

## = Above All State Park =

Above All State Park is an undeveloped Connecticut state park located in the town of Warren . Founded in 1927 , the park became the site of a military radar installation from 1957 to 1968 . Remnants of the Cold War defense installation may be seen . The park 's only amenities are unmarked , informal trails that are not maintained by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection .

## = = History = =

In his book on Connecticut 's state parks , author Joseph Leary traces the name to when the land was used by the Stone family , who claimed it was the highest working farm by elevation in all of Connecticut . During the 19th century , the site was considered for the " Above @-@ All Mountain House , " a holiday resort that was never built . Leary writes that despite its name , the park is not " above all " in terms of scale , views or elevation and cites the scale of Lake Waramaug State Park , the views of Mount Tom State Park , and the elevation of Dennis Hill State Park . According to Connecticut : A Guide to Its Roads , Lore , and People , the park 's name came from its " top of the world " isolation .

The park was founded in 1927 when the heirs of Seymour Strong gifted three acres of land to the state . The State of Connecticut decided to purchase 28 additional acres from the Stanley estate in December 1927 . Above All State Park was the 36th state park to be designated . From June 1957 to June 1968 , the state park became a military installation known as the New Preston Gap @-@ Filler RADAR Annex P @-@ 50A / Z @-@ 50A . In 1968 , a dirt road and cinder block building , a bunker , were added to the top of the hill as part of an upgrade to the site . Located behind the bunker was the launchpad for the Nike missiles , each carrying a 2 @-@ to @-@ 40 kiloton nuclear warhead . The site also functioned as the command and control center , but Bedell states that it was the command center for the twelve Nike sites across Connecticut . However , the site is also described as an unmanned gap @-@ filler that " providing low altitude coverage " that " consisted of the radar and tower along with the building which contained the radar equipment and a diesel generator . " Bedell states that the park reappeared on the maps after its decommissioning , but has since reverted to secrecy . This claim of secrecy is countered by it being listed on the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection website .

In 1981 , the park was the subject of a study by Northeast Utilities as a possible wind power site . An anemometer and wind vane were placed atop a 65 @-@ foot ( 20 m ) tower to record wind data for no less than one year .

## = = Status = =

The Above All State Park is managed by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection , but it is unmarked and undeveloped . The location of the military site is the subject of debate because the website Radomes states that the site is " not within a state park as earlier reported , " but proceeds to give the same directions and description as Leary and Bedell . Photos included on the Radome website show the condition of the site in 2001 and 2006 : both show the buildings are extant in " excellent condition , " but the site says the radar tower and chain @-@ link fencing are missing . The site has been vandalized by graffiti .

The park is accessed off Connecticut Route 341 and requires passing a barred gate . There are no markers , toilets , or other facilities at the Above All State Park ; there are some informal trails near the top of the park that are not maintained or marked by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection .