



# Green Mountain *National Forest*

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# Cross-Country Skiing

## General Forest Information:

The entire Green Mountain National Forest is open to cross-country skiing. Note that only trails shared with snowmobiles may be groomed and most forest roads are not plowed beyond designated parking areas. Many Nordic Ski Areas operate partly on the National Forest under special use permits and require trail passes to utilize their trail systems. Be aware that other recreation activities such as hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and dog sledding share this public land and may be encountered. Please show common courtesy.

## Some of the more popular cross-country skiing trails on the Green Mountain National Forest are:

**Catamount Ski Trail:** Following groomed and ungroomed trails, forest roads, and snowmobile trails, this ski trail runs from the Massachusetts border to Canada. This 300 mile cross-country ski trail travels through the lower elevations and has many access points existing in the Green Mountain National Forest.

## North Half of the Green Mountain National Forest:

**Austin Brook Trail (Granville):** The trail follows unplowed Forest Road 25 as it climbs steadily along Austin Brook through a mixed hardwood/softwood forest. It is approximately 2.0 miles to the end of the road. The trail provides access to the Breadloaf Wilderness.

**Chittenden Brook Trail (Rochester):** This ungroomed system of trails provides a diversity of terrain, from easy skiing along the unplowed access road, to difficult, steep trails following Chittenden Brook. The trail follows the brook through mixed forest terrain.

**Norske Trail (Hancock):** This ungroomed trail passes through mixed hardwood/softwood forests and over a variety of terrain as it enters the Breadloaf Wilderness. Much of the trail is gradual ups and downs with several extended elevation changes on the western side of the trail. You can continue your ski by connecting with the Catamount trail on FR 59 or return to Vermont Route 125. The trail begins and ends on private property; please be respectful of the owners.



U.S. Department  
of Agriculture

Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests

231 North Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701



Forest Service

(802) 747-6700 Phone

(802) 747-6766 FAX

Website: [www.fs.usda.gov/greenmountain](http://www.fs.usda.gov/greenmountain)

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**Water Tower Trails (Ripton):** These trails are a system of interconnected, ungroomed cross-country skiing loops of varying length and difficulty. The trails can be accessed from the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail or from Widow's Clearing and meander through the woods. The Widow's Clearing Trail extends from the Chatfield Parking Lot to the Widow's Clearing Parking Lot and connects the Water Tower and Wilkinson Ski Trails.

**Wilkinson Ski Trails (Ripton):** These trails are a system of interconnected, ungroomed cross-country skiing loops of varying length and difficulty. Located at the center of the trail system is an active beaver pond and there are several streams in the area. The Widow's Clearing Trail extends from the Chatfield Parking Lot to the Widow's Clearing Parking Lot and connects the Water Tower and Wilkinson Ski Trails.

## South Half of the Green Mountain National Forest:

**Grout Pond (Stratton):** Park at the winter parking lot on the Stratton-Arlington road. Ski in to Grout Pond via Forest Road 262, which is also a snowmobile trail. It is approximately 1.5 miles to the pond. On the way in you will pass the access point for the East Trail, which has an easy rating and loops to the east of the pond ending at the southern tip. Other trails in the system include the Pond Loop and Camp Loop, which have easy ratings, and Hill Top Trail and the West Trail, which are rated moderate. The trail system has over 10.0 miles of trails in total.

**Root beer Ridge Trail (Weston):** Access this trail from the winter parking lot on Moses Pond Road (Forest Road 29). The trail makes a 5+ mile loop that is rated as difficult. There are wet areas and sections with steep terrain to traverse on this difficult backcountry skiing experience.

**Mountain Valley Trails Association (Danby/Mt. Tabor):** These trails can be accessed from the end of North Road (Forest Road 22), Little Michigan Road (Forest Road 12), or the east end of the Danby-Mount Tabor Road (Forest Road 10). This four-trail system includes the Little Michigan, Utley Brook, Jones Brook, and Stone Place Trails. Consisting of old log roads, these trails offer moderate to difficult backcountry skiing. Skiers may encounter un-bridged streams and active beaver ponds. Combined, there are about 10.0 miles of ski trails.

## Other Resources:

- Individual Cross Country Skiing Recreation Opportunity Guides
- Hiking Recreation Opportunity Guides
- Outdoor Safety Recreation Opportunity Guide
- Leave No Trace Recreation Opportunity Guide
- [www.catamoutrail.together.com](http://www.catamoutrail.together.com)

## For More Information:

**Manchester Ranger District**, 2538 Depot St., Manchester Center, VT 05255, (802) 362-2307

**Middlebury Ranger District**, 1007 Route 7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753, (802) 388-4362

**Rochester Ranger District**, 99 Ranger Rd., Rochester, VT 05767, (802) 767-4261

**Rutland Supervisor Office**, 231 North Main St., Rutland, VT 05701, (802) 747-6700

This Recreation Guide is Available in Large Print at Forest Service Information Centers

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