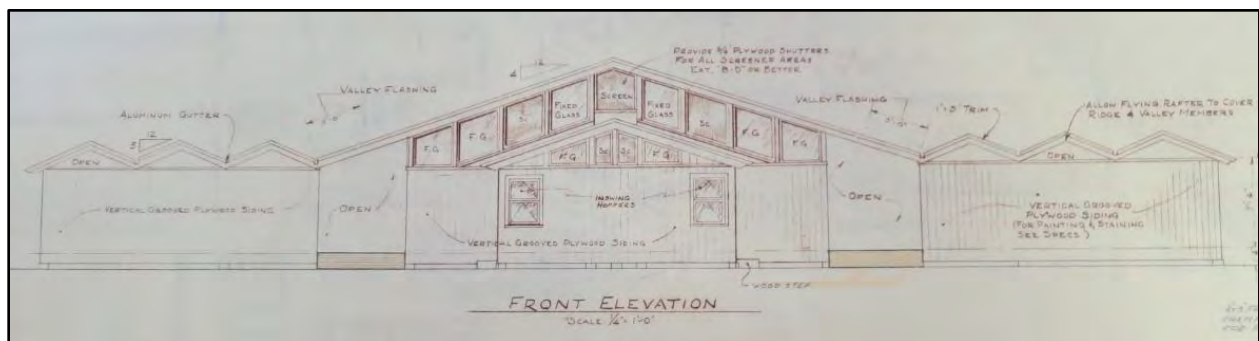
Wellington State Park Pump House, 1949

According to Parks records, the Gray Toilets building was constructed in 1962. While clad in live edge, wooden (“waney”) siding, the elevated windows are a more modern touch.



Wellington State Park, Gray toilets, 1962

In 1967 discussions began on the need to redesign Wellington State Park. In 1969 Wellington’s old 1935 bathhouse was replaced by a “new standard bathhouse” costing \$49,318. Additional buildings erected at Wellington included a park store, bathhouse shelter and shelter. In particular, the park store and the bathhouse reflect a modern aesthetic with vertical board siding, overhanging eaves and pitched roofs with clerestory windows.



Drawing for Bathhouse at Wellington State Park
(Note existence of gables on side wings)



Wellington State Park Bathhouse shelter, 1969



Wellington State Park store, 1969

Today, 204-acre Wellington State Park boasts the largest freshwater swimming beach in the New Hampshire state park system, on one of the deepest and clearest lakes in the state. Two picnic pavilions, also constructed in 1969, are located in close proximity to the beach. There are also picnic sites directly on the state and in shaded groves.



Wellington State Park Picnic Shelters

Wellington State Park continues to offer a wealth of recreational opportunities on a pristine lake. Organized group camping is offered on both Belle and Cliff Islands. A boat launch area provides boaters access to Newfound Lake. A hiking trail leads from the park and provides access to other locales including Goose Pond, the Sugarloafs, Bear Mountain, Welton Falls, and Mt. Cardigan. The park also is important as a sanctuary for wildlife, reinforced on the variety of habitats present. It is forested with a variety of tree species, including hemlock, pine, beech, maple and poplar and there are also marshes, wetlands and clearings that make for an especially rich habitat.

Odiorne Point State Park, Rye (Rockingham County)

Odiorne Point State Park consists of 137 acres of protected shoreline along the Atlantic Ocean and Little Harbor, near Rye Beach. It was the site of Fort Dearborn, a former Federally-owned surplus property which was deeded to the State of New Hampshire in 1961 for \$91,000 with the restriction that the land be used and maintained as a public park and recreational area. Fort Dearborn had been established in 1942 as one of the elements of the Harbor Defenses of Portsmouth and batteries of 6-inch and 16-inch caliber were installed. The Department of the Army stopped using the facility in 1947.

In addition to its associations with World War II, the coastal location is also significant for its use by Native Americans and the first European settlement in the state. A monument to the first settlers of 1623 was erected in 1899 by the Colonial Dames of NH on a bluff overlooking the Gulf of Maine. It was later relocated in 1955 to the Cemetery across the road but was brought back to the coastal site in 2007.



Founders Memorial

In the 1960s the land was basically unutilized. After years of planning and discussion, Odiorne Point State Park opened in July 1972. The original plan for the park included outdoor recreation areas with tennis and basketball courts. Local conservationists including Annette Cottrell (1907-1991) were instrumental in preserving the park and its varied habitats including salt marsh and rocky shore. In 1973 a nature center first opened here, operated by the park system in connection with the New Hampshire Audubon Society and Friends of Odiorne. The Seacoast Science Center opened in 1992. It incorporates part of the Sugden Residence that formerly served as a nature center.



