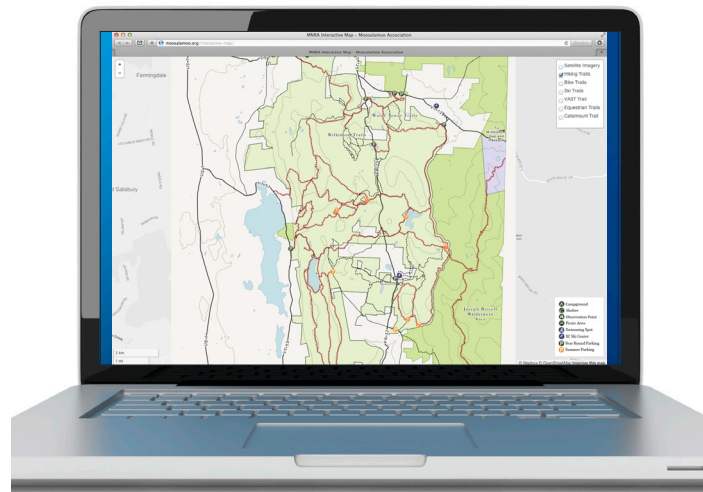


Aunt Jenny Trail breaks off from the North Branch Trail and ascends steadily for about 0.9 miles, where it intersects with Rattlesnake Cliff Trail. Bear left at the intersection and continue to the intersection with the Oak Ridge Trail (0.2 miles). Bear left and descend 0.2 miles to another fork – the left leads to the dramatic South Rattlesnake Cliff views of Silver Lake and Lake Dunmore, and the right fork leads to a smaller set of cliffs with views west to Lake Dunmore and the Adirondack Mountains. From mid-March to August, the trail to the cliffs is closed to protect nesting Peregrine Falcons.

Rattlesnake Cliff Trail breaks off from the North Branch Trail and ascends steadily for about 1.8 miles, where it intersects with the Aunt Jenny Trail; continue to the intersection with the Oak Ridge Trail (0.2 miles). Bear left and descend 0.2 miles to another fork – the left leads to the dramatic South Rattlesnake Cliff views of Silver Lake and Lake Dunmore, and the right fork leads to a smaller set of cliffs with views west to Lake Dunmore and the Adirondack Mountains. From mid-March to August, the trail to the cliffs is closed to protect Peregrine Falcons.

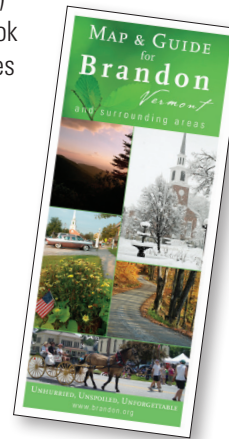
Oak Ridge Trail begins where Aunt Jenny Trail and Rattlesnake Cliff begin their descent to Rattlesnake Cliffs. Oak Ridge Trail provides intermittent westerly views and gradually ascends to the peak of Mt. Moosalamoo (approximately 2.3 miles; elev. 2,625 ft.), which provides a limited view to the east.



Explore the trails online with the interactive trail maps at moosalamoo.org.



The 'Map & Guide for Brandon Vermont' (available in the Brandon Visitor Center) has a detailed map of the area. Also look at our Gateways To Adventure brochures for mountain biking and cross-country skiing for other trail possibilities.



Additional online hiking resources:

- <http://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/rattlesnake-cliffs-oak-ridge-trails>
- https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5401584.pdf
- <http://moosalamoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Moosalamoo-Map.pdf>

Cover photos: Sue Hoxie (top right), Mike Korkuc (bottom right), Caleb Kenna (bottom left)

BRANDON'S Gateways to ADVENTURE HIKING



NATURE HIKING IN THE BRANDON AREA BRANDON, VERMONT



Sue Hoxie

Looking down on Lake Dunmore

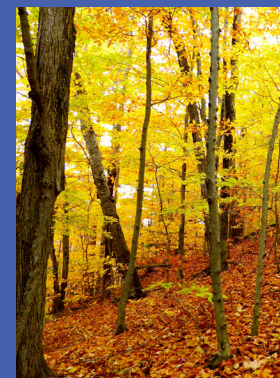


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NATURE HIKING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BRANDON AREA

Brandon enjoys proximity to many wonderful hiking trails of various difficulties, terrains, and elevations. This guide directs you to three designated parking areas that provide access to the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area within the Green Mountain National Forest. Many of the trails described are accessible from more than one of these locations, and the reader is invited to review the web references on the back to determine the most suitable hike and access point to begin your adventure.

