

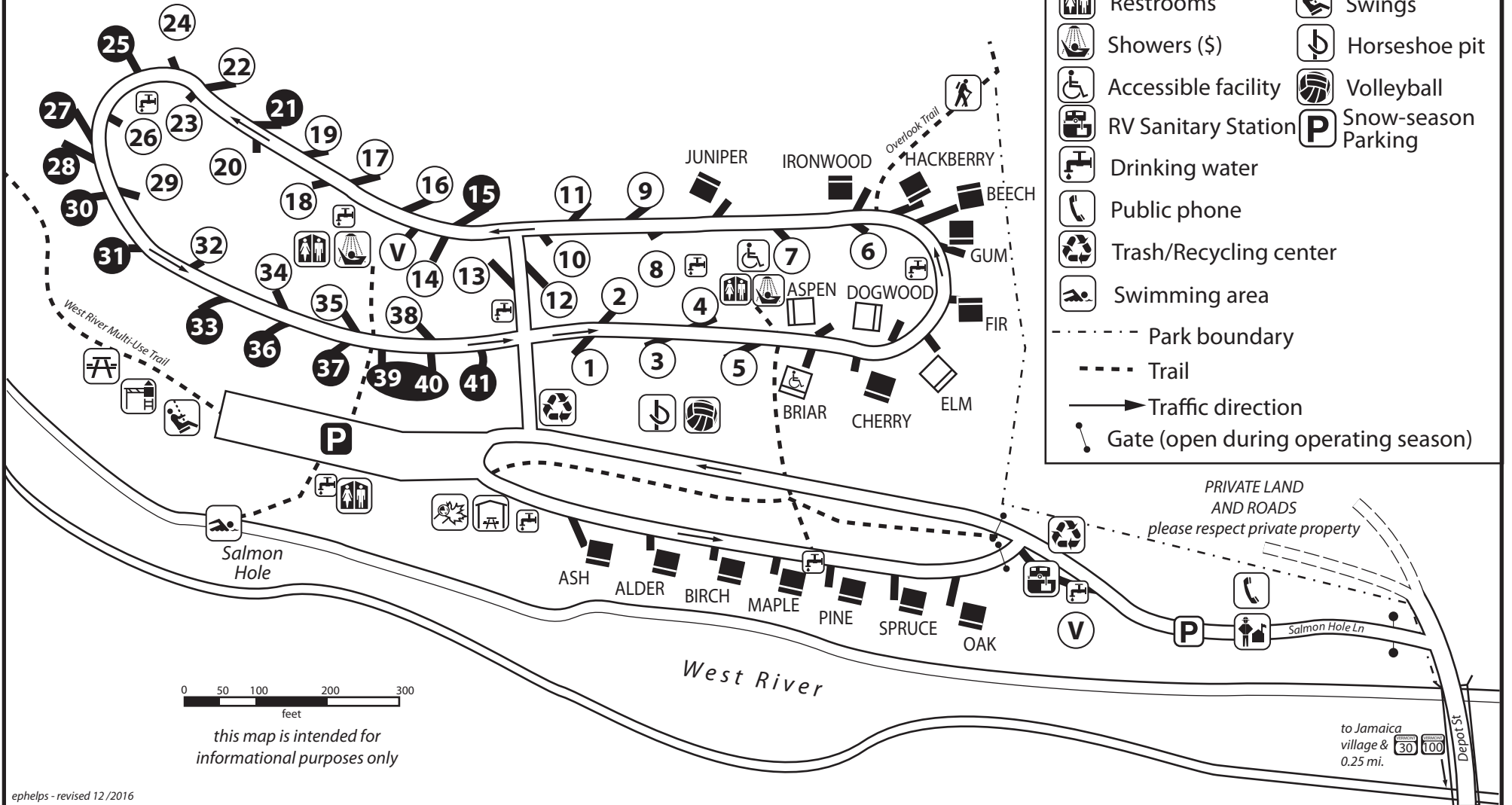
# Jamaica State Park

Jamaica, Vermont



## LEGEND

- |  |                                     |  |                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
|  | Park office                         |  | Parking             |
|  | Prime campsite                      |  | Picnic area         |
|  | Campsite                            |  | Foot trail          |
|  | Prime lean-to                       |  | Nature Center       |
|  | Lean-to                             |  | Picnic shelter      |
|  | Volunteer Site                      |  | Playground          |
|  | Restrooms                           |  | Swings              |
|  | Showers (\$)                        |  | Horseshoe pit       |
|  | Accessible facility                 |  | Volleyball          |
|  | RV Sanitary Station                 |  | Snow-season Parking |
|  | Drinking water                      |  |                     |
|  | Public phone                        |  |                     |
|  | Trash/Recycling center              |  |                     |
|  | Swimming area                       |  |                     |
|  | Park boundary                       |  |                     |
|  | Trail                               |  |                     |
|  | Traffic direction                   |  |                     |
|  | Gate (open during operating season) |  |                     |



## Jamaica State Park

Welcome to Jamaica State Park. Located at a bend in the West River, one-half mile from the center of Jamaica village, the park is a popular recreation area for residents and tourists alike.

