

# Woods Island State Park

St. Albans Bay, Vermont



## LEGEND

① Campsite

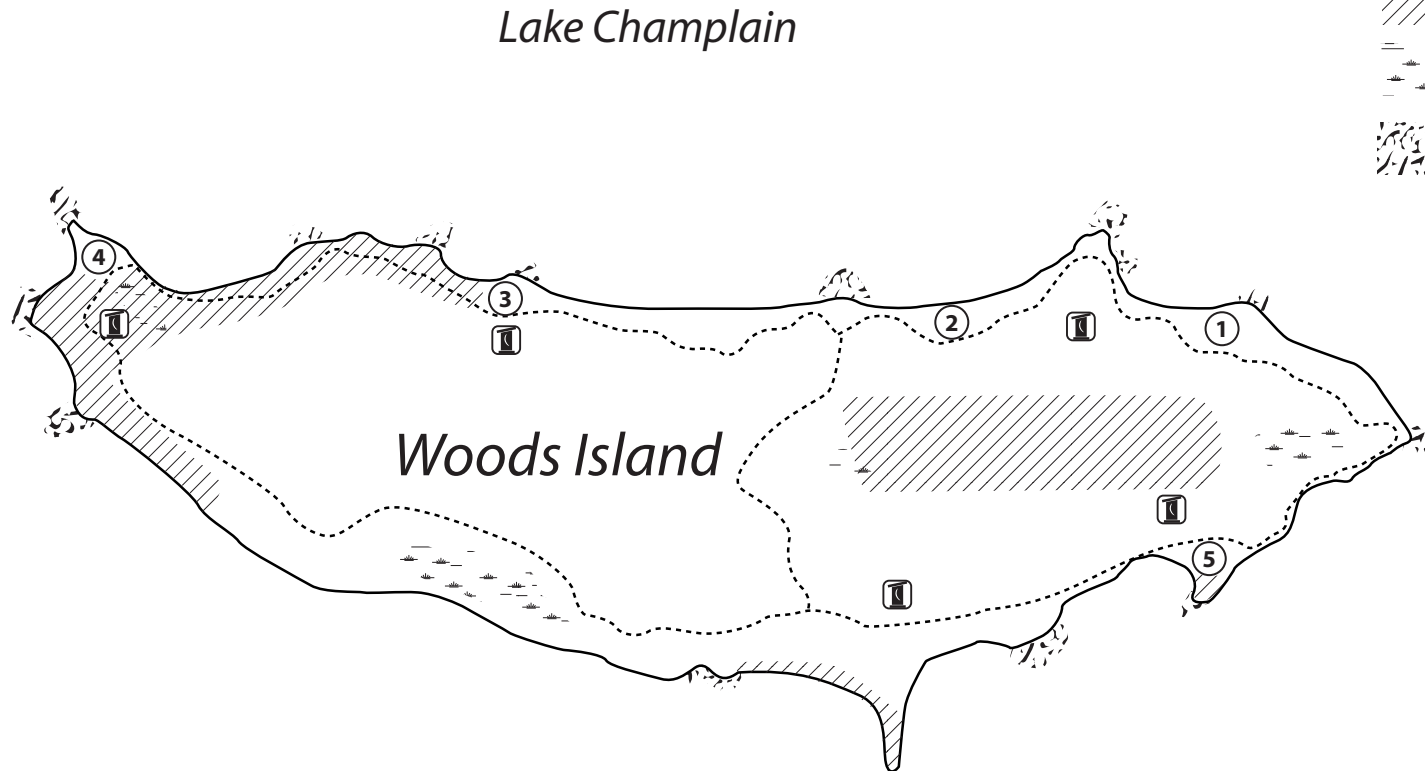
☐ Pit toilet

..... Trail

//// Sensitive habitat

Wetland

Gravel bar



## Woods Island State Park

Welcome to one of Lake Champlain's prettiest publicly-owned islands. Woods Island is a nature lover's delight. A trail system connects five remote campsites dispersed around the island's perimeter, and leads you through beautiful and diverse groves of old-growth trees, around wetlands, and past old farm fields and pastures, with shimmering lake views all around. You'll hear and see abundant and varied bird life, and find some of the most unique plants in Vermont. Woods Island is only accessible by boat, and is never crowded.

One of Vermont's three neighboring island parks in Lake Champlain's 'Inland Sea,' 125-acre Woods Island is one mile long by a quarter-mile wide. Acquired by the State of Vermont in 1985, the island had supported tenant farming through the 1800's to mid-1900's. Traces of old drainage ditches and the farmhouse cellar hole remain, along with pieces of rusted farm machinery. Former owners had big dreams for the island. A grand plan in the early 20th century envisioned a gymnasium, tennis courts, and other camp facilities for "proper" young ladies. A later owner saw the island as a retreat for business executives. The beginning of an airstrip was bulldozed down the island's center; the earthen berms of the cross-island trail are the runway edges. Finally, a subdivision proposal divided the island into a dozen home lots.

For whatever reasons, none of these island development projects were ever realized. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation manages the island to preserve the undeveloped character of the Island.

### Woods Island Use Guidelines

**Camping Permits are required.** Obtain permits before camping on the island.

**Camping and Fires:** Camp only on designated campsites. Fires are permitted only in established fireplaces on campsites. Burn only dead and down wood.

**Plants:** There are unusual and rare plants growing on Woods Island, including some protected by law. No plant may be uprooted or cut without written permission from the FPR Commissioner.

**Sanitation and Refuse Removal:** Please use the composting toilets provided for human waste. Keep all trash out of them. Pick up all pet waste. Trash and recycling is carry-in/carry-out. If you brought it; please don't leave it behind.

**Day Use:** Day use is welcome during daylight hours. Day visitors must depart by sundown. No day use is allowed on campsites.

**Accessing the Island:** The State does not offer ferry service to Woods Island. Visitors must make their own arrangements by boat from anywhere on Lake Champlain. There is parking and a boat ramp at Kill Kare State Park, 2.5 miles southeast. (If you plan to camp, remember to register at Burton Island en route from Kill Kare). There are also private tour operators that may service the island. See the park's web page for more information.

**Emergency Assistance:** Emergency assistance is available through Burton Island State Park, two miles south of Woods Island. The park is patrolled daily in the late afternoon in July and August by staff from Burton Island State Park.

### **For More Information, Contact:**

**Burton Island State Park**  
P.O. Box 123  
St. Albans, VT 05481  
(802) 524-6353 (operating season)  
or  
VT State Parks Reservation Center  
(888) 409-7579 M-F 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM  
[www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com)

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# Woods Island State Park Map & Guide



 VERMONT  
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day

*camping*  
*dispersed day use*

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