Former Sugden Residence, now part of Seacoast Science Center

North of Route 1A (Ocean Boulevard) the park has extensive paths that highlight features of scientific and historic interest and natural beauty. In addition to World War II features, there is a salt marsh, fresh water marsh, and the rocky coastline. A boat launch is located on Seavey Creek.



Battery 204 is located near the main park entrance and originally contained two 6" guns.



Battery 204

Battery Seaman (originally Battery 103 but later renamed in honor of Col. Claudius Seaman) is a 16-inch gun emplacement located near Frost Point.



Battery Seaman

The portion of the park near and to the east of the Seacoast Science Center includes a parking lot, restroom facilities constructed in 1972 and picnic tables. Other landscape elements include the old mortar rings where gun placements were once mounted.



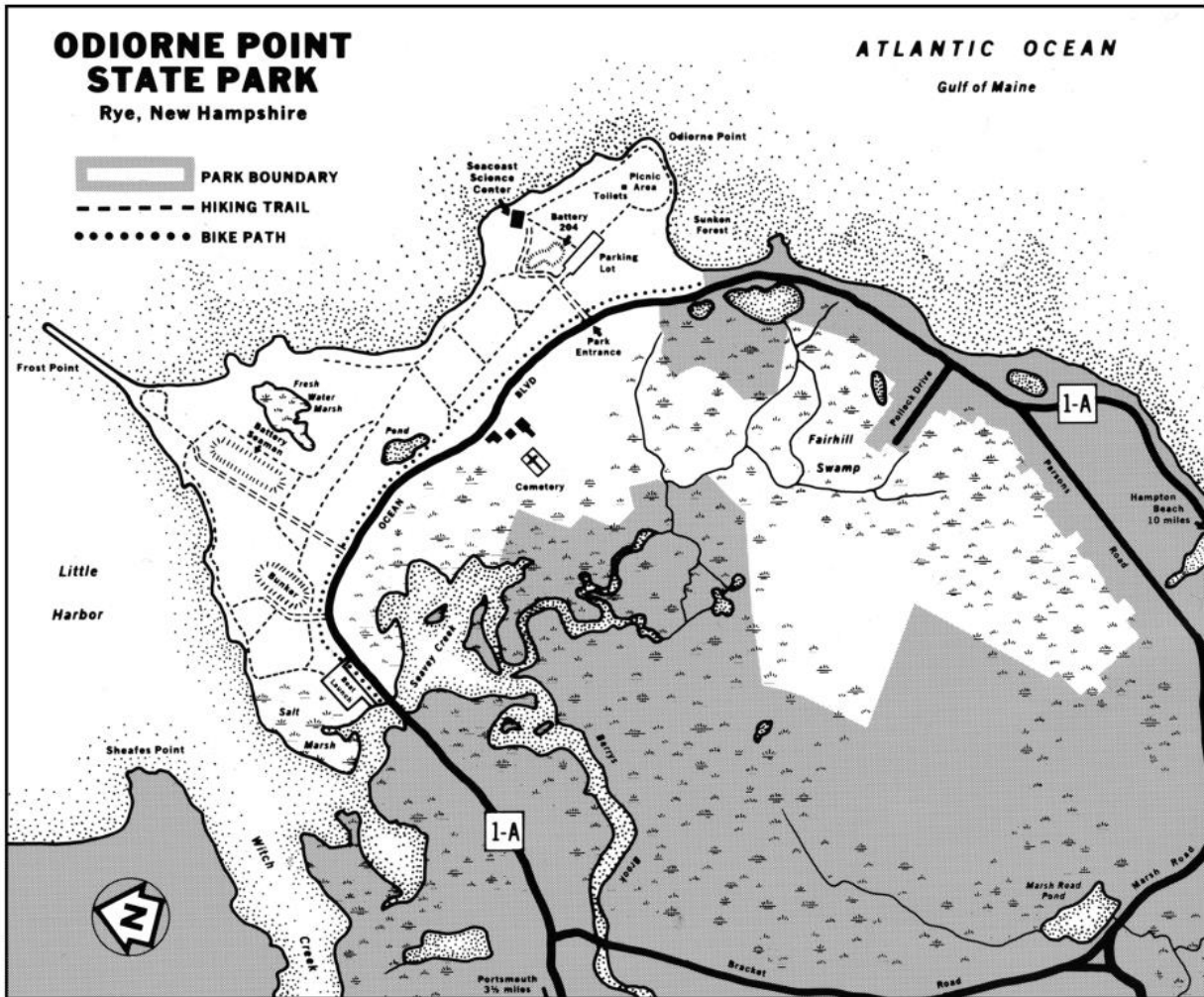
155 Gun Mounts

The toilet building is a variation on the standard parks design of the period with a hip roof. It is sheathed in vertical boards. It was designed and built by the Bureau of Public Works (Project 8229).



Toilet Building, 1972

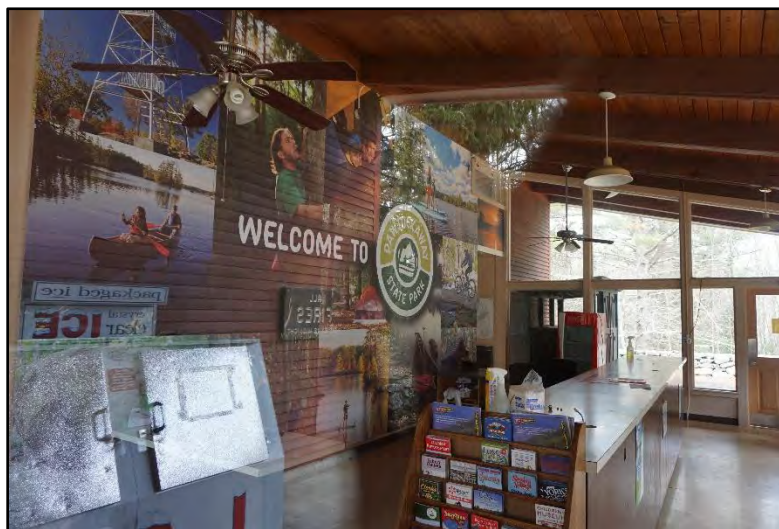
The original Odiorne Point State Park was expanded in 1982 by the 110-acre Hotin Tract which is located west of Route 1A, between the park and Wallis Sands State Park. It consists of a salt marsh and upland forest. An additional 67 acres of land was acquired from Ralph Brown in 1993 under the LCIP Program. This land, also on the opposite side of Route 1A, includes the Odiorne Homestead at 505 Ocean Boulevard. In addition to the c.1800 farmhouse, this land includes a barn and greenhouse, an ancient well and cemetery, old roads, salt marsh, stone walls, a World War II era storage building for TNT and acres of re-forested farmland. The property was listed on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places in 2007.



