



How-to Series

Plan your Ricker Pond State Park Weekend

Saturday

Breakfast in camp; Pack bagged lunches

Explore the park, walk down to pond; do a little morning fishing (1.5 hours)

Ride bikes on the Cross Vermont Trail(1 - 3 hours)

You can pick up this trail right from the park. While the trail runs across the entire state of Vermont (thus the name), the Groton section is particularly enjoyable because it is built on an old railroad bed. The grade is easy and the scenery is fantastic. Ten miles of the trail runs through the Groton Forest. Make it an out and back trip, with a stop for lunch along the way.

Back to camp. Leave bikes, grab beach gear

Swim, Sun and Relax at Boulder Beach State Park (1 - 2 hours)

You can choose to hang out and swim and sun at the Campers' Beach at Ricker Pond, but if you're looking for a bigger beach and a little more action, check out nearby Boulder Beach State Park. The park features a long, sandy beach, lots of lawns and shade trees, individual picnic spots around the lake, a concession stand and canoe and kayak rentals.

Back to camp, relax

Dinner, campfire, s'mores, relax in campground



Sunday

Breakfast in camp, be lazy, play games, read. Pack up Camp (2 - 3 hours)

Take a trip to the Giant's Stone Table, play a game or save a snack to eat at the table (1/2 hour)

Leave the Park

Hike Famous Owl's Head (1 hour)

This is an easy hike to an iconic vista of Lake Groton, Kettle Pond and the Green Mountains. The trail starts off the road from New Discovery State Park to the Osmore Pond Scenic Area. The trail, and the stone shelter on the summit was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's.

Attend an Interpretive Program and/or visit the Nature Center (1 hour)

There are many interpretive programs offered in the Groton Forest parks. You can usually find morning, afternoon and evening programs throughout the summer. You may go on an owl prowl, a wildflower walk, do an arts and crafts projects, play nature games, see live birds of prey or learn about water creatures. The nature center is full of cool things like feathers and owl pellets and animal bones. You can also look at field guides and other materials to help you learn about life in the forest. View the current schedule of events.

Travel home, get lunch on the road

Other Options

Groton Growers' Market

Saturdays 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

1476 Scott Highway, Groton 05046

(802) 584-3276

Pick up some farm-fresh fruits, meats, vegetables, baked goods and crafts made locally.

Hike Kettle Pond Loop (2.5 hours/3 miles)

6693 State Forest Road, Groton

(802) 426-3042

Just down the road from Ricker Pond State Park is Kettle Pond. Park in the designated parking lot, then take a short trail to the lakeshore. There is a moderate loop hike that goes around this secluded lake. Look for remote lean-tos deep in the woods and keep your ears open for loons. Great views, too.

Visit Seyon Lodge State Park

2967 Seyon Pond Road, Groton 05046

(802) 584-3829

Noyes Pond at Seyon Lodge is Vermont's only public fly fishing trout pond. You can rent a row boat and fish on the lake, or walk the trail along the lake and soak in the gorgeous scenery.

Rainy Day Options

Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium

1302 Main Street, St. Johnsbury 05819

(802) 748-2372

Northern New England's Natural History Museum. Space gallery, OmniGlobe, hands-on rotating and permanent displays. Also, bring your questions about rocks, bones, bugs, forests or anything else natural and the naturalists will provide the answers!

Cabot Cheese Factory

2878 Main Street, Cabot 05647

(800) 837-4261

Take a factory tour and watch talented cheese makers create award-winning cheddars and enjoy plenty of free samples.