

# Visiting Sunset Rock

**Sunset Rock** is located in the heart of Stowe's historic village. Sunset Rock provides a magnificent forested backdrop to the village along with ample recreational opportunities and scenic amenities.

**Walking** The best way to visit Sunset Rock is to walk from the village via the Sunset Trail. A round trip will take less than an hour. The trail begins at the end of Sunset Street, but please do not park on this street, as parking is restricted to residents only.

About 100 or so yards up the trail, you will pass a small clearing on the left. This bedrock outcropping is the actual "Sunset Rock." Enjoy the view of the village down Main Street, but please be careful, as there is a very steep drop. Don't miss the kettle hole, a unique geological feature, near Sunset Rock. As you commence your walk to the summit, admire the stand of 50-year-old white pine trees.

Soon you will arrive at the junction of the Meadow Loop Trail. Here you will leave the pines behind and begin walking through typical early successional northern forest, comprised of birch, cherry and poplar trees. This part of the property was extensively logged in the mid-eighties.

Continue along the Meadow Loop Trail for 200 yards. Then bear left onto the Sunset Connector Trail, which leads to the summit. At the summit, you are rewarded with a spectacular panoramic view of the Green Mountains and the Stowe Valley.

**Driving** Alternatively, you may drive to the parking lot off Taber Hill Road. Then walk up the Summit Access Road to the summit and enjoy the panoramic views. Mobility impaired persons are permitted to drive and park at the summit. All others are expected to walk.

**History** Local historians say in the 1800's the property was cleared for use as a sheep pasture. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as sheep farming subsided, it slowly reverted back to forest. It has also been used for picnics, walking and sunset viewing. While these uses remain today, the sheep are long gone.