Map of Odiorne Point State Park

Pawtuckaway State Park, Nottingham (Rockingham County)

Situated in the heart of New Hampshire's most populous area and yet surrounded by wilderness, Pawtuckaway State Park was developed in 1966 as a prototype of state parks of the future under a new concept in park planning – to create a major recreation complex for intensive public use but still preserve its natural scenic aspects. With over 5,000 acres Pawtuckaway State Park combined lands formerly owned by the state forestry agency, Water Resources Board and private citizens. Some 800 acres was originally owned by the Newmarket Manufacturing Company and was later acquired by the New Hampshire Electric Company who transferred it to the State of New Hampshire in 1955. In 1962 the land was transferred from the Water Resources Board to the State Parks Division. A Master Plan Report was prepared in 1963.



Pawtuckaway State Park Visitor Center

Pawtuckaway State Park has an array of 1960s buildings constructed in a modern aesthetic including an administration building, park store, toll booth and several toilet buildings. According to the drawings at State Parks, the buildings were designed by Wright & Pierce (William B. Pierce and Frank V. Wright, Jr.), Architects-Engineers of Topsham, Maine. The toilet buildings were built according to standard designs.



Campground Toilet Building, Pawtuckaway State Park

The first area developed was in the Neal's Cove section at the northern end of Pawtuckaway Lake. Facilities for day visitors included a 700-foot beach, 25-acre family picnic area with 450 sites, three toilet buildings, a ten-acre group picnic area with 450 picnic sites, three toilet buildings, a ten-acre group picnic area with shelter building, boat dock, snack bar, bathhouse, a playfield, a visitor's information center, and parking for 1,000 cars. Eighty family tent sites and three toilet buildings were developed on nearby Horse Island.



