

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

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## Lowell Lake State Park Master Planning Update

June 25, 2019

Springfield – Master Planning work is progressing at Lowell Lake State Park in Londonderry.

Lowell Lake State Park was established in 1977 when the former Lowell Lake Lodge property was acquired by the State for access to Lowell Lake. Additional property (the White parcel) was acquired in 1996 with the assistance of the Vermont Land Trust after a private home development on the western shore of the lake received Act 250 permitting but failed to be constructed. Following this acquisition, a two-year long-range planning process was undertaken to complete a General Management Plan, which was adopted in 1999 and included 14 public meetings. Lowell Lake State Park presently encompasses 356 acres and provides opportunities for fishing, picnicking, hiking, swimming and nature observation. Master Planning is underway now to investigate options to make improvements for visitor safety, visitor experience, resource protection, and to explore alternatives for reutilization of cabins that came with the 1996 acquisition.

In recent weeks, discussion has continued with the Town of Londonderry about 2009 Zoning Bylaws. This has helped add clarity as draft concept plans are being developed.

Other notable recent advancements include the listing of the Lowell Lake Camps Historic District on the State Register of Historic Places by the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This provides FPR and its consultants clearer direction on the historic nature of the cabins as planning moves forward.

An archaeological resource assessment is currently underway and is anticipated to be complete soon.

FPR will be holding a public open house on Thursday, July 25 at the Londonderry Town Hall to debut concept plans and to begin the public comment period for this phase of planning work. More information on the open house will follow as details are finalized. In preparation for the open house, draft concept plans are being developed. Other planning documents are available at the Maps and Documents section of the park's web page at <https://www.vtstateparks.com/lowell.html>.

In addition to planning work, routine park maintenance and operational tasks are underway for the summer. The roadway into the park was recently graded, hazard tree removal is underway and an additional portable toilet will be added in the near future. More specific parking information is now available via the park's website and Twitter account. Park staff has been working with the Vermont Center for EcoStudies and Fish and Wildlife Department on improving information about loons using the lake. Park operations staff are also working with the Londonderry Cemetery Commission to assist with access for some projects at the Lowell Lake Cemetery.

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