



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.



Gifford Woods State Park



www.vtfishandwildlife.com

www.vtstateparks.com

802-828-1000

0517/500





Fishing at Gifford Woods State Park and Kent Pond

Lake Area: 101 acres **Lake Max. Depth:** 20 feet

Fish Species: Largemouth bass, pumpkinseed sunfish, yellow perch, brook and rainbow trout.

Habitat: Kent Pond is a shallow and clear. It has a mixed bottom of sand, silt, broken rock and boulders, and ledge. Anglers will experience both underwater and surface aquatic vegetation, as well as fallen trees, brush and logs. These features provide great cover for a variety of fish including largemouth bass, yellow perch and sunfish.

Trout can be found holding along the dam breast on the east side of the pond, as well as in Kent Brook which flows into the pond on its west side, adjacent to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife access area.

Park Fishing Tips: Try fishing for trout from the dam breast on the pond's eastern shore, or in Kent Brook on the west side of the pond. Kent Pond is stocked with trout each spring, and anglers are typically most successful in targeting stocked fish on the east side of the pond.

Anglers may encounter native trout as they work their way up Kent Brook. Typical trout offerings such as a drifted worm—with or without a bobber, small spinners or flies, can be effective.

For targeting Kent Pond's bass try using spinners, jigs or soft plastic lures. There is a slot limit on Kent Pond bass, which requires all fish between 10 and 12 inches to be released. The daily limit of bass is ten, with only one being over 12 inches. To catch perch and sunfish, try using small spinners, tube jigs or grubs.

Nearby Fishing License Dealers: You can purchase a fishing license from Gifford Woods State Park, the Killington Town Clerk, 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.

Kent Pond, across the road from Gifford Woods State Park, features a concrete boat ramp and fishing access area managed by Vermont Fish & Wildlife. The access area, located on the west side of the pond, is a great spot to go fishing from shore or from a launched canoe, kayak, rowboat or motorboat.

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!

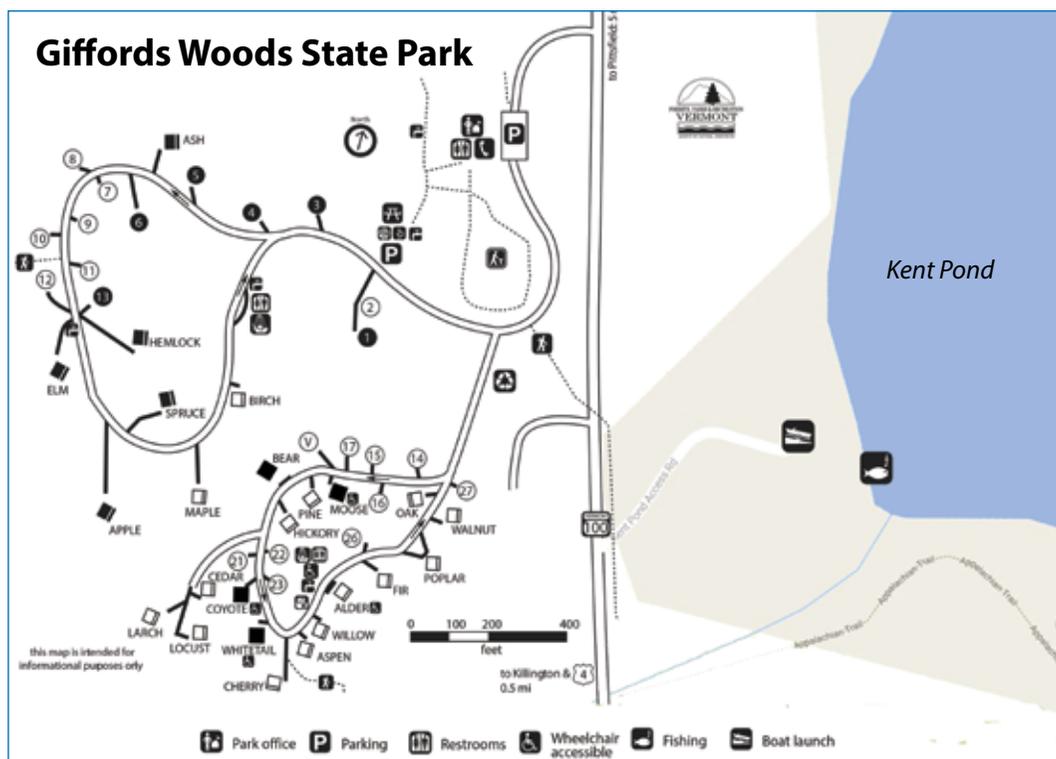
The second Saturday in June is Free Fishing Day where anyone can fish anywhere in Vermont for free.

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.