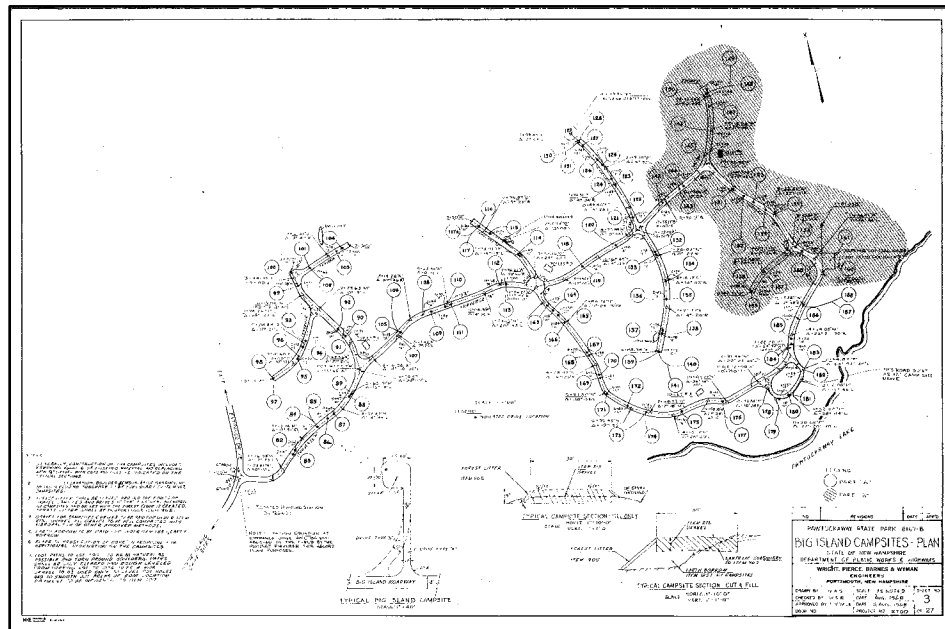
Neal's Cove Store, Pawtuckaway State Park

The Shelter Building draws from the Rustic Park tradition of the 1930s and other multi-purpose buildings erected in parks such as White Lake State Park in the 1950s.



Group Shelter Building, Pawtuckaway State Park

In 1967 Gustave A. Bochert, a landscape architect from Ogunquit, Maine, completed a master plan for the development of additional campsites on Big Island.



Plan of Big Island Campsites, Pawtuckaway State Park

The construction of the campsites involved removing about 6" of existing material and replacing with 9" gravel. Footpaths were to be as natural as possible and turn around boulders. The paths were only cleared and rough leveled from the parking lot and were just 4' wide.

Today, there are 192 wooded campsites, many of which provide views of the lake. Each campsite has an open fire ring, picnic table, flat areas for a tent and a parking space.



Horse Island Campground, Pawtuckaway State Park

The engineering of the park also included the construction of several bridges.



Bridge, Pawtuckaway State Park

Recent construction projects have added five cabins and a new bathhouse.



Bathhouse, Pawtuckaway State Park (2008)



Lakefront, Pawtuckaway State Park

Massive glacial boulders contrast with manmade stone walls.



Walls, Pawtuckaway State Park

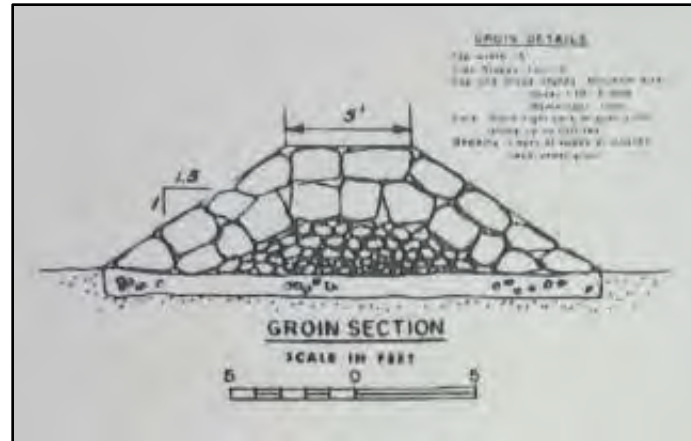
Wallis Sands State Park, Rye (Rockingham County)

What is now Wallis Sands State Park had its beginning in the transfer of a small lot of land comprising about an acre in 1901. In the early 1950s the small piece of land was operated as a wayside area.

