



# Texas Falls Recreation Area



## Attractions

Located between Vermont's Lake Champlain Byway and the Scenic Route 100 Byway, the Texas Falls Recreation Area offers opportunities for viewing cascading falls along scenic gorges, a loop trail for hiking and snowshoeing, a large picnic pavilion, and dispersed recreation, including fishing, along Hancock Branch and Texas Brook. The pavilion is free for drop-in use or may be reserved for a fee at <http://www.recreation.gov>.

## The Texas Falls Story

Texas Falls began to form at the close of the ice age some 12,000 years ago when ice melting from the glacier began to cut through the glacial till and bedrock. During the thousands of years that followed, high volumes of water enlarged weak points in the bedrock. These points were further enlarged and smoothed by the swirling of rocks and debris to form the potholes that are now visible at this site. The footbridge crosses what remains of a large glacial pothole. Geologically the area is part of the Green Mountain Anticlinorium, a major structural arch which was formed during the closing of the Iapetus Ocean some 460 million years ago and runs the length of Vermont. Texas Falls is located on the Hancock Branch, which drains east into the White River and eventually into the Connecticut River.



## Access

**From Rochester**, travel north on Route 100 to its intersection with Route 125. Travel west on Route 125 for 3.1 miles and turn right onto Forest Road 39. Parking is located at the Falls Observation Site at 0.5 miles and at the Picnic Area at 0.7 miles. The road ends beyond the gate on FR 39. The road is plowed in the winter for parking up to the gate. The gate is closed for the winter.

**From Middlebury**, travel south on Route 7 to its intersection with Route 125. Travel east on Route 125 for 9.8 miles and turn left onto Forest Road 39. . Parking is located at the Falls Observation Site at 0.5 miles and at the Picnic Area at 0.7 miles. The road ends beyond the gate on FR 39. The road is plowed in the winter for parking up to the gate. The gate is closed for the winter.

## CONTACT INFO

**Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests** · Rochester Ranger District  
99 Ranger Road, Rochester, VT 05767 · 802-767-4261



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## Information

### Texas Falls Nature Trail

The Texas Falls Nature Trail has two entry portals: 1) crossing over Texas Brook via the large bridge adjacent to the Observation Site parking area; 2) crossing Texas Falls Road from the Picnic Area parking lot. The trail meanders through the forest along Hancock Brook for approximately 0.3 miles before creating a loop through beautiful hardwood forests. The trail loop length is 1.2 miles, with a 70 foot elevation change.

### Observation Site:

The observation site overlooks Texas Falls, a short series of low falls and cascades flowing through a small gorge that was formed by glacial meltwater. There is a walkway and bridge over the stream from which you can see the falls and large potholes scoured out of the rock by the meltwater. **For your safety, swimming is not permitted.** There is a vault toilet and several benches near the falls.

### Picnic Area:

Located just beyond the Observation Site along Texas Falls Road is the Picnic Area. The picnic area is on the left side of the road, bordering the brook. There is a picnic pavilion with 10 tables under it, as well as 13 tables scattered around the area, with grills located at each picnic site. Use of the pavilion is on a first come first served basis for free; reservations for the pavilion may be made for a fee at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov). Two accessible vault toilets. Are available; however, there is no garbage service and all trash must be carried away with you. Drinking water is not available at Texas Falls.