Established in 1969, Jamaica State Park originally consisted of 19 acres of land purchased by the State of Vermont and 18 acres donated by the Conservation Society of Southern Vermont.

In 1979 the State of Vermont and the Nature Conservancy completed a complex land swap involving several public entities. The Nature Conservancy purchased nearly 2,000 acres from the Conservation Society of Southern Vermont. More than 700 acres of this land was added to Jamaica State Park.

The area in and around the park has long been a hub for travel, commerce and recreation.

For thousands of years, Native Americans traveled the West River in canoes, following a major transportation route between the Connecticut River and Lake Champlain. The Jamaica area was a center for hunting, fishing, gathering and tool making.

The West River Railroad operated from 1881-1936. It transported passengers and cargo between Brattleboro and South Londonderry, primarily serving to export timber and agricultural crops from the West River valley.

The railroad has a history as turbulent as the West River's rapids. It was well known for frequent delays and problems. In 1927 a major flood wiped out several bridges and many sections of the track. The line never fully recovered from this devastating flood. Continued flooding terminated efforts to continue using the railroad in 1936. A section of the old railroad bed now comprises the multi-use West River Trail that leads upstream along the river to Ball Mountain Dam.

The West River gained popularity as a whitewater paddling river during the 1950's. During the 1970's and 1980's the West River hosted time trials for the U.S. Olympic whitewater team. Today, throngs of visitors arrive at the park with their canoes, kayaks and rafts to challenge the rapids provided by the annual water release by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Ball Mountain Dam each September.

For visitors interested in a more relaxed recreational experience, the park has opportunities to fit every taste.

A slow-moving section of the river opens up into the Salmon Hole, a popular swimming spot. This location also marks the site of the "Salmon Hole Massacre" where a group of French men and Native Americans ambushed British soldiers in 1748.

In addition to paddling and swimming, the West River offers great angling opportunities. The combination of deep, slow running water, and shallow fast ripples provides excellent fishing.

The park contains more than 5 miles of maintained hiking, walking and biking trails, including the 2-mile West River Trail. This section is part of the longer West River Trail which

stretches from South Londonderry to Jamaica. One of the more strenuous hikes leads to Hamilton Falls Natural Area and views of a spectacular 125-foot waterfall. Families may enjoy the children's playground and the nature center. Interpretive programs are presented June - August.

### Jamaica State Park Amenities

- 41 tent/trailer sites
- 18 lean-to shelters
- Interpretive programs
- Swimming, paddling and fishing in the West River
- West River Multi-Use Trail, hiking trails
- Hamilton Falls Natural Area
- Firewood & ice for sale

### Recreating and Sightseeing In the Area

- Picnicking and playground at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Townshend Dam Recreation Area, *Townshend*
- Bromley Resort summer adventure center, *Peru*
- Windham County Historical Society, *Newfane*
- Green Mountain National Forest, *multiple towns*
- Lowell Lake State Park, *Londonderry*

### For more information, contact:

**Jamaica State Park**

**48 Salmon Hole Lane**

**PO Box 45**

**Jamaica, VT 05343**

**(802) 874-4600 (operating season)**

**OR**

**VT State Parks Reservation Center**

**(888) 409-7579**

**Monday-Friday 9 AM – 4 PM**

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

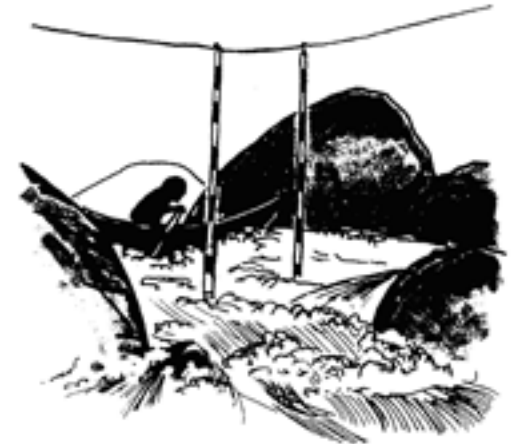


To request this publication in Braille or alternate visual format, please contact  
[parcs@vermont.gov](mailto:parcs@vermont.gov)  
VT TDD Relay Dial 7-1-1  
Printed on recycled paper  
12/2016 - ERP

---

---

# Jamaica State Park Map & Guide



*Early May – Columbus Day*

**Camping**  
**Hiking & Multi Use Trail**  
**Hamilton Falls Natural Area**  
**Interpretive Programs**  
**Picnicking**

---

---