

Horses and State Parks



Out of concern for public safety in congested or confined areas, as well as the potential for resource damage that could occur, horses and horseback riding are generally prohibited in State Parks during the park operating season. However, there are some exceptions. Horses are permitted in/on:

- designated horse-camping and horseback riding areas.
- **All State Parks roads outside of the park operating season or hours except during the period from snow-melt to dry-out in the spring.**
- Along the **Montpelier/Wells River** and **Delaware & Hudson** rail trails.
- **Gravel-surfaced roads.**
- **Forest highways** (those roads used in the long term management of state lands).

This brochure outlines some basic principles regarding the policies and regulations we enforce to make the park experience more enjoyable for everyone. To see a complete copy of the "Rules and Regulations for Visitor Conduct," or if you have any questions about horse camping in Vermont State Parks, please ask the park ranger for assistance.

Vermont State Parks
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620
www.vtstateparks.com
parks@vermont.gov
1-888-409-7579

Camp Plymouth State Park
2008 Scout Camp Rd.
Ludlow, VT 05149
(802) 228-2025

New Discovery State Park
4239 VT Rt. 232
Marshfield, VT 05658
(802) 426-3042

Park Reservations
1-888-409-7579



This brochure is available upon request in large print, Braille, and audio cassette.

VT TDD Relay 1-800-253-0191

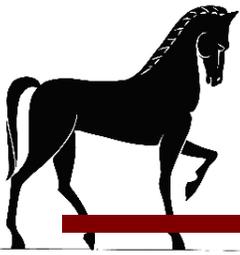
HORSE CAMPING IN VERMONT STATE PARKS



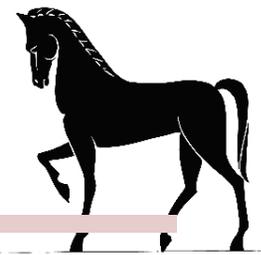
Horse camping at New Discovery State Park

**Vermont Agency of
Natural Resources**

**Department of
Forests, Parks, & Recreation**



HORSE CAMPING IN VERMONT STATE PARKS



New Discovery State Park

There is a seven site horse camping area located in New Discovery State Park. The group camping area features a hitching post, water spigot and trough for watering horses. Just up the roadway, and past the toilet/shower area, is a horse washing station. Other pets are allowed at designated camp sites. There is a play area and miles of hiking on multiple use trails.

Groton Forest is the second largest state forest in Vermont with over 26,000 acres to explore. Trails for horseback riding in the park include gravel-surfaced roads, forest highways (logging roads), the Vast Trails, and the Montpelier-Wells River Rail Trail. Horseback riders wishing to ride for the day can trailer their horses to the northern parking area near the entrance to New Discovery State Park, the Kettle Pond Day Use parking area, or at the public boat launch at the southern end of Ricker Pond. Riders can easily access the Montpelier-Wells River Rail Trail (Cross Vermont Trail) and forest and town roads from these locations.



Forest highway outside New Discovery in the Groton Forest

Horse Rules

1. Proof of current (within one year) negative Coggins test prior to entry into the campground.
2. Horses may only travel on marked bridle trails, parks or forests roads, or other areas designated for equine use. Horses are not allowed on hiking trails, nature trails, in day use, or campground areas *not* designated for equine use.
3. The maximum number of horses allowed at each campsite is two (2).
4. Horses shall be securely restrained in paddocks, at hitch trails, highlines with tree saver straps, or tied to a trailer at the campsite when not being ridden.
5. Bathing of horses is only allowed at designated bathing areas (New Discovery only).
6. Owners are responsible for all accidents or any damage caused by their animals on state land.
7. The park ranger may require horse owners remove their animal from the park, if determined that the horse poses an unreasonable threat to park visitors or other horses.
8. Galloping of horses is prohibited in developed areas.
9. Horses shall be watered only at designated areas by tubs or buckets filled from the park water supply
10. Owners are responsible for cleaning up the manure and placing it in the designated area.
11. Horses shall not be left unattended at any time. Owners may be asked to leave without a refund for leaving horses unattended.

Camp Plymouth State Park

Camp Plymouth is a place for people who want to camp and then go elsewhere to ride. Horses are allowed in the group camping area on the south side of Buffalo Brook. The area consists of six lean-tos, pit toilets, tie-off station, manure "bin," and a large field for activities. On the north side of the brook is a large picnic area, playground, sandy beach, horseshoe pits, volleyball nets, concessions, and boat rentals. NO animals are allowed anywhere in the park, except horses in the group camping area.

While there isn't a horse trail system in the park itself, there are other areas close to the park offering many trails. Nearby Hawk Mountain Resort (www.hawkresort.com) has a trail system covering 1,200 acres at no charge to Camp Plymouth campers. Other places to ride include the Green Mountain Horse Association (www.gmhainc.org) in South Woodstock, or any number of dirt or class IV roads that can be found in the Vermont Gazetteer.



Groups/Horse camping lean-to area in Camp Plymouth