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Emerald Lake State Park

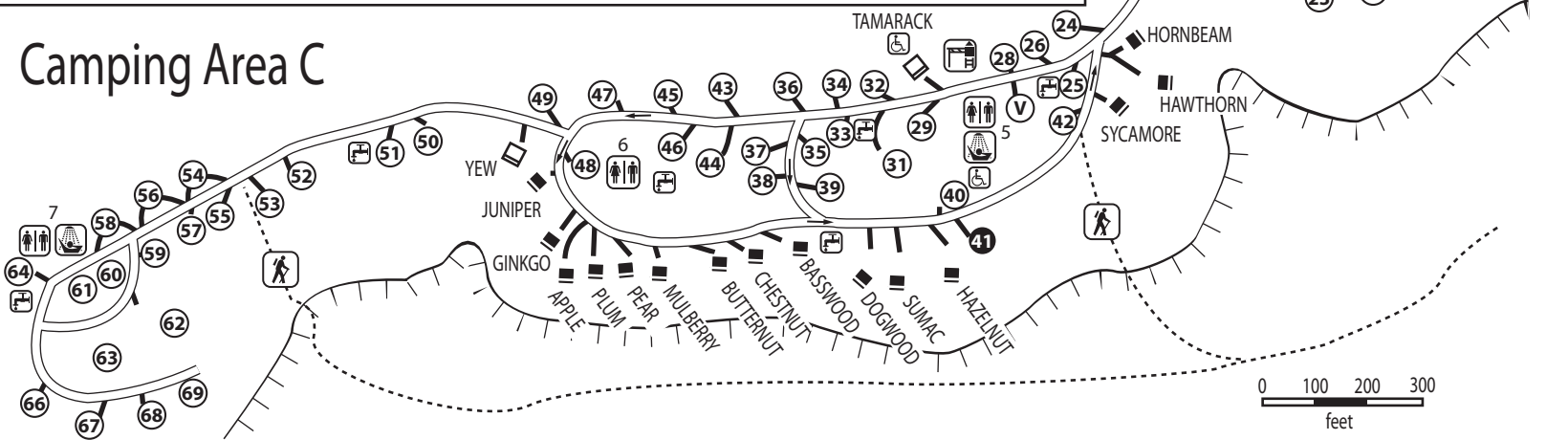
North Dorset, Vermont



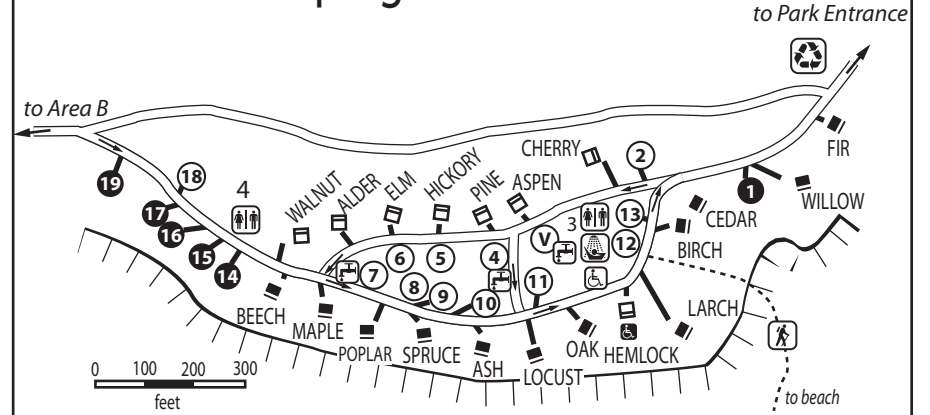
Camping Area B

to Area A

Camping Area C



Camping Area A

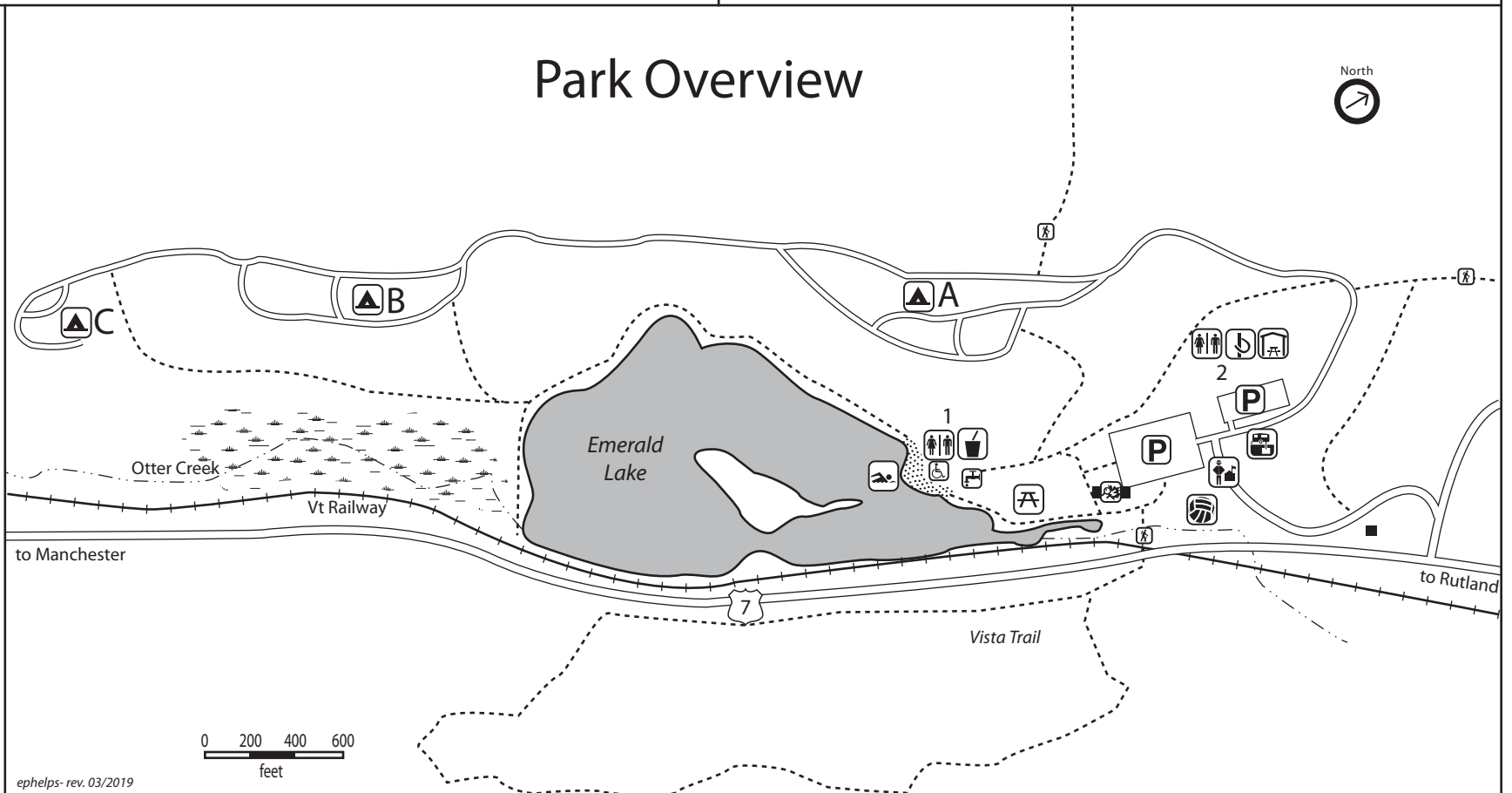


LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | Park office | | Parking |
| | Campground | | Picnic area |
| | Prime campsite | | Picnic shelter |
| | Campsite | | Concession |
| | Prime lean-to | | Swimming area |
| | Lean-to | | Trailhead |
| | Restrooms | | |
| | Showers (\$) | | |
| | Wheelchair accessible facility | | |
| | Drinking water | | |
| | RV Sanitary Station | | |
| | Trash/Recycling center | | Park boundary |
| | Nature Center | | Steep bank |
| | Horseshoe pit | | Traffic direction |
| | Volleyball | | |

this map is intended for informational purposes only

Park Overview



Emerald Lake State Park

Welcome to 430-acre Emerald Lake State Park. Located conveniently between Manchester and Rutland, the park is popular for its wooded hillside campground, beach and swimming area, and nearby attractions and tourist destinations.

