



# REEL FUN!

## Fishing in Vermont State Parks

### Fishing in Vermont State Parks Reel Fun for All Ages and Anglers!

Vermont has some of the highest-quality and most-diverse freshwater fishing opportunities in New England with great fishing to offer at most Vermont State Parks.

Forty-six of Vermont's state parks have fishing opportunities directly on site or within a short walk. And, the remaining six parks have fishing opportunities within a 5-mile drive.

We hope you will consider taking advantage of the phenomenal fishing that Vermont State Parks have to offer.

### New to fishing? No fishing gear? No worries – we've got you covered!

Several Vermont State Parks offer "Let's Go Fishing" clinics where trained instructors teach and encourage beginners how to fish. The instructors teach fishing skills, how to use different types of tackle, the importance of good aquatic habitat, fishing ethics and fishing regulations.

Some Vermont State Parks are also participating in the "Reel Fun" initiative, a cooperative effort between Vermont Fish & Wildlife and Vermont State Parks to provide loaner fishing equipment—including rods, reels, line and tackle as well as guides to the local fishing—to help provide park visitors instant access to the sport of fishing.

Additionally, Vermont State Parks offer a range of rental boats for anglers to use including rowboats, canoes, kayaks and pedal boats.

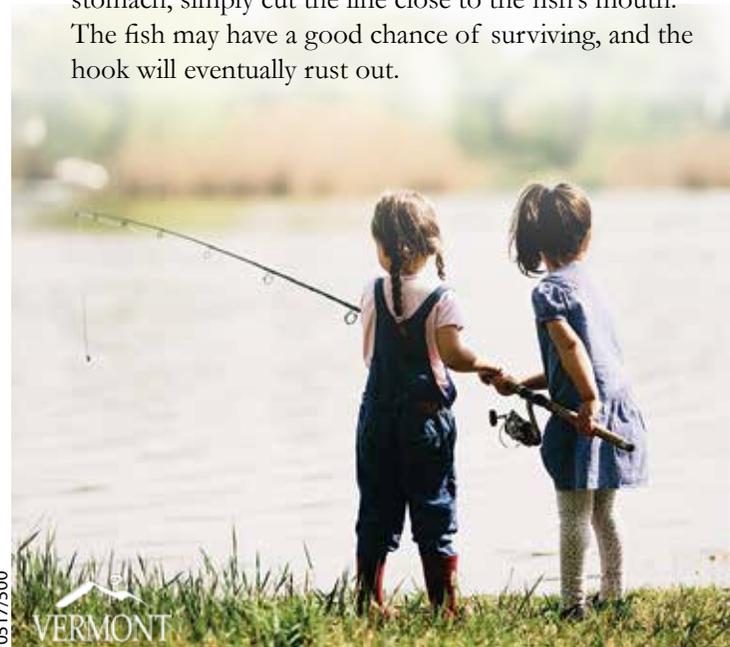
Visit the contact station at your state park to find out more about how you can get started on a Vermont fishing adventure!



### Tips on handling and releasing fish

While harvesting and eating freshly caught fish is an enjoyable part of the angling experience, catch and release angling can also be a rewarding pastime. In certain instances, regulations may actually require you to release your catch (see Vermont Fish & Wildlife Regulations Guide). Using the proper techniques when releasing fish will help ensure the fish will survive to be caught again. Here are some tips:

- Don't play the fish to complete exhaustion.
- Minimize the fish's time out of the water. If at all possible, keep the fish in the water while you remove the hook.
- Consider pinching down the barbs on your hooks to make hook removal much easier.
- If the fish is hooked deep in the throat, gills, or stomach, simply cut the line close to the fish's mouth. The fish may have a good chance of surviving, and the hook will eventually rust out.



## Lake Bomoseen State Park



[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

[www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com)

802-828-1000

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## Fishing at Lake Bomoseen State Park

**Lake Area:** 2,400 acres **Lake Max. Depth:** 65 feet

**Fish Species:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch, rock bass, brown trout, rainbow smelt, bluegill, pumpkinseed, common white sucker, black crappie, brown bullhead and various minnow species.

**Habitat:** Lake Bomoseen is a diverse waterbody with excellent fishing for a variety of warm and cold water species. The extreme north and south ends (and many shorelines and coves in the main-lake area) feature shallow water fish habitat such as aquatic vegetation, rock piles, underwater points, and boat docks, which provide great habitat for panfish, perch, pike and bass.

Deep, cooler water can be found in the main lake area around Neshobe Island, along the locally known “slate slide,” and in other areas in the middle and western sections of the lake. These areas provide quality habitat for cold water species such as smelt and trout.

**Park Fishing Tips:** For fishing from shore, try fishing off the point at the southeast corner of the park. This area features deeper water than in other areas of the park, and will hold a mix of warm water species including panfish, bass, pike and pickerel. Try fishing with a basic bobber and worm, or with artificial lures such as small spinners and plastic worms.

Floating top water lures such as poppers, floating frogs or walking-style baits work well early and late in the day. To access other areas of the lake or to target the lake’s cold water species, you’ll need to venture away from the park by canoe, kayak or boat. Try fishing along the lake’s many underwater weed lines for bass, pike and panfish, and along deep-water drop-offs for smelt and trout.

**Nearby Fishing License Dealers:** You can purchase a fishing license at Tom’s Bait & Tackle in Bomoseen, from the Castleton Town clerk, or online at [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com).

## What kind of facilities do the parks have?

Vermont State Parks provide the perfect setting for many fun outdoor activities—hiking, wildlife watching, and of course tossing a line out and reeling in your next big catch. Most parks offer car-top launches for canoes and kayaks, and motorboat launching access areas are available across the state.

Two Vermont Fish & Wildlife boating access areas are located on Lake Bomoseen, providing easy access for those with trailered watercraft, as well as great spots to fish from shore.

Whether you want to bring your boat and head out on local waters or fish from shore at a nearby fishing hole, Vermont State Parks have the facilities to make for a truly enjoyable stay.

## What a deal!

The second Saturday in June is Free Fishing Day where anyone can fish anywhere in Vermont for free.

The rest of the summer, **you’ll need a fishing license**, even at a State Park. Vermont offers inexpensive, short-term licenses for just a few bucks and kids under 15 can fish for free!

Or you can get a year-round fishing license that costs only as much as a tank of gas or a couple of movie tickets. But unlike gas or movie tickets, your fishing license lets you fish for a whole year, anywhere in the state, with just a single purchase. Buy and download it to your phone and you’ll be all set.

See [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) to find out more.

Fishing licenses are available right at the contact office at many state parks and at authorized license agents. You can find a list of these online at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

## For more information

- For a full list of state parks, or trailered boat launches in Vermont State Parks, visit [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com).
- For a complete fish stocking schedule, information on fishing regulations, or to buy a license online, visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Or simply scan this QR code to buy a fishing license now.