Following the passage of the \$9 million bond issue by the State Legislature in 1961 the former Wallis Sands wayside area was developed into an 18-acre state park at a cost of over \$723,000. The artificially developed seashore area was designed for intensive use with an 800' beach on the Atlantic Ocean protected by a 350' stone jetty (groin) constructed off the southern end of the beach and a new reinforced concrete sea wall. The Army Corps of Engineers designed the south groin and helped pay for shore widening and groin construction in 1962-3. Rt. 1A (Ocean Boulevard) was relocated in this area to allow construction of a 500-car parking lot and bathhouse. The modern flat-roofed, concrete block bathhouse was designed with separate, partially open dressing wings, a refreshment stand, and lifeguard and first aid rooms. Wright and Pierce of Portsmouth served as the architect-engineers for the project. The new park, capable of accommodating 3,000 people, opened the same day as Greenfield State Park, on June 25, 1964.



Wallis Sands State Park under construction, 1963



Groin at Wallis Sands State Park, 1962 designed by Army Corps

The beach and groin were seriously damaged in the second storm of February 19, 1972. Restoration of the beach was completed in September 1973 with the Federal Government bearing the entire cost.



Wallis Sands State Park main building shortly after construction, 1964

The bathhouse building has seen few substantial alterations since its construction in 1964. A small addition was built on the north side of the street façade in 1998. To the east of the building there is a small concrete block pump house. The two-foot-high reinforced concrete retaining wall still runs along the shore with a concrete sidewalk behind it. Concrete paths lead from the parking lot to the main building and beach area. Standard picnic tables with metal frames and concrete benches with wooden slats dot the lawn. Metal bike racks are located adjacent to the front sidewalk.



Street façade of main building, Wallis Sands State Park



Main building (dressing rooms to left, snack bar to right), Wallis Sands State Park



Pump house, Wallis Sands State Park (1964)



Concrete sidewalk behind concrete seawall, Wallis Sands State Park

Located in the parking lot, near Ocean Boulevard, the toll booth is an octagonal building constructed in 1987.



Parking lot, toll house along Rt. 1A, Wallis Sands State Park



Aerial view of Wallis Sands State Park (Googlemaps)

Conclusions

New Hampshire's State Park system is composed of parks of all types – recreational parks, parks sited along lakes and seashores, wilderness parks, parks centered around historic sites and geologic marvels, and simple waysides or picnic areas. The improvements made to New Hampshire's State Parks in the 1945-1975 period reflect the leisure time activities of an increasingly mobile and affluent society, the evolution of park planning from the pre-World War II model of the CCC period and the impact of modernist architectural design. Like the 1930s, the 1960s represented a high point in terms of investment in the park system and is no less important.

Additional study would add to our understanding of this period. There is still much to be learned about the designers of these New Hampshire parks as well as the initial inspiration/sources for what became standardized park building designs. This report does not go into detail concerning the various buildings at the two major ski areas – Mount Sunapee and Cannon Mountain. Because the report was focused more on the six counties for the grant program (Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, Rockingham and Sullivan), additional resources of note may be present in the remaining counties.

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Appendix A**NH State Parks, Historic Sites and Wayside Areas**

