



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.



Emerald Lake State Park



www.vtfishandwildlife.com

www.vtstateparks.com

802-828-1000

0517/500





Fishing at Emerald Lake State Park

Lake Area: 20 acres **Lake Max. Depth:** 46 feet

Fish Species: Smallmouth bass, yellow perch, northern pike, sunfish, bullhead.

Habitat: Emerald Lake is small but relatively deep and clear. Areas of aquatic vegetation are restricted to the very northern and southern ends of the lake. The rest of the shoreline around the lake drops steeply away from the shore into deeper water and features many submerged wood and sunken logs that provide cover for fish. The island offers rocky shorelines, boulders, and rock ledges, and can be a hot fishing spot.

Park Fishing Tips: Schools of perch can be found in the shallow area between the State Park Beach and the island along the lake shore, as well as around the aquatic vegetation at the north and south ends. Fish with a live worm under a bobber. A small jig tipped with a worm or small soft plastic lure bounced around areas of sand and rock can also be effective.

Smallmouth bass like the rocks found around the west and south sides of the island. Diving crankbaits cast around the rocks, or jigs worked slowly on the bottom, often catch smallmouth bass. Also try a top water lure, such as a popper, first thing in the morning as the sun comes up, or right before sunset in the evenings.

Pike are most often caught on the south end of the island in deeper areas. The walking trail along the west shore of the lake offers several good areas to cast from shore. Otherwise, your best bet is to fish from a boat, canoe or kayak if possible.

Nearby Fishing License Dealers: You can purchase a fishing license at HN Williams Store in Dorset, Nichols General Store in Danby, at The Reel Angler in Manchester, or online at 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.

While motorized boats are not allowed on Emerald Lake, it is a great spot for canoes, kayaks or small row boats. Small watercraft can be launched from the park shoreline, particularly along the walking path headed in toward the beach and swimming area.

Whether you 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 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.

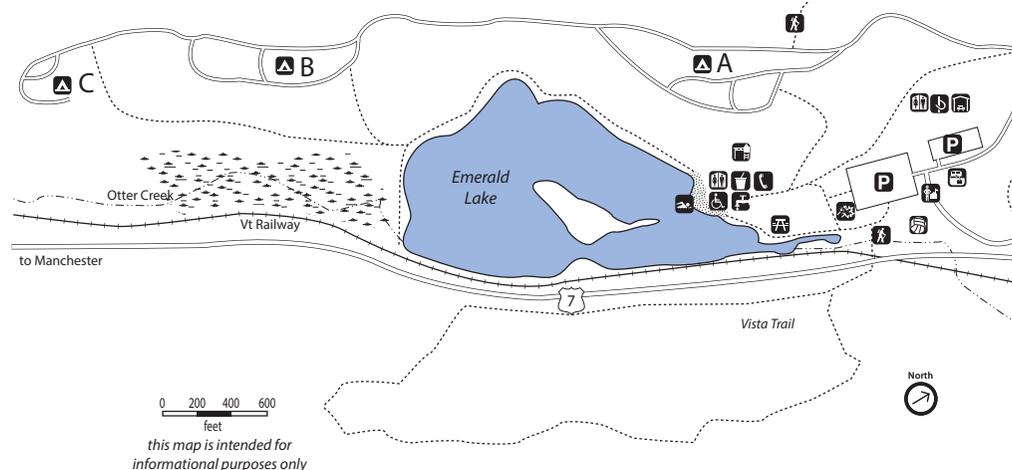
For more information

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

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



Emerald Lake State Park



Restrooms



Park office



Parking



Swimming area



Wheelchair accessible facility