



# 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.



## Little River State Park



[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

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

802-828-1000

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## Fishing at Little River State Park on Waterbury Reservoir

**Lake Area:** 860 acres **Lake Max. Depth:** 100 feet

**Fish Species:** Rainbow and brown trout, rainbow smelt, smallmouth bass, bullhead.

**Habitat:** When the Little River was dammed, it created the Waterbury Reservoir. Little River flows into the reservoir at its north end and out of the reservoir via controlled flow at its southern end. The reservoir features clear water and a bottom consisting of a mix of sand, silt, gravel, boulders and ledge.

Quality fish habitat ranges from submerged trees and brush, to rocky points, bluff walls, gravel banks and some aquatic vegetation.

**Park Fishing Tips:** Waterbury Reservoir provides anglers with the opportunity to fish diverse fish-holding habitat including submerged woody cover, rocky points, bluff walls and some aquatic vegetation. Fallen trees cover a wide range of depths and will produce fish during all open water months.

A good portion of the reservoir's shoreline consists of steep rock walls that can be very productive for smallmouth bass during the warmest months. Fish these walls with unweighted soft plastic lures and suspending jerk baits. If you are looking for a rush, get out in the early morning and enjoy a fantastic top water bite! While fishing with these tactics, anglers may also hook into some nice yellow perch, rainbow trout and brown trout.

Shoreline fishing opportunities abound at Little River State Park, Waterbury Reservoir State Park and via various trails around the reservoir, or you can take a canoe, kayak or motorboat to any fishing spots on your radar!

**Nearby Fishing License Dealers:** You can purchase a fishing license at Parros Gun Shop in Waterbury, The Fly Rod Shop in Stowe, or online at [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://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.

Various boat launches are available on Waterbury Reservoir, including launching areas at Little River State Park, Waterbury Reservoir State Park, and adjacent to the Waterbury Reservoir dam.

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.vtstateparks.com).
- For a complete fish stocking schedule, information on fishing regulations, or to buy a license online, visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Or simply scan this QR code to buy a fishing license now.