Name	Town/City	County	Acquisition Year
Ahern SP	Laconia	Belknap	1994
Androscoggin Wayside	Errol	Coos	1958?
Bear Brook SP	Allenstown	Merrimack	1916-1981
Beaver Brook Falls Wayside	Colebrook	Coos	1961
Bedell Bridge State Historic Site	Haverhill	Grafton	1970
Cardigan Mountain SP	Orange	Grafton	1918
Cathedral Ledge SP	Bartlett	Carroll	1901
Chesterfield Gorge Natural Area	Chesterfield	Cheshire	1936 or 48
Clough SP	Weare	Hillsborough	1964
Coleman SP	Stewartstown	Coos	1957
Crawford Notch SP	Harts Location	Carroll	1913
Daniel Webster Birthplace	Franklin	Merrimack	1918/1950
Deer Mountain Campground	Pittsburg	Coos	
Dixville Notch SP	Dixville	Coos	1937
Echo Lake SP	North Conway	Carroll	1901
Eisenhower Memorial Wayside	Carroll	Coos	1979
Ellacoya SP	Gilford	Belknap	1956
Endicott Rock Historic Site	Laconia	Belknap	1934
Forest Lake SP	Dalton	Coos	1933
Fort Constitution Historic Site	New Castle	Rockingham	1961
Fort Stark State Historic Site	New Castle	Rockingham	1978
Franconia Notch SP	Franconia/Lincoln	Grafton	1928
Franklin Pierce Homestead Historic Site	Hillsborough	Hillsborough	1950
Gardner Memorial Wayside Park	Springfield/Wilmot	Sull./Merr.	1974
Governor Wentworth Historic Site	Wolfeboro	Carroll	1934
Greenfield SP	Greenfield	Hillsborough	1959
Hampton Beach SP	Hampton	Rockingham	1934
Hannah Duston Memorial Historic Site	Boscawen	Merrimack	1874/1950
Jenness Beach SP	Rye	Rockingham	1980
Jericho Mountain SP	Berlin	Coos	2006
Kingston SP	Kingston	Rockingham	1934
Lake Francis SP	Pittsburg	Coos	1976
Livermore Falls Recreation Area	Holderness	Grafton	1918/1992
Madison Boulder Natural Area	Madison	Carroll	1946
Milan Hill SP	Milan	Coos	1935
Miller SP	Peterborough	Cheshire	1891
Mollidgewock SP	Errol	Coos	1994
Monadnock SP	Jaffrey	Cheshire	1905
Moose Brook SP	Gorham	Coos	1934
Mt. Sunapee SP	Newbury	Merrimack	1911/1949
Mt. Washington SP	Sargent's Purchase	Coos	1964

Name	Town/City	County	Acquisition Year
Nansen Ski Jump State Historic Site	Milan	Coos	1961
North Beach	Hampton	Rockingham	
North Hampton State Beach	North Hampton	Rockingham	1980
Northwood Meadows SP	Northwood	Rockingham	1990
Odiorne Point SP	Rye	Rockingham	1961
Pawtuckaway SP	Nottingham	Rockingham	1923
Pillsbury SP	Washington	Sullivan	1920
Pisgah SP	Winchester	Cheshire	1967
Rhododendron SP	Fitzwilliam	Cheshire	1946
Robert Frost Farm Historic Site	Derry	Rockingham	1965
Rollins SP	Warner	Merrimack	1935
Rye Harbor SP	Rye	Rockingham	1936
Sculptured Rocks Natural Area	Groton	Grafton	1935
Silver Lake SP	Hollis	Hillsborough	1949
Taylor Mill Historic Site	Derry	Rockingham	1953
Umbagog Lake SP	Cambridge	Coos	1998
Wadleigh SP	Sutton	Merrimack	1934
Wallis Sands SP	Rye	Rockingham	1901
Weeks SP	Lancaster	Coos	1941
Wellington SP	Bristol	Grafton	1931
Wentworth SP	Wolfboro	Carroll	1934
Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion	Portsmouth	Rockingham	1954
White Island Historic Site	Rye	Rockingham	1993
White Lake SP	Tamworth	Carroll	1933
Winslow SP	Wilmot	Merrimack	1933

Appendix B

Annotated List of Architects, Builders, Landscape Architects and Planners Influencing Physical Character of State Parks Facilities During the 1945-1975 Period

Belanger, Lee R., Sr. (1939-)

Worked for NHDOT/Bureau of Public Works for about 47 years beginning in 1961 and ending in 2009. Attended NH Technical Institute in Manchester from 1957-1959 taking classes in engineering/drafting while working for Manchester Planning Board. Designed various state buildings including safety rest areas at Sanbornton, Canterbury and Lebanon in 1965 and 1966, state liquor stores, patrol sheds, etc.

NH State Parks work:

Manager's Residence, White Lake State Park, Tamworth, 1970

Bochert, Gustave (1921-2000)

Dean of engineering at New England College in Henniker in 1962. That same year did advance degree work at Syracuse University in landscape architecture. Later practiced as landscape architect in Ogunquit, Maine.

NH State Parks work:

Vending Stand, White Lake Park, Tamworth, 1955-1956 & others?

Comfort Station, North Beach, Hampton, 1956

Supervisors Cottage, Pillsbury State Park, 1958

In 1967 worked on Fort Dearborn proposal; In 1969 worked with engineering firm of Wright and Pierce, Portsmouth, on relocation and reconstruction of buildings, entrance roads, parking areas and utilities at Flume, Basin and Lafayette campground.