The parking areas are described in order of their relative proximity to downtown Brandon.



Sucker Brook

Gary Meffe

Churchill House Parking Area (access to Leicester Hollow Trail, Chandler Ridge Trail, and Silver Lake)

Travel east about 3.5 miles from downtown Brandon on Rt. 73 and park at the site of the former Churchill House Inn (large yellow house on the left with parking signs). Walk about 0.1 miles east on Rt. 73 and then bear left onto Churchill Road, which crosses the Neshobe River and becomes the **Leicester Hollow Trail** (This is a public road that runs past a private residence; please be respectful of their privacy). This trail continues along a stream and comfortably ascends to Silver Lake, a popular swimming, camping, and recreation area (4.6 miles). Leicester Hollow Trail is a verdant and enchanting pathway that changes character from season to season, with mixed uses including mountain biking and cross-country skiing.



Stunning foliage along Silver Lake

Gary Meffe

Minnie Baker Parking Area (access to Minnie Baker Trail, Chandler Ridge Trail, and Silver Lake)

Travel east about 2.5 miles from downtown Brandon on Rt. 73 to Rt. 53 in Forest Dale; bear left onto Rt. 53 and travel about another 1.5 miles to the Minnie Baker parking lot (on your right).

The **Minnie Baker Trail** climbs relatively steeply from the parking lot for about 0.5 miles to the **Chandler Ridge Trail** (described below). Continuing beyond that intersection the **Minnie Baker Trail** descends to the **Leicester Hollow Trail** (0.3 miles). See above description of the Leicester Hollow Trail.

The **Chandler Ridge Trail** follows a ridge with gentle grades with switchbacks and has views to the east and west of Silver Lake and Lake Dunmore, and intersects with the **Rocky Point Trail** on the west side of Silver Lake (3.75 miles; elevation change over Chandler Ridge is 720 feet). The **Rocky Point Trail** (1.5 miles) circumnavigates Silver Lake, which is host to swimming, camping, picnicking and recreational activities and opportunities.

Falls of Lana Parking Area

Travel east about 2.5 miles from downtown Brandon on Rt. 73 to Rt. 53 in Forest Dale; bear left onto Rt. 53 and travel about another 5.5 miles to the Falls of Lana parking lot (on your right).

This gateway provides access to spectacular views of the Champlain Basin and the Adirondack Mountains (in New York), movie-set quality swimming holes, a rustic campground, and miles of hiking trails. It's a small, world-class outdoor amusement park!

Silver Lake Trail follows an old carriage road past the Falls of Lana (0.3 miles), which are viewable a short distance from the trail on your left (be careful of your footing). Then continue to follow the carriage road to a fork (0.2 miles) and bear right uphill to Silver Lake (1.3 miles) where there is a nice picnic area to the left of the dam. The maximum elevation change is 850 feet. The junction with the Leicester Hollow Trail is just beyond the picnic area and over a bridge above the feeder channel from the diversion dam to the lake.

North Branch Trail follows the Silver Lake Trail about 0.5 miles to a fork and then bears left across a foot bridge over Sucker Brook. The North Branch Trail soon passes the Aunt Jenny Trail and then Rattlesnake Cliff Trail (both described on the following page), before meandering along Sucker Brook with some ascents and descents dispersed throughout. Keep your eyes open for swimming holes along this section. Bear left at the Voter Brook Spur Trail to visit a picnic area with a spectacular view to the west; otherwise continue on the trail to reach Moosalamoo Campground (2.3 miles from parking area).



Voter Brook Overlook-Moosalamoo

Sue Hoxie