The park surrounds 20-acre Emerald Lake, named for the emerald green color of its waters when viewed from above. Restricted to non-motorized watercraft, the lake is ideal for swimming and paddling. The lake also offers anglers an opportunity to catch yellow perch, smallmouth bass, northern pike and other warm-water species. The park is a favorite destination of hikers, with the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail nearby, and trails on Dorset Mountain.

The Dorset area became well known for its marble quarries by the early 19th century. The first commercial marble quarry to open in the region, and likely the country, opened was opened in 1785 by Isaac Underhill on Mt Aeolus.

The quarry age of Dorset spanned some 130 years. In the early years, marble was cut for uses like headstones and hearthstones. The Feedley and Sons Quarry, on the southern end of what is now the state park, opened in 1804. Huge blocks of stone were cut from the mountainsides at the Feedley quarry where they were placed on an inclined rail system and sent a mile down the mountain to a finishing mill. Finished stone was sent out on rail cars.

During the quarry age peak, as many as 30 quarries harvested stone for many uses, including projects like the New York City library and many bank and public building across the country. Many local buildings and sidewalks are made from the local stone. By the beginning of the 20th century, however, quarrying marble in Dorset began to draw to a close. Quarries further north in West Rutland and Proctor proved to yield higher quality stone much easier than the rugged mountain quarries in Dorset.

Between 1918 and 1921 Robert Alfred Shaw purchased more than 1,000 acres of land, establishing North Dorset Farms. His acquisitions included the area surrounding Dorset Pond, which is now known as Emerald Lake. In 1957, following Mr. Shaw's death, the

State purchased approximately 1,000 acres from his estate. Approximately 500 acres, located adjacent to the park on the east side of US Route 7, is now Emerald Lake State Forest. The 430 acres on the west side of the highway comprises the park. In 1960 Emerald Lake State Park opened to the public. The original facilities included a small campground, beach and picnic area.

Today, the remains of past quarry operations can still be seen. Stone remains of the Freedley and Sons finishing plant are located approximately 2 miles south of the park. Other former quarries remain as water-filled pits. Examples of these can be seen along US Route 30 in Dorset and on the mountainside along Route 7. One of the more unique features from this bygone era is the North Dorset Cemetery located on the hill overlooking the park's contact station and parking lot. The cemetery has many headstones made of local marble.

Emerald Lake State Park Amenities

- 69 campsites
- 36 lean-to shelters
- Swimming and fishing on the lake
- Picnicking & Group Events
- Interpretive programs
- Food concession
- Boat rentals
- Firewood for sale

Recreating & Sightseeing in the Area *Manchester*

- Historic downtown, shopping and dining
- Southern Vermont Arts Center
- American Museum of Fly Fishing
- Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home
- Northshire Museum and History Center
- Skyline Drive toll-road on Mt Equinox
- Hiking on Mt. Equinox
- Fishing on the historic Batten Kill River and other lakes and ponds

Bennington

- Bennington Battle Monument
- Bennington Museum

Rutland

- Historic downtown, shopping and dining
- Wonderfeet Childrens Museum

Green Mountain National Forest

- White Rocks National Recreation Area, Wallingford
- Manchester Ranger Station-forest information
- Many hiking trails throughout the area

Woodford State Park

Lake Shaftsbury State Park

For more information, contact:

Emerald Lake State Park

65 Emerald Lake Lane

East Dorset, Vermont 05253

(802) 362-1655 (operating season)

OR

VT State Parks Reservation Center

(888) 409-7579 Mon - Fri 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

www.vtstateparks.com



To request this publication in Braille or alternate visual format, please contact parks@vermont.gov
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Emerald Lake State Park Map & Guide



Memorial Day Weekend - Indigenous Peoples' Day

Camping

Swimming

Picnicking

Group Events

Hiking

Interpretive Programs