Bradt, Littlefield & Williams

NH State Parks work:

Cannon Mountain, c.1959

Carter, John Avery (1924-2017)

Born in Nashua, studied architecture at Yale where he was influenced by Louis Kahn and Eero Saarinen. Began architectural practice in 1950s and continued into the 1990s. Principal architect in the Nashua firms of John A. Carter Architect; Carter and Woodruff (organized 1956); Carter, Woodruff and Cheever, and John A. Carter Architect P.A. Architectural records at NH Historical Society, Concord, NH.

NH State Parks work:

Summit Lodge, Mt. Sunapee, c.1963

Chase, Malcolm J., Sr. (1912-2002)

Chase graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1932 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He served in the Army during World War II. Chase spent much of his career at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation where he served as Special Services Engineer, planning wayside parks, rest areas and new highways including Interstates 95 and 89.

He later founded the engineering firm, Kimball Chase, in 1980.

Erickson, Henry William (1911-1998?)

Listed as having an office in Laconia 1956-1970.

NH State Parks work:

Toilet and Shelter Building, Winslow State Park, Wilmot Flat, 1965

Fleck, Warren Brooke (1909-2007)

Grew up on the Main Line outside Philadelphia, graduated from the Haverford School in Haverford, PA. Matriculated at Bowdoin about 1929 – spent three years at Bowdoin and two years at University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture. Worked in US Treasury Department from 1934-7 and Philadelphia offices of Karcher & Smith; J. Edwin Brumbaugh; and J. Linden Heacock from 1937-8. During WWII active in military intelligence in Pacific Theater – wounded and lost partial sight in one eye.

Worked at Alfred T. Granger Associates in Hanover before opening own office in 1956. Entered into partnership with Edward C. Lewis in 1967; remained with Fleck and Lewis until 1974. Lived in Lyme, NH before retiring to Winchester, Virginia.

NH State Parks work:

Sea Shell Complex, Hampton Beach State Park, 1962-3

Foster, Stephen H. (?)

Landscape architect from Cheshire, Connecticut.

NH State Parks work:

Plan for Bedell Bridge River Wayside, Haverhill, 1967

Isaak, Nicholas (1913-1975)

Born in Dardha, Albania. Attended St. Anselms College, graduated from UNH with a B.Arch in 1936. Worked as a draftsman for Eric T. Huddleston from 1936-1939; with Huddleston & Hersey from 1939-40; Lockwood-Greene Engineers 1942-1943 and in US Navy from 1943-6. Established practice with Richard Koehler (Koehler & Isaak) in 1946, dissolved in July 1970. Isaak, Moyer, Walsh, and Dudley (with March Moyer PE, William Walsh and Richard Dudley) from 1970-1973. Isaak and Isaak Architects (with Andrew C. Isaak) from 1973 to 1975.

NH State Parks work:

Base Lodge, Mount Sunapee State Park, 1948

Warming Hut, Mount Sunapee State Park, 1951

Summit Building design, Mount Washington State Park, 1970

Johnson, Frederick (1904-1994)

Robert Peabody Foundation for Archeology at Philips Academy, Andover. Served as archeological consultant for Fort Dearborn in 1967.

Kiley, Daniel Urban (1912-2004)

Born in Boston, apprenticed with New England landscape architect Warren Manning for four years before entering the landscape architecture program at Harvard in 1936. After graduation he worked at the United States Housing Authority and served in the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II. After the war returned briefly to his practice in Franconia and later moved to Vermont. In the years that followed, involved in the landscape design for a number of notable national projects including the Gateway Arch in St. Louis with Eero Saarinen, Lincoln Center in New York City, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston and the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

NH State Parks work:

