

Welcome to the Grafton Village Park

A gift to the residents and visitors of Grafton by Charles and Gertrude Daniels in 1923. The family had originally intended to develop the hillside into a water supply for the Town taking advantage of the seeps and springs. The remains of several water collecting devices are still present on the property as well as a network of underground piping. The land also contains several old features of interest such as a picnic area with an old stone fireplace, an old stone fort that includes some nice stonework and a large stone “roof” left from the glacier, an old gazebo (also a newer one), and of course old stone walls. The walls were created in the 1800s when Vermont went from 85% forested to 85% cleared for agriculture primarily sheep and the family hill farms. After the Civil War, there was a great land abandonment, and the fields grew back to forests, and Vermont is now about 85% forested again. If you look at the map here on the kiosk, you will see there are several different colored marked trails that will take you to the features just described.

The health and vigor of the trees on this property are affected by the species composition, age, spacing, ice storms, wind events, drought, and insect outbreaks. Without the removal of hazardous trees, the area would become unsafe for public use. In the winter of 2021 and 2022, under frozen conditions, a timber sale was conducted by a commercial contractor and administered by a State of Vermont Forester. The property was inventoried, a plan was developed, and the trees were marked to be harvested. The goal was to remove current and future hazard trees, provide spacing for healthy vigorous crowns of the trees and reduce the number of ash trees that will be killed by Emerald Ash Borer, which has already been detected in three neighboring towns. The revenue from the sale went into a fund for work in the Park; the parking area is a direct benefit from the timber sale.

Feel free to borrow a Walking Stick provided by local residents for use in the park.
Please enjoy your visit to the Village Park. Leave no trash or pet waste!

To report **down trees or issues** in the park, contact: Town Clerk at 802-843-2419 or Town Administrator at 802-843-2552

Volunteers and donations to help maintain the Park: If you are considering either or both, contact the Grafton Town Administrator at 802-843-2552.

In case of an emergency: Dial 9-1-1

You are located at: 125 Fire Pond Road, Grafton, VT 05146 (Grafton Village Park)

Other walking/hiking opportunities in Grafton on land available to the public:

- ♦ Mollie Beattie State Forest (203 acres)
<https://fpr.vermont.gov/mollie-beattie-state-forest>
- ♦ W.C. Putnam State Forest (146 acres)
<https://fpr.vermont.gov/putnam-wc-state-forest>
- ♦ J. J. Dorand State Forest (531 acres)
<https://fpr.vermont.gov/dorand-state-forest>
- ♦ Turner Hill Wildlife Management Area (1,052 acres)
<https://fpr.vermont.gov/turner-hill-wildlife-management-area>
- ♦ Grafton Improvement Association (740 acres)
<https://sites.google.com/view/grafton-improvment-association/>
- ♦ Windham Foundation Land at the Grafton Outdoor Center (1,200 acres)
<https://windham-foundation.org/grafton-trails-and-outdoor-center/>
- ♦ Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association (28 miles of hiking trails)
<https://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org/>

An acre is the size of a football field including the end zones