Bathhouse and Vending/First Aid Buildings, Silver Lake State Park, Hollis, 1954

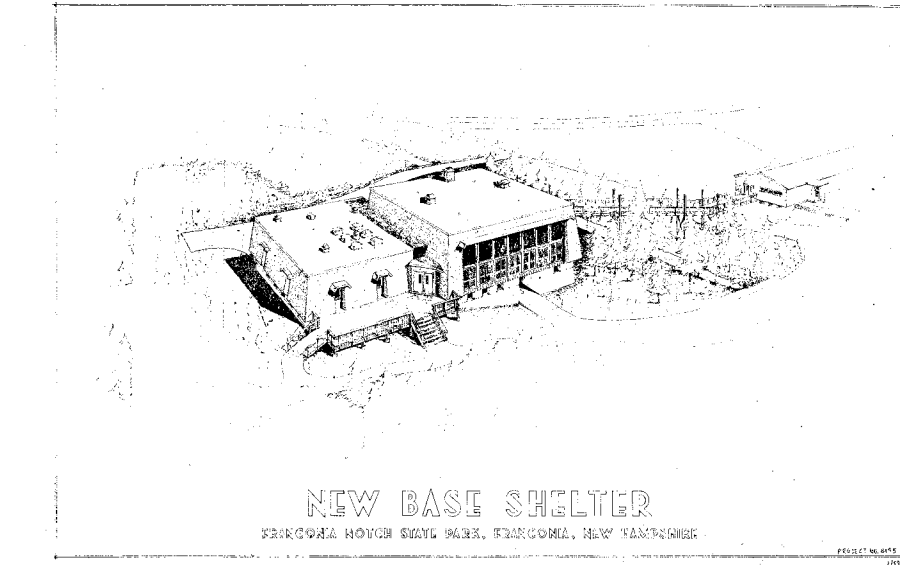
Miles, Edward Benton (1917-2002)

Born in Westerly, RI. Bachelor's degree in architecture from UNH in 1939 and Master's from Cornell in 1949. Worked with Maurice Witmer in Portsmouth and later on his own out of his Exeter home. He designed a number of residences in the Exeter area in the 1950s.

Miles served as the architect for the restoration of the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion in 1966 (Abbott Lowell Cummings was the technical consultant to the parks division). As a consultant to NH Public Works and Highways he designed Rest Areas at Canterbury, Seabrook, Salem, Sutton, and Springfield.

NH State Parks work:

Peabody Base Lodge, Cannon Mountain, 1971



Nylen, Per Harold (1928-)

Born in Abington, Mass. in 1928. Transferred from Fort Devens to Massachusetts Agricultural College (University of Massachusetts at Amherst) where he earned a degree in landscape architecture in 1952. Attended University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Worked as a landscape architect with an office in Northampton, Mass. in the early 1960s. Later moved to Duxbury, Mass.

NH State Parks work:

Plan for Developing Day Use Area at Bear Brook State Park, 1963

Feasibility Report for Pisgah State Park, 1967

Odiorne Point Master Plan, 1971

Pepin, Peter P.

Worked for NHDOT, Special Services Division

NH State Parks work:

Annett Wayside Toilet building, Rindge

Sunapee Bathhouse, Sunapee, 1971

Odiorne Toilet building, Rye, 1972

Perry, William G. (1883-1975)

Born in Boston and a graduate of Harvard and MIT, he also studied at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris in 1913. As a partner in the Boston firm of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, he was the designer of Colonial Williamsburg in the 1930s. Late in life and in semi-retirement Perry was involved in early planning for Strawberry Banke and directed the restoration of the Franklin Pierce Homestead in Hillsborough in 1964.

Thomas, Howard Q. (1890-1964)

State Parks employee, involved in design of Greenfield State Park.

Thomas, Malcolm H. (1928-2018)

Born in New York City. Attended Syracuse University. Worked more than thirty years as landscape architect for DRED (approx. 1962 to 1992). Responsible for planning and design of several New Hampshire parks.

Wilson, Guy Kenneth Campbell (1925-1982)

Born in Claremont. Attended Syracuse University School of Architecture. Worked for a time in the office of Concord engineer Clifford Broker. Founding member Wilson & Wilson.

NH State Parks work:

Buildings at Moose Brook State Park, Gorham, 1964 (Northeast Planning Associates)

Buildings at Greenfield State Park (Admin. Building), 1963

Bathhouse at Echo Lake, 1964 (not built)

Wright & Pierce

Frank V. Wright Jr. (1917-2011) and William B. Pierce (1908-1985). Firm founded in 1947 in Topsham, Maine. The two met as civil engineers working for Bath Iron Works.

Frank Wright graduated from UNH in 1940 with a BS in Civil Engineering and completed a course in Naval Architecture at MIT in 1942. Employed at the Boston Navy Yard during World War II and was later transferred to Bath Iron Works. After WWII he worked for the State of Maine, primarily designing, surveying and planning parks. In 1946 he designed Reid State Park in Georgetown, Maine.

NH State Parks work:

Wallis Sands State Park and Bathhouse, 1962

Pawtuckaway State Park, Administration Building, 1964